



राजेश भूषण, आईएएस
सचिव

RAJESH BHUSHAN, IAS
SECRETARY



भारत सरकार
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय
Government of India
Department of Health and Family Welfare
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

D.O No. Z-21020/16/2020-PH
21st December 2020

Dear Sir,

It has been reported that a distinct Phylogenetic cluster of SARs-CoV-2 (named lineage B.1.1.7) has been detected. This SARS-CoV-2 is spreading & growing rapidly in United Kingdom. It has also been reported that this variant has an unusually large number of genetic changes particularly in the spike protein. This development calls for enhanced epidemiological surveillance, enhanced containment & other measures to effectively tackle the challenge.

2. As you are aware, India has been seeing a sustained decline in the number of fresh Covid-19 cases for over 2 ½ months now, accompanied by a decline in the number of deaths. In this scenario, any interjection of a SARS-CoV-2 variant virus through passengers with air travel history could pose critical risks for pandemic management in India.

3. In this connection, based on the inputs received from the Joint Monitoring Group (JMG) headed by the Director General of Health Services (DGHS) and the Vaccine Task Force headed by the Principal Scientific Advisor and Member (Health), NITI, the following is suggested:-

- (i) All flights originating from U.K into India be suspended temporarily till 31st December 2020 (23.59 hours). The suspension to start w.e.f 23.59 hours, 22nd December 2020.
- (ii) As a measure of abundant caution, passengers arriving from U.K in all international flights (flights in transit) should be subjected to mandatory RT PCR tests on arrival at the airports concerned.
- a. Those who are found positive on arrival must be sent for institutional quarantine/isolation set up by the state/UT governments, in collaboration with the states/UTs concerned.
- b. Those who are found negative in RT-PCR tests should be advised to isolate themselves at home for seven days, to be medically monitored by the States/UTs concerned.

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- c. Relevant information in this regard may be prominently displayed in arrival area, waiting area of the airports.
- (iii) The State/UT governments concerned are being separately asked to set up help desks at the airports to facilitate this.
- (iv) Adequate arrangements for passengers waiting for their RT PCR test results may also be made at the airports.

HOT

Regards.

Yours sincerely,



(Rajesh Bhushan)

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