



MAHATMA GANDHI INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, SEVAGRAM

HANDLING THE RESPONSE TO COVID

MGIMS Corona Warriors braving the COVID-19 crisis

Sevagram, a nondescript village in western India, geared up quickly to shoulder the pandemic wrath soon after coronavirus upturned the world. While the entire country was forced into the lock down, 934-bed Kasturba Hospital - attached to Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences Sevagram took timely measures to fight the deadly virus. After being cocooned in a green zone for nearly two months, the Gandhian village saw its first patient in May. The number has been growing since and so is the indomitable spirit of healthcare workers who are working on the forefront of the battle against the COVID-19. Despite having aged parents, young children, dependent spouses or even co-morbidities in them, these corona warriors opted for risking their lives to keep the society safe. Till 31st March, 3632 Covid 19 patients were treated, 48761 RTPCR tests carried out , 6200 came positive, 7565 Covid 19 vaccine doses administered.

MGIMS sends a medical team to COVID-19 ravaged Mumbai

On 11th May 2020, Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences (MGIMS), Sevagram sent a team of 45 doctors to lend a helping hand to the hospitals in Mumbai to provide care for the victims of COVID-19. A day earlier, Dr TP Lahane, Director DMER (Directorate of Medical Education and Research, Govt of Maharashtra) who had visited MGIMS during its Golden Jubilee celebration urged MGIMS to succour the COVID-19 ravaged Mumbai. The notification came under the Epidemic Diseases Act, the Disaster Management Act, and the Maharashtra Essential Service Maintenance Act. This is the first incidence where Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) had sought help from outside Mumbai. "Covid cases are coming thick and fast and to tackle them, we need to strengthen our team with more doctors. The arrival of the first batch of doctors from MGIMS, Sevagram is a big reassurance", said Dr Balkrishna Adsul, In-Charge, Seven Hills Hospital.

KHS Employees pledge their one-day salary to PM-CARES Fund

On 04 June 2020, Shri PL Tapdiya (Trustee, Kasturba Health Society), Dr BS Garg (Secretary, Kasturba Health Society) and Dr NM Gangane (Dean, MGIMS) handed over a cheque of Rs 19,20,648.00 to Wardha Collector Shri Vivek Bhimanwar at Collector Office. 1077 employees of Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical sciences, Kasturba Hospital, Kasturba Nursing School and Kasturba Nursing College pledged their one-day salary to help government fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. Soon after the Prime Minister urged organizations and individuals to donate money for the Prime Minister Relief Fund. Kasturba Health Society appealed its employee to give away their one-day salary to further strengthen the government's efforts to tackle the situation. The contribution was voluntary and those desirous of opting out were exempted.

MGIMS develops a checklist to help Gram Panchayats fight COVID-19; 700,000 Indian villages to implement.

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Govt of India accepted a tool developed by the Department of Community Medicine, Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences (MGIMS), Sevagram to assess community preparedness at village level to battle corona virus pandemic. The self-assessment cum

action tool is in the form of checklist to be used by Gram Panchayat or another village level committee given mandate of organizing village level response to the pandemic. Department of Community Medicine has also developed a guide for filling up the checklist to make it user friendly as well as video for informing villagers regarding need for community action. The tool identifies eight areas for action at village level and accordingly the checklist is divided into sections; viz. creating awareness regarding preventive measures, solidarity to address the associated stigma, support for home as well as community quarantine, help in surveillance activities identification, support to needy families, ensuring availability of routine health services, prompt response in case of positive cases and maintaining hygiene and sanitation at village level. The filled in information in this check list will help the Gram Panchayats to self assess their preparedness and identify what more they may do. This will also help the health department to take appropriate and timely corrective measures.

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Govt of India further instructed the Chief Secretaries of all Indian states to use the tool for assessing the community response to COVID-19 at village/Gram Panchayat level for timely action of COVID-19 and vector borne diseases.

Further, in an online training coordinated by Anandvan and Village Social Transformation Foundation (VSTF) on 24 May 2020, the Department of Community Medicine oriented more than 300 VSTF fellows regarding use of the tool. These volunteers will work in more than 1000 villages of Maharashtra to catalyze community response to COVID-19. VSTF also plans to use the information gathered through the network of fellows to help Government of Maharashtra fight the pandemic in a better way.