

PRESS RELEASE

Text of DO letter from Thiru Edappadi K.Palaniswami, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu addressed to Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India dated 23.4.2021

I would like to thank you Sir for your continuous guidance and support in tackling the Corona pandemic. Tamil Nadu had been showing a continuous decline in positivity rate, decline in case fatality and also decline in total numbers till the end of February 2021. However, in tune with the national trend, the State has also not been immune to the rapid increase in the COVID-19 infections in March and April 2021. The State is witnessing rise in new cases and the daily cases have crossed 10,000 and in Chennai alone, it is 3,300.

To prevent the spread and quickly control the increase in cases, the State is strictly following the practice of testing, tracing, isolating, treating and also vaccinating the eligible. The State has been able to restrict the COVID-19 mortality to very low numbers and bring down the case positivity to less than 5 percent initially. The State has also introduced containment and other disease prevention measures like micro-containment with strict perimeter control and has also introduced measures to reduce the crowds in functions by restricting the numbers, apart from announcement of night curfew and Sunday lockdown from 20.4.2021. The State has also set up static and mobile fever camps, testing centres and screening centres to triage the positive patients to hospital, health centres, care centres or home quarantine. The State is also emphasising on COVID appropriate behaviour and has a system of penalizing defaulters. A campaign approach has been introduced to create awareness. Since 16th March 2021, a total number of 3.94 lakh violators have been identified and a fine amount of Rs.8.35 crore has been collected.

On the vaccination front, so far the State has administered 47.31 lakh doses and is expected to continue at least 2 lakh vaccinations per day. At this stage, I would request the Hon'ble Prime Minister's kind intervention on the following issues:

- i. With the vaccination gaining pace in the State, I would request that an assured supply of at least ten days consumption of vaccine, of about 20 lakh doses, may be supplied well in advance to ensure that the vaccination drive in the individual sites are not affected and persons coming for second dose are assured of vaccination on the date and in the site they report.

- ii. It has come to notice that directions are being issued by National and certain State regulators, prioritising supplies by individual manufacturers to certain States and restricting Remdesivir sales only within the state where Remdesivir is being produced. This would be very damaging to the availability of such valuable life saving drugs in places of need. At this stage, any restrictive orders by individual States, should be strictly barred to ensure easy accessibility of Remdesivir. I urge Government of India to take up this issue with such states where the companies have their production facilities located.
- iii. I would also like to bring to your attention that the 'Integrated Vaccine complex' located at Chengalpattu in Tamil Nadu, a Centrally executed project of national importance, with an aim to ensure vaccine security at a National level, is structurally and functionally ready and awaiting commissioning and validation. I am informed that this would be possible, if some pending works can be fast-tracked. I would appeal to you to bring this facility to working condition at the earliest, so as to augment the production of COVID vaccines.

**Issued by: The Director of Information & Public Relations,
Chennai 600 009.**