

Letter No.
Health Department
Govt of Bihar

From,
Principal Secretary,
Health Department
To,
All District Magistrates
Bihar

Patna, Date

Subject : Regarding Severe Acute Respiratory illness (SARI) cases and Influenza-like illness (ILI) Surveillance.

Reference - Letter No. SHSB/Gen. Admin/IDSP/46668/2020/53 dated- 04.04.2020

Dear District Magistrate,

As you are aware about the fact that Government of Bihar has taken several steps to manage and contain the spread of COVID-19 in the state of Bihar in coordination with Government of India. These steps have been taken based on the emerging global and domestic scenario and the pattern of spread of COVID-19. We have been continuously sharing the updated guidelines issued by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India; Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi and experts advices received from technical experts from WHO/CARE/UNICEF.

In the next phase, it will be important to have a sharper focus on community and facility level surveillance for symptomatic cases having Influenza Like Illness (ILI) and Severe Acute Respiratory illness (SARI) to limit further spread of Covid -19 in the state of Bihar.

ILI/SARI surveillance will be done in hospitals where majority of the patients get admitted for severe respiratory problems. ILI surveillance will be conducted in the Flu clinics, recently operationalized in all public health care facilities / general OPD of Private Hospitals. Where as , all Medical College and Hospitals, District Hospitals, Sub Divisional Hospitals and Private Hospitals will act as sentinel sites for ILI/SARI surveillance.

It's worth mentioning hereby the following case definitions of ILI and SARI, and to see how close it is - with the symptoms of COVID-19:

ILI case definition

An acute respiratory infection with:
measured fever of temperature $\geq 38\text{ C}^\circ$;
And Cough;
Onset of symptoms within the last 10 days

SARI case definition

An acute respiratory infection with:
History of fever or measured fever of temperature $\geq 38\text{ C}^\circ$;
And Cough;
Onset of symptoms within the last 10 days;
Requires hospitalization.

In view of the severity and magnitude of COVID-19 pandemic, there is an urgent need for effective and immediate interventions to implement the ILI and SARI surveillance in Public and Private Healthcare facilities in your district. The Executive Director, State Health Society, Bihar has directed for the same in the Public Hospitals vide Letter No. SHSB/Gen. Admin/IDSP/46668/2020/53 dated- 04.04.2020. To involve private sector in the surveillance activity, you may like to hold a meeting with district representatives of Indian Medical Association (IMA) and representatives of major private hospitals in the district. For the effective implementation of surveillance of ILI/ SARI following action points are recommended:

- Line listing of all ILI/SARI cases in the district (Public and Private Hospitals)
- Sample collection of suspected case for COVID-19
- Isolation and further treatment based on the diagnostic test results and protocol of clinical management of COVID-19

Under the leadership of District Magistrate, the District Surveillance Unit - Integrated Disease Surveillance Program (IDSP) should act as Nodal unit for the effective and immediate implementation of Severe Acute Respiratory illness (SARI) and Influenza-like illness (ILI) Surveillance in the district. All required guidelines, protocols and formats in this regard shall be shared by State Surveillance Officer to all District Surveillance Officers.

Sincerely,

Sd./-
(Sanjay Kumar)

Memo No. 273 (11)

Date - 06.04.2020

Copy To:

1. Chief Secretary, Govt of Bihar for kind information.
2. Secretary, MoHFW, GoI for kind information.
3. All Divisional Commissioners, Bihar for Information and necessary action.
4. Executive Director, State Health Society, Bihar for Information and necessary action.
5. SSO-IDSP, State Health Society, Bihar for Information and necessary action.
6. All Civil Surgeons, Bihar for Information and necessary action.
7. All ACMO-cum-District Surveillance Officer, Bihar for Information and necessary action.
8. CARE / WHO / UNICEF teams for Information and necessary action.


Principal Secretary,
Health Department