Vax crunch

Vax crunch to hit schools’ reopening (The Tribune: 20210722)


Though the government has announced reopening of schools for Classes 10-12 from July 26, vaccine is in short supply to meet the pre-condition it has set to rejoin schools.

According to the circular, only fully vaccinated teachers and staff members can be physically present at the schools. However, hundreds of students are still waiting for the first dose.

Earlier, the government had allowed colleges, coaching centres and all other institutions of higher learning to open with similar compliance. It had announced plans to organise special camps for students in educational institutions but failed to act.

Hundreds of teachers and other staff members who were scheduled to get the second jab have been waiting for the vaccine, but the health department could arrange only 1,200 doses of Covaxin and Covishield today. The authorities concerned said only 800 doses were received last week. The department had announced to organise eight camps today but most were cancelled due to vaccine shortage.
Covid, health infrastructure

Centre: Approved Rs 40,000 crore for Covid, health infrastructure (The Tribune: 20210722)


Centre: Approved Rs 40,000 crore for Covid, health infrastructure

The government today informed the Lok Sabha that it had approved nearly Rs 40,000 crore for prevention of Covid-19 and enhancing health infrastructure in the country, in addition to funds allocated under the National Health Mission. - File photo

The government today informed the Lok Sabha that it had approved nearly Rs 40,000 crore for prevention of Covid-19 and enhancing health infrastructure in the country, in addition to funds allocated under the National Health Mission.

Responding to a written question by BJP members Dilip Saikia and Ramesh Chander Kaushik in the House, MoS for Home Nityanand Rai said as informed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Centre had been providing required technical and financial assistance to all states and UTs for strengthening their healthcare system.

This, the minister said, included management of the Covid-19 public health challenge, from time to time, and the financial assistance to states and UTs is provided under the National Health Mission (NHM). During 2019-20, funds to the tune of Rs 1,113.21 crore were released to states and UTs towards management of Covid-19, over and above their normal resource envelope under the NHM, he added.

Further, the Centre has approved the “India Covid-19 Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness Package” and Rs 15,000 crore was provided under it in April 2020 with an objective to prevent, detect and respond to the threat posed by Covid-19.

‘No discrimination in vax allocation’

New Delhi: Brushing aside allegation of discrimination in allocation of vaccines, Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Tuesday said the ministry supplied vaccines as per a state’s population. During a discussion in the Rajya Sabha, Mandaviya said states were given vaccine availability projections 15 days in advance. tns
Oral hygiene

Oral hygiene must to prevent black fungus, say experts (The Tribune: 20210722)


Oral hygiene must to prevent black fungus, say experts

The Asian Society of Oral an Maxillofacial Pathology (ASOMP) organised a webinar titled ‘COVID-19 and Oral & Systemic Mycoses’ for creating awareness regarding different types of fungal infections spread by the virus.

Eminent scholar and clinical expert Prof Lakhsman Samaranayake, the foremost authority on oral fungal infections, was a keynote speaker. Dr Simarpreet Sandhu, general secretary of ASOMP, along with Dr Ranganath K, chief, ASOMP, moderated the session.

Over 300 doctors across different countries, including Argentina, Indonesia, the UK and others attended the webinar. The lecture highlighted on the possibility of outbreaks of severe fungal infections in the healthcare facilities managing patients. The doctors opined that symptoms of mucormycosis or black fungus can range from bad breath to loose teeth. It’s necessary that doctors advise patients, who have recovered from Covid-19, to go for regular oral check-ups.

Dr Samaranayake said more has to be done for those patients who have diabetes. He stressed on the importance of personal and oral hygiene for prevention of mucormycosis or black fungus infection. — TNS

Antibodies in 67% population

Antibodies in 67% population, 40 cr still vulnerable, says ICMR (The Tribune: 20210722)


50% kids exposed to virus; sero positivity high in those jabbed

Antibodies in 67% population, 40 cr still vulnerable, says ICMR
Two-thirds of the country’s population above the age of 6 have contracted the Covid-19 infection, but around 40 crore people are still vulnerable, reveals the ICMR’s latest national sero survey. - File photo

Two-thirds of the country’s population above the age of 6 have contracted the Covid-19 infection, but around 40 crore people are still vulnerable, reveals the ICMR’s latest national sero survey. It shows 67.6 per cent people above 6 years of age have developed antibodies to the virus, indicating past infection.

Balram Bhargava, Director General, ICMR

Open primary schools first

Children can handle viral infections better. Our advice will be to open primary schools first and then secondary sections.

Over half of the children surveyed were sero-positive and showed infection, with the ICMR advising the state governments to open primary schools first provided all school staffers have been fully vaccinated.

“Children can handle viral infections better. Younger children have lesser ace receptors in the lungs, which the virus uses to bind to the cells. The survey tells us that the level of exposure of children is almost the same as adults. Moreover, the Scandinavian nations didn’t close primary schools through any Covid wave. Our advice would be to open primary schools first and then the secondary sections, but all school staffers must be fully vaccinated,” said Balram Bhargava, Director General, ICMR.

