

**Awareness Program on Safety & Health (OSH) for Contractors of Outsourcing Agencies
(Sanitation) Engaged by BMC with Focus on Covid-19 Preventive Measures & Social Security
Schemes of Govt of India/Odisha Construction Board on 27th Nov 2020 (Friday) @ Red Cross
Bhawan, Unit-9, Bhubaneswar**

Presentation of talk by Dr. Rama Chandra Rout, Director, Health Intelligence & VS, Government of Odisha in the conference for awareness of sanitation outsourced agencies (contractors) of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation for their sanitation workers and supervisors.

Bhubaneswar the famous temple city of the world(with hundreds of temples) abiding the great Deity Sri Sri Lingaraj Mahaprabhu is not only of great significance for its bounty heritage ,culture and unparalleled history but also as a clean and hygienic modern city of present time (once ranked as smart city no.1).

Odisha Government has taken stringent initiative long before the outbreak of covid-19 in the state and has left no stone unturned for its containment, prevention and cure. For this timely intervention and dedicated effort of medical workers (from Specialists to ANMs and ASHAs) and other related departments as a whole the state has least number of cases and deaths in comparison to other states and countries.

As covid -19 is a viral infection and the highly mutant virus has got affinity for lung, respiratory, nervous tissues and endothelial system sanitation workers and supervisors need update awareness in this regard.

For this personal protection, isolation, segregation and prompt early testing in suspected cases are of paramount importance. There are broadly three big but simple interventions for this the first and foremost in this case is personal protection by use of PPE of very good quality while doing the field works. BMC has supplied PPE to all sanitary workers and this is a must for all the workers and any deviation in this regard is not to be tolerated and must be addressed at once. The workers must be well versant with the proper use of all types of PPE which should be hygienic, ISI certified, simple as well as easy to use.

The second intervention is specific immunization against killer diseases like tetanus (with 3 doses of TT at prescribed intervals and booster dose thereafter) and viral hepatitis (with Hepatitis vaccine). In cases of stray animal bites (dogs /rodents/other animals etc) ARV or like post exposure coverage must be done promptly.

The third intervention is periodic health check up and screening of certain diseases by doctors and pathologists with issue and maintenance of health cards /records. Another intervention is free health insurance coverage to all sanitation workers.

During covid-19 pandemic all sanitation workers must use high quality mask, must be provided with sterilization soaps and must know how to handle wastes particularly infected wastes. They need to be supplemented with daily dose of vit-C, zinc, levocetirizine and azithromycin (if required).

DrRamaChandraRout

Senior Physician, Geriatrician, PG trained in PH & Psychiatry.

(Director, Health Intelligence &VS, Odisha)