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Kerala CM directs action against pvt hospitals

Athul Krishna

The Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Friday, April 30, directed strict action against private hospitals defying covid-19 vaccination norms to provide doses for relatives and friends.

In a tweet, the chief minister's office (CMO) informed that district collectors and police have been directed to take severe action against private hospitals breaking vaccination norms and said they will face consequences.

"The CM has directed District Collectors and Police to take strict action against private hospitals flouting vaccination norms to provide vaccination for the relatives and friends. Such acts are unwarranted and those behind it will have to face the consequences," CMO tweeted.

In the new vaccination guidelines issued by Kerala health minister KK Shailaja on Thursday, She mentioned that preference will be given to people who were taking the second dose of covid-19 vaccine.

As per the reports issued by the Kerala government, 16.42% of Kerala's total population have taken their vaccinations.

MoHFW revises isolation guidelines

Pavithra Prabhu

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on Friday, April 30 issued revised guidelines for patients clinically assigned to be mildly symptomatic or asymptomatic for home isolation.

The statement said, "Elderly patients aged more than 60 years and those with comorbid conditions such as Hypertension, Diabetes, Heart disease, Chronic lung/liver/kidney disease, Cerebro-vascular disease, patients suffering from immune-compromised status (HIV, Transplant recipients, Cancer therapy) are not recommended for home isolation and shall only be allowed after proper



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evaluation by the treating medical officer." In addition, the Ministry stated that caregivers and close contacts should take Hydroxychloroquine prophylaxis as per protocol.

Patients are required to self-monitor temperature, heart rate, oxygen levels along with the deterioration of symptoms on a day-to-day basis. "If fever is not controlled with a maximum

dose of four times of Paracetamol (650mg), consult the treating doctor who may consider advising other drugs like a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID 250 mg twice a

day). Consider Ivermectin (200 mcg/kg once a day, to be taken empty stomach) for 3 to 5 days," the statement added.

The Ministry has also advised not to procure or administer Remdesivir or any other investigational therapy at home. It is recommended to be done only by a medical professional and in a hospital setting. A low dose of oral steroids is suggested after 7 days of persistent symptoms in consultation with a doctor.

"Immediate medical attention must be sought if there is difficulty in breathing, dip in oxygen saturation (SpO₂ < 94% on room air), persistent pain/pressure in the chest and mental confusion," instructed the Ministry.

India to import 4.5 lakh Remdesivir

Arakkal Shada Amina

The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers in a statement issued on April 30 noted that the Government of India intends to import 4.5 lakh vials of Remdesivir, starting with a consignment of 75,000 vials to be imported today, in response to the drastic hit of Covid-19 in the country.

Remdesivir is an antiviral drug that assists in the treatment of Covid-19.



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According to the statement, the government will import a total of approximately 2 lakh vials of Remdesivir from American biopharmaceutical company Gilead Sciences in the next two days. Egyptian

Pharma Company Eva Pharma is also expected to supply 50,000 vials every 15 days or till July, starting with a consignment of 10,000 vials. The government-owned company HLL

Lifecare Ltd will manage the orders.

The government has also prohibited the export of Remdesivir and revised the maximum retail price to Rs. 3500 per vial to make it accessible to the residents of the country. The production capacity of the drug within the country has been increased from 38 lakh vials per month to 1.03 crore vials per month. The license for production of Remdesivir in the country is limited to seven domestic manufacturers.

Television journalist Rohit Sardana passed away

Alwin Benjamin Soji

Renowned Zee News and Aaj Tak television journalist Rohit Sardana passed away on Friday, April 30th in New Delhi's Metro Hospital due to a heart attack. He was also infected with the Covid-19 infection a week ago.

Rohit Sardana joined Zee News and has worked as an executive editor, anchor, news presenter and a host. He was the host for the programme "Taal Thok Ke" on Zee News, talking about various contemporary issues in India. He left Zee News and joined Aaj Tak in 2017 where he was the host of the debate show "Dangal".

He was awarded the Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi Puraskar, the annual journalism award from the Indian Government, in 2018.

PM Modi tweeted, "Rohit Sardana left us too soon. Full of energy, passionate about India's progress and a kind hearted soul, Rohit will be missed by many people. His untimely demise has left a huge void in the media world. Condolences to his family, friends and admirers. Om Shanti."

Social media amplifies Covid aid

Megha Bhattacharjee

Citizens have massively taken to social media by posting urgent requirements on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram as beds, oxygen supplies, blood plasma and medicines are running scarce, as India fights the second wave of Covid-19.

From celebrities like Sonu Sood, Bhumi Pednekar, Priyanka Chopra 44and Alia Bhatt to comedians and instagram influencers like Kusha Kapila, Abhishek Upmanyu, Mallika Dua and more have come forward in



Fraud Alert

Instagram: Kusha Kapila

sharing relevant information on their social media about covid needs and guides, and amplified the voices of people in need.

Hemkunt Foundation, a NGO tweeted, "1:48 am We

are still here! Constantly giving out oxygen cylinders for free, dm us on any of our social media handles - we are responding round the clock and will continue to do so until we win the battle over."

Ministry of IT alleges WSJ of manufacturing fake news

Akshara DM

The Ministry of Electronics and IT took to Twitter on Thursday to respond to the Wall Street Journal's (WSJ) article, concerning the action of Facebook blocking and restoring posts with ResingnModi hashtags, and has urged the media to partner crores of Indians fighting the pandemic.

The tweet stated, "A story by the WSJ attributing removal of certain hashtags by Facebook to GOI's efforts to curb public dissent is

misleading on facts and mischievous in intent. Government has not issued any direction to remove this hashtag. Facebook has also clarified that it removed it by mistake."

Pointing out the previous article of WSJ the tweet read, "It is pertinent to mention that on 5th March 2021 also, WSJ had published a fake news with heading - "India Threatens Jail for Facebook, Whatsapp and Twitter Employees." Government had sent an official rebuttal of this completely fake and manufactured story to WSJ."