



भारत सरकार  
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय  
निर्माण भवन, नई दिल्ली-110011

Government of India  
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare  
Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi - 110011

आरती आहुजा भा.प्र.से.  
अपर सचिव

**Arti Ahuja, IAS**  
**Additional Secretary**

Tel. : 011-23061066, 23063809  
E-mail : ash-mohfw@nic.in

DO No: Z-28015/81/2020-TB-Part (1)  
Date : May 5, 2021

*Dear Sir/Madam,*

COVID-19 is once again on the upsurge across the country and the States/ UTs are doing a commendable job in implementing the Rapid Response Plan to mitigate the impact of the pandemic.

Given the situation, providing uninterrupted Diagnostic and Treatment services, Public Health Actions and DBT payments becomes more critical for TB patients. States/UTs must undertake maximum efforts to keep all TB services active to prevent any difficulties for TB patients or presumptive TB cases seeking care in the health system. Further to the Technical Advisories already issued, the following measures are to be undertaken by the State/UTs:

1. Continued TB Services in the entire State/ UT by close monitoring of services.
2. TB-COVID bidirectional screening, screening for TB among all ILI / SARI cases.
3. Uninterrupted services at laboratories for providing both TB and COVID services while ensuring adequate Personal Protective Equipment for the laboratory and service delivery staff.
4. Doorstep collection of samples wherever required. Continuous review to identify and address posed challenges to minimize delay in sample collection and transportation.
5. Uninterrupted supply of TB treatment drugs to all diagnosed TB patients.
6. COVID appropriate behaviour to be practiced by all the healthcare personnel at all levels as per protocols and advisories.
7. Contact tracing of all notified TB cases to be done as per regular timelines. All household and workplace contacts to be screened and all eligible contacts to be put on chemoprophylaxis.

States/ UTs have gained much experience in managing TB services during a similar situation last year. I urge you all to utilize that experience and the lessons learnt thereof, to pre-empt forthcoming challenges and take all possible action to ensure continued delivery of TB services.

*With warm regards,*

Yours sincerely,

*(Arti Ahuja)*

To,

Addl. Chief Secretary (Health)/Principal Secretary (Health)/Secretary (Health) of all States/UTs



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Sd/-  
(Arti Ahuja)

Addl. Chief Secretary (Health)/Principal Secretary (Health)/Secretary (Health) of all States/UTs

- Copy to: (1) MD(NHM) of all States/UTs  
(2) STOs of all States/UTs  
(3) Sr. PPS to Secretary (Health),GoI  
(4) DDG(TB)

(आरती आहुजा)  
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