



Rota Talk

NEWSLETTER

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Rota in times of Corona

Immunization during COVID-19 pandemic

In India, the first case of this COVID-19 pandemic was reported on 30th January 2020 and on 24th March 2020, the first phase of countrywide lockdown started. Beginning 1st June 2020, the Government of India (GoI) has started the unlocking, in a phased manner.

The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), GoI has developed detailed guidelines for continuing with the immunization activities to ensure the administration of all vaccines, including the rotavirus vaccine (RVV), given under the routine immunization programme. These guidelines have been adapted and adopted by the state governments. The program managers, the supervisors and the frontline health workers have put in a heroic effort to overcome all the challenges and reach out to the beneficiaries. In this issue, we attempt to capture a brief glimpse of these great efforts in different parts of the country.



Dissemination of key messages



Home visit by ASHA



Administering lyophilized RVV



Administering liquid RVV

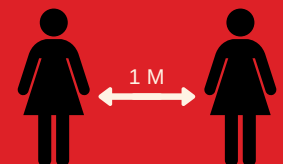
PLEASE



Wear a Mask



Wash Hands with Soap



Maintain Social Distancing

Field stories: the 3 A's of the Universal Immunization Programme



In India, the Auxillary Nurse Midwife (ANM), the Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) and the Anganwadi Worker (AWW), known popularly as the 3 A's, are the key frontline health workers. The 3 A's are the pillars of the country's health system.

"This situation (COVID-19 pandemic) is new, happened suddenly and was very difficult to understand and adjust. Initially, I was very worried but I was then trained on the new safety guidelines." says ANM Ms Rochida Yasmin expressing her worry about the COVID situation in the country.

Ms Rochida, the youngest amongst six siblings, hails from a small village- Naherbari in Lower Assam. As a young child, she would quietly dream of becoming a health care worker, like her father. Determined to realise her dream, she studied diligently and completed her ANM training. She is the first woman from her family and also her village to complete her education and become a professional independent woman.



Today, she is posted as an ANM in Fakidia health sub-centre in Udalguri district of Assam. She stays alone and due to the pandemic, lockdown and travel restrictions, has not been able to visit her family for almost 6 months. *"For the first time ever, I spent both the Eids, our biggest festival, away from my family, in my subcenter, providing vaccination and other essential health services to the community. I am a village girl and I feel happy if I can provide the villagers with useful health information and services, especially in these difficult times"*. In her own words in Assamese- *"Moi gao or suwali aru gaon or manuh majot thaki manuhor swasthya sewa koriye bhal lage"*

The vaccine supply and immunization activities continues

During the COVID-19 pandemic, to ensure that the immunization services are least affected, the immunization division of the MoHFW, GoI continued to work 24x7 to closely monitor the activities and remained in constant contact with the state immunization cells.

"As the commercial air services were partially suspended, the vaccine supply to the states and UTs were carried out using the Lifeline Udan services of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, GoI."



The MoHFW issued the detailed guidelines on the use of personal protective equipments (PPE), maintaining social distancing, sanitization of cold chain points, session sites and on conducting other immunization related activities. The training and communication materials including posters and frequently asked questions (FAQs) for the benefit of the caregivers and the health care workers were developed and widely disseminated.

At the field level, the 3 A's are actively engaged with the community to allay their fears and motivate them for continuing vaccination.



Message from State EPI Officer- Delhi



Dr. Suresh Seth,
State EPI Officer,
Government of Delhi

The entire State of Delhi was declared Red Zone as per GOI guidelines, which meant immunization services would have to be suspended throughout the State. But it was not desirable to deny the benefits of immunization to all the children in the State, hence it was decided that immunization services will not be provided only in the containment zones and in rest of the State immunization services shall be provided.

At no point of time, the immunization activities were suspended totally in the State of Delhi. Immunization services were continued at fixed facility on the designated immunization days i.e. Wednesdays and Fridays at primary health facilities. The beneficiaries seeking immunization services voluntarily for their wards were provided the services following all due protocols and advisories (like social distancing, provision of Universal Precautions) established for prevention of COVID 19, not affecting any work or priority related with prevention and management of COVID 19.

