



Responding to COVID in tribal southern Rajasthan ***A 3-pronged strategy***

13 May 2021

What are we seeing on the ground

- Large number of villages affected
- People seeking care from Bengali doctors, also Bhopas
- Fear of going to government hospitals
- Communities not using masks, distancing; large gatherings taking place
- Huge fear of vaccine, very low acceptance
- Increased number of deaths reported from many areas
- In the cities: hospitals fully packed



3-pronged strategy

- **Community response:** Identification, care of COVID + awareness about COVID and specially vaccination
- **Block level:** COVID care centres at Sabla, Salumbar and Gogunda
- **Telephone helpline:** to support COVID cases in the villages

Community response

Awareness on Corona

Build awareness on:

- Personal protection
- To avoid large gatherings
- Importance of vaccine and getting vaccinated
- Home care for COVID

This can be carried out across large areas: Salumbar/
Gogunda/ Pindwada/ Sabla/
Kushalgarh/ more.....

Community Corona care

- Build awareness + support home care:
- Identify people with COVID
- Follow up and support them for home care
- Help with referral of severe COVID

To start with: carried out in focused areas- selected panchayats in Salumbar/
Gogunda



Block support team

This will include- block team members (AB/BHS/SS), others.

Responsibilities

- Plan implementation in the block
- Identify volunteers, make village teams, train them
- Provide the required support to Corona families based on volunteer reports (food, fuel, water)
- Work with the block government team for effective roll-out



I. Community Corona care

Structure

Delivered through village-based volunteers (SKs, Shramik mitra, collective members, young men and women, others), ward panch, ASHAs, AWWs

Responsibilities of volunteers

Build awareness + Home care for Corona

I. Community Corona care

Build awareness on:

- Personal protection
- To avoid large gatherings
- Importance of vaccine and getting vaccinated
- Home care for COVID

Home care for Corona:

- Identify people with Corona
- Follow up and support them for home care
- Help with referral of severe Corona to nearby CHC/ District hospital

Identify people with Corona

- Volunteers to ask for symptoms of Corona: anyone with cold, cough, fever, diarrhoea, weakness, loss of sense of smell or taste
- No need to get the RTPCR done
- Ask for these symptoms in all members of a household
- All members with ANY of the symptoms of Corona are considered as **Corona positive**

Home care and follow up

Village volunteers will

1. Give medicine kit & pamphlet for homecare to all the people with Corona
2. Counsel them for:
 - a) Self isolation* in a separate room/ secluded place, in open preferably
 - b) Where present: to keep windows open, and fan on
 - c) Avoid contact with family unless important. When coming near family, to maintain physical distancing, meet in open and avoid closed spaces, use mask and do not touch

Home care and follow up (continued)

- d) Plenty of fluids (chaach, nimbu-pani, milk, tea, others)
 - e) Prone position
 - f) Danger signs and seeking care immediately
 - g) To stay active, walk around: 10 min walk 3-4 times a day. If any discomfort during the walk, to stop and rest
3. Motivate and encourage them**

Self-isolation: how to do this??

- Stay away from others:
 - All those with symptoms can stay together ***but separated from ALL others***
 - If only 1 person has symptoms, then to stay away from all others
 - If mother of young children alone has symptoms: she and children can stay together
 - Elderly people with no symptoms: to stay away from others

Self-isolation: how to do this?? (cont..)

- Person who has Corona can stay inside home, or in the open
- Family members can bring food, water, other things to them: but taking all precautions
- Self-isolation to continue till 15 days from the start of symptoms
- If a migrant has come back from another place, he/ she should also be in self-isolation for 15 days

Motivate and encourage them

- Volunteers to motivate all Corona patients that the disease will pass soon, to eat and drink well, to stay active
- This is very important as there is so much fear and panic about the disease, and overload of stressful news coming on social media
- At the same time, people correctly following home-isolation are getting well more quickly and with less problems!!

Home care and follow up

- Volunteers to follow up all those with Corona on phone/ by visit every 2-3 days. Talk from outside, use mask and face shield and sanitisers.
 - Ask for any danger signs
 - **Where danger signs present:** ask the patients to come in the open and measure spO₂
- Check for any needs of the family- food, water, fuel, others
 - Provide for the needs with support of the block team
- Follow up for 15 days from the time symptoms began

Referral of severe Corona

- **Severe Corona:** High grade fever present after 5 days/ breathing difficulty at rest or after walking for 5 min/ worsening of cough after 5 days/ spO2 less than 95/ any other serious complaints
- For any person with severe Corona: volunteers to check oxygen levels and call helpline
- Helpline will advise treatment or referral. Volunteers to arrange referral to nearby CHC in 108 Ambulance/ motorcycle/ another vehicle as possible
- If referral is refused: Helpline will provide home treatment. Block team to deliver the medicine to the volunteers
- Volunteers to continue follow up every 2-3 days
- If patient dies, block team to be informed



Supplies for Volunteers

- Safety kit for self: multi-layered cloth mask (2), face shield (2), hand sanitizer
- Pulse oxymeter
- Medicine kit (MV, PCM, ORS, vitamin D, cough syrup)
- Resource material and pamphlet for homecare
- Recording booklet

Do's and don'ts for the volunteers

- Do's
 - To always be respectful
 - Use mask and face-shield during their visits, wash hands/ use sanitisers after each visit
 - Should speak to all persons outdoors
 - Immediately speak to helpline for a person with severe Corona
- Don'ts
 - Share information about the people with Corona with others



Recording and reporting

- Village volunteers: to record number, details of COVID cases in the village. Share daily reports to block
- Block team to compile and send daily reports to all
- Udaipur team to compile weekly reports

II. Awareness on Corona

Block team to help build up awareness in larger areas:

- Key channels who will build up awareness:
 - Our volunteers: SKs & ORWs, Shramik mitras, phulwari workers
 - ASHAs, AWWs, ANMs, teachers
 - Advisory committee members
 - Panchayat representatives
 - Ujala Samoohs & collectives
 - Educated youth

II. Awareness on Corona

- Key strategies:
 - Messages, whatsApp videos and posters
 - Face-to-face: individual and small groups
- Audience:
 - Residents of villages- men, women, elderly, young
 - Influential members of the villages: Sarpanchs, teachers, gadda gameti, shop owners, others









Resource material

Here is a link to all our COVID related material till now which includes FAQ's, video and posters.

<https://bhs.org.in/covid-19-resources/>



Thank you

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