Second COVID vaccination mock-drill across India on January 08

New Delhi, Jan 07 (India Science Wire): In the light of coronavirus vaccine roll-out, the central government is going to execute a mock drill on vaccine administration on January 08, 2021. These drills are aimed to ensure efficient planning and management for vaccine delivery in each district of all states and Union Territories.

Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), as a simulation of actual execution, has planned another round of dry run or mock drill in all 700+ districts of all States/UTs, except Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, on 8th January 2021, to ensure efficient planning and management of world’s biggest COVID-19 vaccination programme. Uttar Pradesh has already carried out the dry-run exercise on 5th January.

The vaccination mock-drill exercise will be carried out in the state of Haryana on 7th January.

Each district will identify three types of session sites, similar to the previous dry run including a public health facility (District Hospital/Medical College), private health facility and rural or urban outreach sites.

Two COVID-19 vaccines named Covaxine and Covisheild have been given emergency use authorisation by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) recently. The planning of the vaccination drive including beneficiary registration, microplanning and vaccination at the planned session site, will be tested under the leadership of the District Collector/District Magistrate. “The dry run will also familiarize the State, District, Block and Hospital level officers on all aspects of COVID-19 roll out. This activity will help administrators in strengthening the linkages between planning, implementation and reporting mechanisms, identification of any residual challenges before the actual implementation and to provide confidence to the programme managers at all levels to carry out a smooth implementation of the vaccination drive” says the document released by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Around 1.7 lakh vaccinators and 3 lakh vaccination team members have been trained on the process to be followed at the vaccination sites which include beneficiary verification, vaccination, cold chain & logistics management, bio-medical waste management, AEFI management and reporting on Co-WIN software. Detailed operational guidelines on all aspects of the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out, including session planning & management, session site layout & its organization, AEFI management, IEC messages, infection prevention & control practices etc., have already been shared with the States/UTs and they have also been oriented on the same.

To facilitate the entire vaccination process, a software, ‘Co-WIN’, has been developed by the Health Ministry for real time information on vaccine stocks, their storage temperature and individualized tracking of beneficiaries for COVID-19 vaccine. This software will assist the programme managers across all levels in conduct of the vaccination sessions. A dedicated 24x7 call centre has also been established for technical queries of Co-WIN users. The cold chain infrastructure (like walk-in-freezers, walk-in-coolers, ice-lined refrigerators, deep freezers) along with sufficient supplies of syringes and other logistics have been ensured to begin COVID-19 vaccination drive. MoHFW will set up a National Media Rapid Response Cell (NMRRC) to address the questions and queries raised by the media and journalists. “NMRRC will ensure preparedness through media monitoring and social listening and respond in real
time and unfold media and public discourse, through extensive monitoring of print, electronic and
digital media” says the document. (India Science Wire)

Keywords: vaccine, COVID-19, mock drill, MoHFW

ISW/JS/07/01/2021