



JOINT COUNCIL OF ACTION of INCOME TAX ASSOCIATIONS, WEST BENGAL



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Joint Convenors:

Sumit Kumar Bose
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Dated: 10.05.2021.

To
The Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax,
West Bengal & Sikkim,
Sir,

Sub: Initiatives at local level to combat the emergency situation arising out of outbreak of the 2nd wave of COVID 19 virus induced pandemic -matter reg.

Over the last three weeks, the second wave of Covid 19 induced pandemic has caused a heavy loss of lives throughout the country. Within our department too, many of our colleagues and their near-ones have succumbed to the contagion. While many more have been infected, many are still recuperating. Needless to say, the deadly virus has taken a heavy toll on the mental as well as physical health of our precious human resources. In our region, it is becoming an arduous task to arrange for hospitalization of our colleagues and their near-ones. Besides the required medicines and oxygen is in short supply. In many of the other 17 regions, like Delhi, Chennai, Hyderabad and Ahmedabad laudable steps have been taken by the Income Tax department for helping its officers and staff members to tide over the exigencies. Unfortunately, in our region we have been found to be lagging. A Covid Management Committee was constituted in the wake of the First wave but its major work has been left to a couple of individuals. We strongly feel if a concerted initiative under your Central leadership is not taken immediately, we would helplessly witness many more casualties among our colleagues. In this context we would like to draw your kind attention to the D.O letter dated 04.05.2021 of the Hon'ble Chairman CBDT, where pro-active steps at local level have been strongly emphasised. Drawing inspiration from the words of our Hon'ble Chairman we would like you to initiate the following actions at the regional level.

1. Reconstitution and revitalization of the regional Covid Management Committee. Senior officers from Exemption, TDS and Investigation wing who have good rapport with the Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Diagnostic centres, Medicine and Oxygen Suppliers should be included. The Local Committee should regularly liaison with the Committee formed at the Central level so as to ensure intervention of Ministries, if required.
2. Nomination of Nodal Officers for group A,B & C employees who will keep track of all Covid positive cases among its employees /their family members within their jurisdiction on real time basis and maintain liaison with Covid Management Committee for ensuring their treatment and wellbeing.
3. Maintain close relation with similar teams from CBIC to augment our resources.

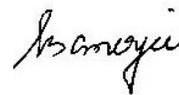
4. Request the CBDT to take similar initiatives like the CBIC for providing lump sum amounts for treatment of our employees and assistance to the families of employees who have passed away from this infection.
5. Absence during Covid 19 infection or the isolation period for coming into contact with infected persons should be treated as Special leave, specifically calling for revival of Quarantine Leave.
6. We should ensure through negotiations with the medicine suppliers so that the drugs required for the treatment of this infection , especially medicines like Remedysevir are readily available for our employees/their relatives.
7. To tide over the shortage of oxygen supply we should explore purchase/hiring of Oxygen Cylinder and oxygen concentrators. Once this is done, we should keep them spread over the vantage points so that they can be quickly delivered to patients. The Oxygen cylinders/ concentrators should be provide on first come--first serve basis , without any prejudice of rank or hierarchy. A team of volunteers is required to formed for delivering the medicines and Oxygen cylinders/Concentrators speedily, locally to the affected individuals..
8. List of voluntary blood and plasma donors is urgently required to be prepared.
9. We all realize the only way to control the infection is rapid immunization. We thank your good office for taking some initiatives in this regard with the help of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation. But the immediate need is to inoculate all the employees and their family members(over the age of 18 years). This will only be possible if we can negotiate with the State Government and ensure vaccination camps within the office premises and staff quarters. It may be mentioned in this context that some regions like Delhi and Chennai have successfully implemented this scheme. In fact, in Chennai Region such camps have been replicated in the places outside Chennai with equal aplomb.
10. Lastly we want to want to lay special stress on the creation of safe homes within vacant office premises(where all infrastructure and safety are available) and in each staff quarters, We fear that cases are going to rise manifold in the coming days and isolation and immediate treatment are the only way to contain the infections. For this we need to liaison with the local private hospitals and other agencies(including local GovernmentsGovernment) and ensure the CBDT releases fund for the infrastructure so that our employees get treatment at CGHS rate. which is reimbursable.

We know giving suggestion is easy but implementing the same is onerous. However, as always , being responsible organizations, we pledge our total support in this herculean endeavour.

Yours faithfully,



(Sumit Kumar Bose)
General Secretary,
ITEF, Bengal Circle



(Sayantan Banerjee)
General Secretary,
ITGOA, WB Unit

JOINT CONVENORS

Copy to the Convenors Central JCA with a request to take a similar stand at the National Level.