

No.DHS/OD/2020-21/21
Directorate of Health Services,
Government of Goa,
Office of the Director,
Campal, Panaji, Goa.

Dated: 06/05/2020.

NOTE

To,
The Under Secretary (Health II)
Porvorim,
Secretariat.

Madam,

India, along with the world has faced different strains of viral epidemics in the recent past - H1N1, SARS, H5N1 etc. The scale and speed at which COVID-19 spread, however, has been unprecedented. Few months into the viral outbreak we are still far from understanding the precise nature of the novel corona virus.

The global experience with the viral outbreaks, therefore, paints a grim picture of the future ahead of us. In situations of uncertainty like these, the golden principle governing the epidemiological response is to prevent before we need to cure.

Our experience with COVID-19 was premised on similar foundations. May it be lockdown or increasing our testing capacity or restrictions on public and goods mobility or deployment of rapid response action force, the COVID-19 experience has taught us that viral outbreaks may be difficult to avoid but are not so difficult to control and contain.

There have been multiple successful interventions and also few failures in our journey towards containment of COVID-19. Even if our response to COVID may not have been perfect, our action plan can serve as the foundation for the State's epidemic disaster response policy. DHS would therefore like to document these experiences in the form of Report which can be used as a guide for future such outbreaks. We believe, our learnings and lessons will help us strengthen our disaster prevention, preparedness and mitigation measures.

Also acknowledging the fact that there is a huge social stigma associated with suspect and confirmed COVID-19 patients, DHS would want to make the report internally so that citizen privacy is not compromised during the course of report making.

It is requested that Government approval may be given to start documenting the report of all the measures taken to fight this Covid-19 diseases since January 2020.

Thanking you.

Yours faithfully,



Dr. Jose D'sa
Director of Health Services