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(Public Relation Cell)

Press Note 30th July 2020

1. Time-bound, Quality-driven, Round-the-clock reporting at the COVID-19 testing facility at Regional Virology Laboratory (RVL) at AIIMS, Bhopal

The Regional Virology Laboratory (RVL) at AIIMS, Bhopal was very first to establish a dedicated facility for providing RT-PCR testing for COVID-19 since the beginning of pandemic in Bhopal and surrounding region. It is also simultaneously functioning as the mentoring institute, and QC lab for the state of Madhya Pradesh thereby contributing to the capacity building for COVID-19 lab testing. So far, it has mentored, guided and contributed to approval of 16 laboratories for initiation of COVID-19 testing facility. These include labs in institutions such as IISER, NIHSAD and also several Govt. and Private Medical Colleges. Recently, AIIMS, Bhopal has also been entrusted the task of performing monthly QC on samples tested in 8 different private laboratories.

The COVID-19 laboratory at AIIMS Bhopal has been working on a 24X7 basis since the last 5 months to ensure that it meets the increasing requirements of high sample volumes and also maintains the accuracy and timeliness of the lab reports. In a very timely manner, the laboratory first focused on ramping up its testing capacity and increased it by 5-fold in the months of April and May 2020. This was also the very challenging time when there were very few laboratories for COVID-19 testing, and AIIMS Bhopal shouldered a major proportion of the testing requirement of the state.

The lab has a very dedicated group of Faculty members, PhD Scientists, Research scholars, and Technicians who have been working untiringly in an effort to provide non-stop quality service. Professor Sarman Singh, Director, AIIMS, Bhopal is himself a very eminent Microbiologist of international repute and his continued guidance and leadership has played a key role in enabling the RVL in setting up and providing exemplary testing facility for COVID-19.

The COVID-19 testing facility is a state-of-art Biosafety Level-3 laboratory for handling the patient samples and has 4 RT-PCR and 2 GenXpert machines for running the diagnostic tests. Till date, approximately 50000 samples have been processed at this lab and 2323 COVID-19 positive patients have been diagnosed.

The laboratory management team provides continuous updates and training to the workers, and also audits their functioning. Because of such close monitoring, no laboratory staff involved in the handling of COVID-19 samples has been found to be infected till date despite processing such high volume of samples. The laboratory performs sanitization of its environment and working surfaces, and disposal of biomedical waste strictly as per protocol. As an internal quality check, the laboratory voluntarily performs repeat tests on a randomly selected subset of its reported samples at 15-day intervals.

Laboratory testing culminates in error-free data entry in dedicated portals of the Govt of India and timely reporting to the different agencies like IDSP so that isolation and contact tracing can be undertaken. The laboratory has also made elaborate arrangements to minimize or prevent errors at this stage. The reports entered by Data Entry Operators are scrutinized at multiple levels and then dispatched in the form of line listing to the different district units of IDSP at scheduled hours on a twice daily basis.

Overall, in the area of COVID-19 testing also, AIIMS Bhopal has been played a key role suited to an institute of national eminence in Central India by living up to the challenge of increased testing requirement, promoting human resource development, strengthening laboratory infrastructure and ensuring quality diagnostics.

2. Status report of Covid-19 patients at 08:00 AM (30th July)

A. Patient Census: Cumulative admissions of Covid-19 patients till date in AIIMS Bhopal – Seven Hundred Forty One (741)

Total One Hundred Fifty Nine (159) Covid-19 patients are presently admitted in AIIMS, Bhopal.

There were Twenty Six (09) new admissions of Covid-19 patients in AIIMS, Bhopal in last 24 hours.

One Hundred Forty Two (142) Covid-19 positive patients are receiving treatment at Covid-19 wards, AIIMS Bhopal. They are clinically stable.

Seventeen (17) critically ill patients are admitted in Covid-19 ICU and are on oxygen support.

All admitted patients are receiving treatment as per Covid-19 treatment protocol.

B. Discharges Status: Till date a total of Three Hundred Fifty Eight (358) Covid-19 patients got recovered after successful treatment and care from AIIMS Bhopal. One Hundred Fifty One (151) patients in total were permitted for home isolation till this date.

Two (02) Covid-19 patients from Bhopal city got discharged after successful treatment and care on 29th July from AIIMS Bhopal.

Fourteen (14) Covid19 patients were permitted for home isolation in accordance to protocol and guidelines.

These Patients and their family expressed gratitude towards the doctors and staff of AIIMS Bhopal for rendering good care and services.

c. Death Status: Since beginning of Covid-19 crisis a total of Forty One (41) deaths could be attributed to Covid-19 including One (01) brought dead in AIIMS Bhopal.

This includes the death of two Covid-19 patients on 29th July

1. First deceased patient was a sixty two year old male Covid-19 patient from Bhopal city who has breathed his last in Covid-19 ICU on 29th July. He was admitted in AIIMS Bhopal since 20th July and having hypertension and respiratory disease (COPD) and Parkinsonism as co-morbidities.
2. Second deceased patient was a Seventy four year old male Covid-19 patient from Bhopal city who was admitted in AIIMS Bhopal since 16th July and breathed his last in Covid-19 ICU on 29th July and was having hypertension, diabetes and Parkinsonism as co-morbidities.

3.Status report of Lab testing for Covid-19 from 08.00AM (29th July) to 08.00AM (30th July)

Total patients tested till date	<u>49400</u>
Total Positive Patients	<u>2465</u>
Total Tests Conducted(24 hrs)	<u>851</u>
Total Covid-19 Positive(24 hrs)	<u>New case-71</u>

	<u>Repeat Positive - 03</u>
Bhopal Dist (New Positive)	<u>43</u>
Other Dist (New Positive)	(05)Sehore (17)Hosangabad (06)Harda



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