

**GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA**

No. CORONA-2020/ CR 84 /Arogya-5  
Public Health Department,  
Gokuldas Tejpal Hospital Compound  
New Mantralaya, Mumbai – 1

Date - . 04. 2020

To,

All District Collectors

All Municipal Commissioners

**Subject:** Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI) Surveillance and Testing for COVID-19 control

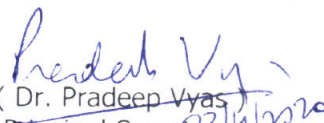
**Reference:** ICMR Letter No. NIE/SPH/EIS/2C/2019, dated 9<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to acknowledge the commitment and exemplary work of the officers and staff to fight against COVID-19 under your able leadership. ICMR is supporting the states in COVID-19 testing thorough VRDL network. However, it is also important to strengthen surveillance through early detection of suspect cases. Director-General, ICMR letter dated 21 March 2020 approves testing of all hospitalized patients Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI) which includes fever and cough and/or shortness of breath.

Director Health, Maharashtra has shared the SOPs and protocols Government health facilities/hospitals and designated private hospitals (enclosed). This will help to identify SARI cases which require testing, identification of the COVID-19 clusters for rapid action and intervention. State Surveillance officer-IDSP with technical assistance from WHO's Surveillance Medical Officers (SMOs) and Cardio-vascular Health Officers (CVHOs) are supporting the district surveillance units to operationalize timely data collection of SARI hospitalizations and testing. This activity will strengthen the surveillance and facilitate the early detection of COVID-19 cases.

I urge you to continue your oversight and supervision for SARI surveillance training, mapping of reporting sites, timely data reporting, testing and review to further enhance surveillance sensitivity.

  
( Dr. Pradeep Vyas )  
Principal Secretary,  
Public Health Department

Copy to :-

1. Commissioner Health cum Mission Director, NHM, Mumbai
2. Director Health Services
3. Dr. Sandip Shinde, Team Leader, WHO-NPSP, Maharashtra.