

COVID-19

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019



Sphere India
National Coalition of Humanitarian Agencies in India

CALL FOR ACTION

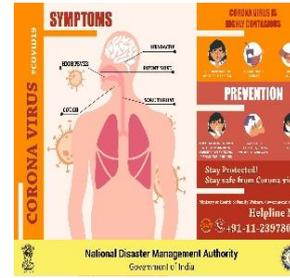
United against COVID 19

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Coronavirus as on 11th March 2020, globally has more than 118 326 confirmed cases with 4292 deaths. **China** has 80 955 confirmed cases with 162 deaths. Outside of China, 37 371 cases have been confirmed with 1130 deaths. 113 countries/territories are affected and WHO has declared its Pandemic with Very High-Risk assessment for China, Regional and Global Level.

Coronaviruses are a group of viruses that are common in humans and are responsible for up to 30% of common cold like symptoms further leading to pneumonia. The novel coronavirus originated in the Chinese province of Wuhan and has now spread to over 113 countries, including India. South Korea, Italy and Iran are other countries having highest number of confirmed cases.

The number of cases in India rose to 73 as on 12th March (including 16 Italian tourists) after fresh cases were reported from Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Karnataka, New Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and Maharashtra. The outbreak of the disease in India started in Kerala where 3 people were diagnosed with the disease but soon recovered. Primary Schools have begun shut in the capital Delhi till 31st of March a few offices have been shut temporarily after employees tested positive for Covid-19.



Picture Credits : Media Sources- Ministry of Health

Sphere India is a National Coalition of Humanitarian Agencies in India. The membership of 72 organisations include key nodal organisations from UN, INGOs, NGO Networks, National NGOs, CSR and Academic Institutions and the outreach network consisting of 22 state level Inter Agency Groups and 405 local organisations as associate members and many other partners. The Health and WASH Committee of Sphere India discussed the issue of COVID-19 and it was decided to activate Unified Response. On behalf of Sphere India members. This is a collective call of action and advocacy for stakeholders to:

Government:

To take adequate measures to control the spread of the virus and to put in place adequate arrangements for screening, testing and treatment of patients at various levels.

Humanitarian and Development Organisations:

To mobilise their community focal points and connect them with nodal networks like IAG at state levels and Sphere India at national level.

To proactively spread awareness on preventive measures in communities.

To coordinate and supplement capacities of authorities at various levels.

To monitor cases in communities and facilities at various levels.

Coordinating Bodies (IAGs/ Sphere India/ Networks)

To coordinate with authorities at respective level to share information / feedback from field and receive updates on decisions and emerging plans of Govt.

To mobilise partners and expand network outreach with aim to leave no one behind with focus on vulnerable groups.

To train network resources for various roles as agreed in

Preventive Measures:

- Regularly and thoroughly clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water.
- Maintain at least 1 metre (3 feet) distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth
- Practice respiratory hygiene
- If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical care early
- Stay informed and follow advice given by your healthcare provider

coordination meeting for various contingencies

To develop and disseminate IEC materials contextualised for regions and communities.

To map technical capacities in the network and mobilise them for potential roles in contingencies.

To develop analysis and advocacy communications.

Media:

Play a constructive role in building awareness, preventing panic and dissemination of right information in consultation with authorities.

Donors:

To provide resources and means required to address emerging needs and priorities.

Citizens:

Take necessary preventive measures as below and follow advisories at individual, household and community level.

Not to panic and victimize affected people.

On behalf of Sphere India Members,
Vikrant Mahajan, CEO, Sphere India

For further information and joining coordination efforts of Sphere India contact:

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