As the lockdown has eased and GOI has permitted "Modified Outreach Session" the activity has resumed from the month of June 2020. Additional sessions are being planned to clear the backlog of children who could not be vaccinated during the lockdown. A total of 7888* sessions were held from April to June 2020 vaccinating about 196034* eligible children. All vaccines under the national immunization schedule were administered in these sessions, including 76,745* doses of rotavirus vaccine. (*The figures quoted are provisional as data is still being collated.)

The immunization activities are picking up fast with dedicated team efforts from State, Districts and frontline workers despite multiple constraints and challenges faced. This was possible due to the untiring efforts of all the officers, staff and the frontline health workers of the State who have bravely faced the Corona pandemic as "Corona Warriors". All safety precautions, as per the national guidelines, were strictly followed for conducting the immunization sessions.



Queue for vaccination



Administering birth dose OPV



Vaccination at facility



Social distancing at session

Message from D.D Immunization- Karnataka

As per the guidelines from the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India, Department of Health, Government of Karnataka has taken all measures amidst covid pandemic to protect children against vaccine preventable diseases. To ensure this, the immunization sessions are meticulously planned and executed with all infection prevention practices and safety precautions against covid-19.

The frontline health workers, supervisors and the program managers have been trained on the guidelines for carrying out immunization activities during this pandemic.

To vaccinate those children who have missed their vaccine doses due to the lockdown, additional catch up sessions are being planned across the state. During the period April to June 2020, a total of 77589 sessions were held in which about 212245 eligible children were vaccinated. All vaccines under the National Immunization schedule were administered in these sessions, including Rota-1(199114), Rota-2(177639) and Rota-3(164145) doses of rotavirus vaccine. (*The figures quoted are provisional as data is still being collated.)

All officials, staff and the frontline health workers are putting in a mammoth effort to ensure that the children receive their due vaccines through fixed or outreach sessions. Regular monthly review by Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka, State level and district level administrators has brought in more accountability to the program ensuring that no child is missed. Covid-19 has not hindered the energy, enthusiasm and commitment of frontline health workers enabling every child to achieve its right to vaccination.



Dr Rajani BN
Deputy Director- Immunization,
Government of Karnataka



Supportive supervision



Monthly meeting



Administering lyophilized RVV



Field Innovation: Use of digital platform for capacity building of frontline health workers

Rapid Immunization Skill Enhancement (RISE) is a user-centric model that leverages penetration of hand-held devices amongst health workers to effectively deliver digital training content through a mobile application. There are five learning modules covering different topics. Currently, it is being piloted in one district each of Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Tamil Nadu. In the current COVID-19 pandemic situation, RISE package provides a unique opportunity to the health workers to improve and update their knowledge regarding immunization without a classroom-based training. In addition, knowledge regarding the pandemic and the updated guidelines are also being provided to the health workers using the RISE platform. This application has been developed and piloted by John Snow India under the stewardship of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.



Message from J.D of Health Services-Assam

Assam has twin challenges to deal with- the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and also the floods in most of the parts of the state. Overcoming these challenges, the Government of Assam has ensured that immunization activities are not hampered and vaccination sessions are held as per the micro plan. Only with the gap of 3 weeks of 1st lockdown, Assam has re-established its regular Immunization services since 15th April, 2020. These sessions are being organized as per the guidelines issued by the MoHFW, GoI. All safety measures are taken both in outreach and fixed session sites to protect both the health care workers and also the community. As the lockdown has eased in some parts of the state, additional sessions are being planned to clear the backlog of children who could not be vaccinated during the lockdown.



Dr. Binita Goswami,
Joint Director of Health Services,
Government of Assam

A total of 44,309 sessions were held from April to June 2020 vaccinating about 4,93,763 eligible children. All vaccines under the national immunization schedule were administered in these sessions, including 3,90,342 doses of rotavirus vaccine which is 91% of pre-COVID-19 April to June 2019 performance. (*The figures quoted are provisional as data is still being collated.)

The restoration of immunization activities was possible due to the untiring efforts of all the officers, staff and the frontline health workers who have overcome all odds and following the principle of "service before self" have ensured that the children of Assam are fully protected from rotavirus diarrhoea and other vaccine preventable disease.



