

GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

30th May, 2021

The Government vide Notification No. POL.120/2020/235, dated 26-05-2020 has constituted a Consultative Committee for Covid 19 with the Chief Secretary as the Chairman and Smti Theilin Phanbuh, Shri R. L Blah, Rev. S.S. Majaw, Fr. Richard Majaw, Shri Naba Bhattacharjee, Shri Babeth Sangma and Dr. Sandra Albert as members. The official members of the Committee are Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department, Secretary, Information & Public Relations Department and Secretary, Home (Political) Department. The Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Committee are to make recommendations on:

1. Improving awareness on Preventive Measures.
2. Strategy to deal with the surge in COVID-19 positive cases.
3. Measures to improve vaccination coverage, particularly among the vulnerable groups.

The Committee held its first meeting on 28th May, 2021 and deliberated on the items listed in the ToR. The Committee also deliberated on three key issues of grave concern viz., the rising number of deaths, vaccine hesitancy and misinformation particularly in social media. The Committee made the following recommendations:

1. There is need to increase awareness about the COVID-19 virus variant in the second wave which is much more infectious and virulent.
2. There is need to provide a clear messaging channel for all Government protocols and to effectively counter various myths and misinformation circulating in social media.
3. There is need to have closer coordination with the Dorbar Shnongs / Headmen and motivate Community Covid Management Team (CCMT) members to have their full support in the fight against COVID-19.
4. To seek the support of churches and other religious institutions to sensitize citizens on COVID-19 appropriate behaviour as well as the importance of vaccination.
5. To seek the services of renowned doctors to disseminate information on the importance of seeking timely treatment as well as removing misconceptions about vaccination.
6. More stringent punitive provisions against violators of COVID-19 protocols and better enforcement.
7. To create additional CCCs and Isolation Centres for those who do not have proper space for home isolation.

The Committee also decided to co-opt community leaders from other districts as well as medical professionals and to meet frequently for better community mobilization in the efforts to contain the second wave of COVID-19.

This issues with the approval of the Chief Secretary.

Sd/-

(M. War Nongbri)

Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya
Information & Public Relations Department