



UPAMANYU BASU
Joint Secretary

Government of India
Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying
Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying
Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi – 110001

DO No. K-130139150/18/2020-LH

26th March 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to draw your kind attention to the COVID-19 situation and the role of veterinarians and para-veterinarians in dealing with veterinary health care in the present lockdown period. Also, you must have been in receipt of the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying GOI's communication dated 23rd March 2020 (copy enclosed). You may further be aware that Ministry of Home Affairs GOI, vide its order of 25th March 2020 (*copy enclosed for ready reference*) has issued an addendum to the Guidelines annexed with their earlier order of 24th March 2020 under the National Disaster Management Act 2005 and included Veterinary hospitals in the exception list – these will continue to remain functional during the lockdown period.

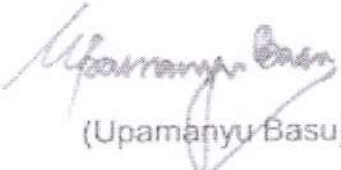
In this context, it is emphasized that veterinarians and para-veterinarians in the country have already undergone trainings on bio-security, bio-safety and personal hygiene during bird flu outbreaks and thereafter. They may also be well aware of taking necessary protective measures themselves as most might have worked / assisted during control and containment operations of zoonotic diseases, e.g. Avian influenza (Bird flu), etc. Yet, in view of COVID-19, they may be advised to take all necessary precautionary measures including maintaining personal hygiene while working in veterinary hospitals / dealing with veterinary healthcare and social distancing to protect themselves as well as people around them, if any.

Further, with such experience, the veterinary as well as the para-veterinarian community can definitely play a great role in spreading awareness as well as the preventive steps so as to break the cycle of COVID-19, necessary for preventing its spread. Majority of them work at the grassroot/ field level, having close connect with the village level authorities and important social persons there. In addition, veterinarians and para-veterinarians are also a part of the Taluka / Tehsil, District and State level committees. Therefore, they have individual rapport with the village Sarpanch and Panchayat Head at the village level, which would help in spreading awareness regarding restricting unnecessary movement of public and social distancing from each other and keep their house, animal sheds, etc. clean. They can also reach out to the village representatives telephonically for taking such measures.

You are, therefore, requested to instruct the Department concerned so as to advise all veterinarians involved in veterinary health care and para-veterinarian staff

assisting in all such activities and carrying out minor veterinary services including vaccinations, to take all necessary personal preventive measures in the wake of COVID-19 situation while undertaking essential veterinary healthcare in veterinary institutions and help create the necessary awareness among animal owners and attenders /helpers with regard to personal as well as animal hygiene, bio-safety and bio-security.

Best regards,


(Upamanyu Basu)

Encl: a a

ACS/ Principal Secretaries/ Commissioners /Directors
Animal Husbandry /Veterinary Departments
(all states / UTs)

Copy for information to -
Chief Secretary (all States /UT)

No. 40-3/2020-DM-I(A)
Government of India
Ministry of Home Affairs

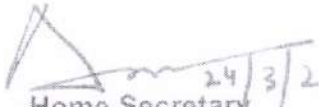
North Block, New Delhi-110001
Dated 24th March, 2020

ORDER

Whereas, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), is satisfied that the country is threatened with the spread of COVID-19 epidemic, which has already been declared as a pandemic by the World Health Organisation, and has considered it necessary to take effective measures to prevent its spread across the country and that there is a need for consistency in the application and implementation of various measures across the country while ensuring maintenance of essential services and supplies, including health infrastructure;

Whereas in exercise of the powers under section 6(2)(i) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), has issued an Order no. 1-29/2020-PP (Pt.II) dated 24.03.2020 (Copy enclosed) directing the Ministries/ Departments of Government of India, State/Union Territory Governments and State/ Union Territory Authorities to take effective measures so as to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the country:

Whereas under directions of the aforesaid Order of NDMA, and in exercise of the powers, conferred under Section 10(2)(I) of the Disaster Management Act, the undersigned, in his capacity as Chairperson, National Executive Committee, hereby issues guidelines, as per the Annexure, to Ministries/ Departments of Government of India, State/Union Territory Governments and State/ Union Territory Authorities with the directions for their strict implementation. This Order shall remain in force, in all parts of the country for a period of 21 days with effect from 25.03.2020.


24/3/2020
Home Secretary

To

1. The Secretaries of Ministries/ Departments of Government of India
2. The Chief Secretaries/Administrators of States/Union Territories
(As per list attached)

Copy to:

- i. All members of the National Executive Committee.
- ii. Member Secretary, National Disaster Management Authority.