Outreach session site

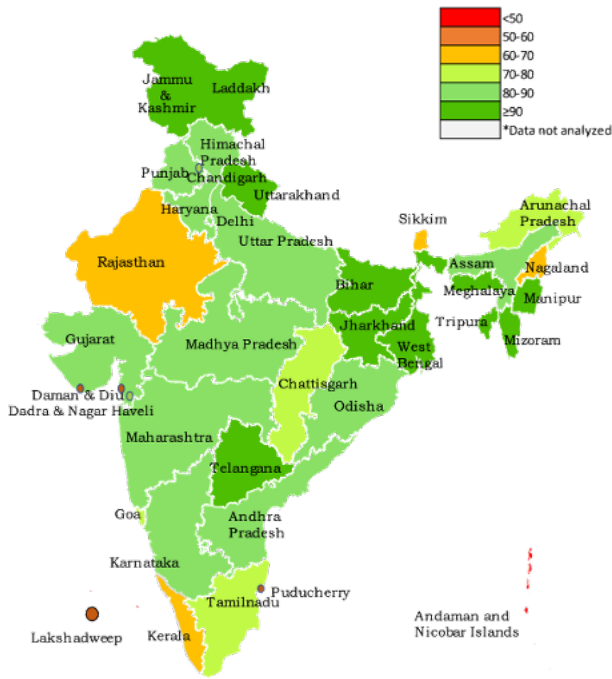


Administering liquid RVV



Vaccination in flood affected areas

Rotavirus vaccine coverage dashboard: RVV-1 dose (Apr'19 to Mar'20)*



Mind Power Game

Find the Rotavirus vaccine related words from the jumble:

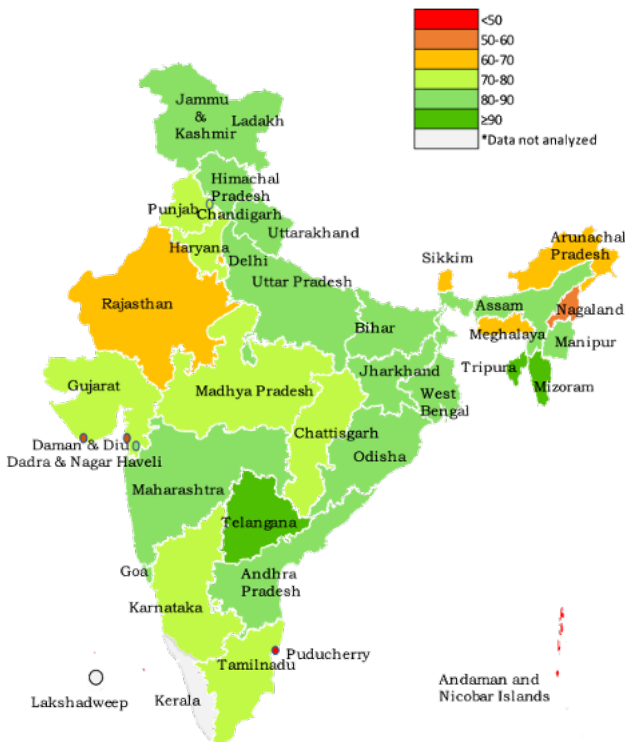
R	O	T	O	R	A	L	U	S	E
D	E	F	F	I	C	I	C	Y	F
I	N	F	A	N	T	Q	N	C	F
A	G	S	A	F	E	U	Y	A	I
R	F	Y	C	V	A	I	V	C	C
R	P	I	T	R	V	D	S	O	A
H	I	S	H	S	A	D	M	T	C
E	E	G	A	S	A	F	E	T	Y
A	P	D	R	O	P	P	E	R	N

Answers:-

Please scan the QR Code



RVV-3 dose (Apr'19 to Mar'20)*



Rota Quick Facts

Do you know?

- ✓ Since introduction of RVV in India, more than 110 million doses have been administered to the infants under the Universal Immunization Programme.
- ✓ During RVV introduction, more than 2.2 million frontline health workers (vaccinators and mobilizers) were trained.
- ✓ A liquid rotavirus vaccine has recently been licensed by Drug Controller General of India.



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- Dr. Arup Deb Roy, JSI
- Ms. Seema Singh Koshal, JSI



Acknowledgements

Health officials of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Karnataka, Kerala, Delhi, Punjab and JSI national team.

*for states/UTs which launched RVV in 2019, the data is analysed for the period-the month following introduction in all districts till March'20

Doses	Coverage from April'19 to March'20 (in millions)
RVV 1 st Dose	18.51
RVV 2 nd Dose	17.01
RVV 3 rd Dose	16.08
Total	51.60

Source: HMIS Provisional Data

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