The survey shows that a higher proportion of vaccinated people have antibodies. “The sero positivity was 62.3 per cent among the unvaccinated, 81 per cent in those with one vaccine dose and 89.8 per cent in people with both doses,” he said. The survey covered 28,975 people across 70 districts in 21 states.

**Delta took over Alpha**

**Delta took over Alpha in April, shows genome sequencing in Punjab (The Tribune: 20210722)**


Delta took over Alpha in April, shows genome sequencing in Punjab

Health officials collect a swab sample of a suspected patient in Nawanshahr. file
The original virus has been practically replaced by new variants in Punjab, genome sequencing over the past few months have shown.

A month-wise whole genome sequencing has shown that more than 90 per cent is a variant of concern. The further investigation revealed that the Delta variant remained predominant even in the month of June this year.

Even during the Covid review meeting chaired by Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh, the new variants were a matter of concern. However, after two cases reported in the month of June, no new cases of the Delta-Plus variant have been reported so far.

As per the genome sequencing data compiled by the state, the Alpha variant dominated the scene till March this year and there was no case of Delta variant till February.

In February, 70 per cent cases of Alpha variant were found, which increased to 95 per cent in March. However, the variant started weakening after March and came down to 40 per cent in April and reduced to just 3.9 per cent in May.

When Alpha was fading away, Delta variant was emerging on the scene. The first case of Delta was detected in the month of March. In March, it made just 0.5 per cent of the variants. And after that, it started dominating the scenario. In April, Delta variant was found in 47 per cent cases taken for genome sequencing against 40 per cent Alpha variant. In May, the number increased to 88 per cent and last month it climbed to 90 per cent.

**H5 N! Virus (The Asian Age: 20210722)**

Human-to-human transmission of H5N1 virus very rare: AIIMS

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

As the country reported the first confirmed case of human death due to Avian influenza, AIIMS chief Dr. Randeep Guleria on Wednesday said that human-to-human transmission of the H5N1 virus is very rare and there is no need to panic.

However, there is a need to do contact tracing and also take samples and look for any poultry deaths in the area from where the child who died due to the virus was residing, the AIIMS director said.

A 12-year-old boy from Haryana, who was infected with the H5N1 virus, recently died at AIIMS Delhi. The National Institute of Virology, Pune had confirmed the infection, Dr Guleria said.

“The transmission of the virus from birds to humans is rare and sustained human-to-human transmission of the H5N1 virus has not yet been established and therefore there is no need to panic. But then people working closely with poultry must take precautionary measures and maintain proper personal hygiene,” Dr Guleria said.

Dr Neeraj Nischal, an associate professor in the Department of Medicine at AIIMS, said Avian influenza or bird flu is predominantly a zoonosis, and there is no evidence of sustained human-to-human transmission so far. “Although few isolated family clusters have been reported, transmission in these clusters may have occurred through common exposure and in rare situation a very close physical contact; there is no evidence of human-to-human transmission via small-particle aerosols,” he said.

“Serologic surveys have not found evidence of asymptomatic infections among contacts of active cases and nosocomial transmission to healthcare workers has not been documented,” Dr Nischal said.

“There is no need to worry if one is eating properly cooked poultry products. There is no evidence so far that it can be spread to people through properly cooked food. The virus gets destroyed when the food is cooked at high temperature. One should avoid contact with infected poultry, especially ill or dying chickens,” he said.

Dr Guleria said in the past when H5N1 avian flu influenza cases were reported from poultry, culling of poultry in those areas has been done to prevent the spread of infection and tackle it early. The H5N1 is usually transmitted to poultry through migratory birds, he said.
With crores vulnerable, vaccines key to safety

The results of the fourth national sero-survey of the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes Covid-19 has very little to offer Indians by the way of a sense of confidence, leave alone complacency. For the optimist, it says 67.33 per cent of the population — two persons in every three — aged above six years have antibodies in them against the virus. But the hard fact is that the rest, about 40 crore people, are vulnerable to the pandemic.

The survey, held among 28.975 people in 70 districts in 20 states in June and July this year, indicates that the spread of the virus has been quite fast in the country in the second wave. While only 0.7 per cent of the population tested positive for the antibody in the first survey conducted in May-June last year, the figure became 7.1 per cent in August-September. However, from 34.1 per cent during the third survey in December-January (2020-2021), it has now leaptfrogged into 67 per cent, a three-time growth.

The key takeaway of the survey, as per the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) that conducted it, is that the spread has been wider in the areas that had the least coverage of the vaccination programme.

That the vaccine is the best tool against the spread of the pandemic has been widely accepted and reports from the world over stand testimony to it. The US, which has inoculated almost half of its population, has been witnessing the fourth wave of the pandemic now — the average daily caseload this week is double that was reported two weeks ago. Reports say the pandemic wreaks havoc in the areas which have been least covered by vaccination. Besides, 85 per cent of the new cases have been caused by the delta variant of the virus.

