



विकास शील
संयुक्त सचिव
VIKAS SHEEL
Joint Secretary



भारत सरकार
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय
निर्माण भवन, नई दिल्ली - 110011

Government of India
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi -110011
Tel. : 011-23063506
: 011-23061481 (T/F)
E-mail : sheelv@nic.in

D.O. No. Z.21020/11/2020-TC(TC)
Dated the 10th April, 2020

Dear Sir,

I am directed to refer to the above subject and to say that WHO has produced a fact sheet on COVID-19 and NCDs which states that, people with pre-existing non-communicable diseases (NCDs) also appear to be more vulnerable to becoming severely ill with the COVID-19. These NCDs include - Cardiovascular disease (e.g. hypertension, persons who have had, or are at risk for, a heart attack or stroke); Chronic respiratory disease (e.g. COPD); Diabetes; Cancer.

2. Further, the WHO Fact Sheet also elaborates that the risk factors and conditions that make people more vulnerable to becoming severely ill with COVID-19 are that the smokers are likely to be more vulnerable to COVID-19 as the act of smoking means that fingers (and possibly contaminated cigarettes) are in contact with lips which increases the possibility of transmission of virus from hand to mouth. Smokers may also already have lung disease or reduced lung capacity which would greatly increase risk of serious illness; Smoking products such as water pipes often involve the sharing of mouth pieces and hoses, which could facilitate the transmission of COVID-19 in communal and social settings; Conditions that increases oxygen needs or reduces the ability of the body to use it properly will put patients at higher risk of the consequences of bilateral viral pneumonia.

3. In view of the above, to discourage the smoking and in the larger interest of public health, it is requested that all the state/UT governments may kindly undertake an awareness campaign w.r.t. adverse effects to smokers in case they get affected with COVID-19 so that general public may please be made aware on risks associated with smoking during COVID-19 pandemic. The messages for social media campaigns along with the WHO Fact Sheet/Information Note for creating awareness are attached herewith.

Encl: as above

warm regards

Yours sincerely,

(Vikas Sheel)

IEC bureau to include in
an material

13/4/2020

AS(W)/DHS-II Pune

Additional Chief Secretary (Health)/ Principal Secretary (Health)/ Secretary (Health)- All States/