These experiences leave the Indian government and the people with little option but to be extremely alert. The Union government, in association with the states, has to reignite the vaccination programme to cover the entire population before December 31 this year, the deadline it has set itself. This is because only 63 per cent of the total population has been vaccinated fully and 24 per cent administered one dose as of now. Worse, the vaccination programme has shown signs of a fatigue of late despite an occasional spike — the daily average vaccination has now fallen to about 34 lakh doses against the required 87 lakhs. Shortage of the doses, reported from several states, has not been addressed yet. The government has been promising that the production and availability of the vaccines will pick up in a couple of months but we do not have tangible data yet to justify the same.

Covid-appropriate behaviour is as key a tool against the virus as the vaccine. However, it is observed more in its breach than adherence. Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself has cautioned against crowding in marketplaces and tourist destinations. The government will have to reinvigorate an awareness campaign on this count, too, for, 40 crore is not a small number when it comes to population.
Health tips

Health tips: Dietitian shares 5 things that don’t help the immune system (The Indian Express: 20210722)


According to dietitian Mansi Padechia, there are some "toxic habits" that impact our immune system -- know about them here

immunity, what to do for immunity, common mistakes in immunity, lack of exercise hampers immunity, indianexpress.com, how to build immunity, what hampers immunity, Here's why you should get rid off toxic habits that impact your immunity. (Source: Getty Images/Thinkstock)

Amid pandemic, people have tried various ways to build immunity — whether it is eating clean, maintaining a strict workout routine or trying various homemade kadha concoctions. But did you know that some common habits can, in fact, take away from all the hard work put in? Dietitian Mansi Padechia recently shared a post on Instagram talking about the important things one should keep in mind to not let the body's immunity drop.

“Our body shows signs of a strong immune system pretty often. One example is when you get a mosquito bite. The red, bumpy itch is a sign of your immune system at work. The flu or a cold is a typical example of your body failing to stop the germs/bacteria before they get in,” she mentioned.

Describing how one can know whether the immune system is working or not, she said, “When you recover from the cold or flu, it’s proof that your immune system was able to eliminate the invader after learning about it and reacting to its defense. If your immune system did nothing, you would never get over the cold, or anything else for that matter. When you are sick, your body isn’t able to perform at its full potential.”

COVID-19 tragedy

Dealing with denial: On playing down the COVID-19 tragedy (The Indian Express: 20210722)


India must not play down the COVID-19 tragedy, as that would hurt public confidence
A touchy topic for the Centre and States has been the counting of the dead

**COVID-19 in type-2 diabetics**

*Study sheds light on intensity of COVID-19 in type-2 diabetics (The Hindu: 20210722)*


High three-month average sugar levels cited as a clear predictor of severity

A retrospective observational study done in persons with the COVID-19 infection has drawn a clear association between high three-month average

**Drug regulatory system**

*Serum Institute writes to Union Health Minister proposing reforms in drug regulatory system (The Hindu: 20210722)*


Prakash Kumar Singh, Director, Government and Regulatory Affairs at Pune-based SII, in a letter, referred to a gazette notification by the Union Health Ministry on May 18, 2020

World’s largest vaccine manufacturer by volume, Serum Institute of India (SII) has written to Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya suggesting reforms in the existing drug regulatory system, including allowing manufacturing and stockpiling of non-Covid vaccines while undergoing clinical trial.

**COVID-19 vaccination**

*COVID-19 vaccination safe for pregnant women (The Hindu: 20210722)*

In India, based on all that we know, all vaccines currently available are safe and should be used in pregnant women.

During pregnancy, the body undergoes many changes, particularly, those driven by hormonal levels and in immune system function that are intended to stop.

**Waiving testing**

**Waiving testing for the fully vaccinated is ill-considered, says epidemiologist Giridhara Babu (The Hindu: 20210722)**


Vaccinated people can potentially get infected once more and spread the virus to others.

On July 14, Maharashtra announced that people who have received both doses of a Covid-19 vaccine can travel to the State by air without a negative RT-PCR.

**Vaccination (Hindustan: 20210722)**

[https://epaper.livehindustan.com/imageview_936982_80407394_4_1_22-07-2021_0_i_1_sf.html](https://epaper.livehindustan.com/imageview_936982_80407394_4_1_22-07-2021_0_i_1_sf.html)
महीनेबार में एक तिहाई रह गया टीकाकरण

ईडाइफर के लिए लगभग 13.23 प्रति सबूत की जा रही है।

13.23 प्रति सबूत की राह वर्तमान में जीवन के लिए लगभग 6.3 प्रति सबूत है।

लादु: -दिवास तक तारीख तक समी के विकास
जन संख्या में हिस्टरी का आकार का रूप से 86.3 प्रति सबूत है।

परमाणु: - राजस्थान के दीवार पर तीन खुशाक
- महाराष्ट्र, पंजाब, के दीवार की विस्तार तक समी के विकास का आकार का रूप से 43.25 प्रति सबूत है।

महीनेबार में एक तिहाई रह गया टीकाकरण

45+ वालों में 51% ने वैक्सीन की दोनों डोज ली
दिल्ली की सरकार के महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्री द्वारा उपलब्ध कराए आकड़ों ने दर्शाया वैदिक महत्वपूर्ण का भीषण कहर
दिल्ली में कोरोना ने 5640 बच्चों को किया अनाथ

12 लाख भारतीय बच्चों ने माता-पिता को खोया