



सत्यमेव जयते



Dear Colleague,

As you are aware air pollution has become a serious health challenge in recent times. The Air Quality Index (AQI) is usually reported to reach from poor to severe levels during winter months. This is both an urban and rural issue that needs to be addressed.

2. The health impacts of air pollution are challenging. Air Pollution accounts not only for acute illnesses but also chronic illnesses of respiratory, cardiovascular and cerebrovascular incidents that result in premature mortality. The consequences are graver for vulnerable population such as children, pregnant women, older people, those with pre-existing illnesses, and those exposed due to their occupations such as those involved in traffic policing and municipality work etc.

3. In this regard, I am sharing an updated advisory on air pollution and health providing a brief on the subject and several recommendations and action points that state health authorities should actively consider to strengthen their health systems and generate awareness about air pollution and its health consequences. This time the advisory has added a new section intended for school children, as they are not only vulnerable to air pollution impacts but also as they have a potential as important change agents.

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4. Now, with the State level Action Plans for Climate Change and Human Health (inclusive of air pollution) in place for almost all States/UTs under National Programme for Climate Change and Human Health (NPCCHH), it would be relevant as next step to develop district and city level action plans for climate change and health under NPCCHH (inclusive of air pollution); and to expand the network of sentinel hospitals for air pollution related illnesses surveillance in your State/UT.

5. It is also an appropriate time to initiate IEC campaigns. The material provided in this advisory could be utilized to develop IEC messages. I hope under your dynamic stewardship, these measures would be taken at the earliest to safeguard the health of the people.

With regards.

Yours sincerely,

Sudhansh Pant
(Sudhansh Pant)

Encls.: A/a.

To : Chief Secretary of all States/UTs.

Copy to :-

1. Addl. Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Secretary, Health of all States/UTs.
2. MD NHM ((all States/UTs)
3. State Nodal Officers NPCCHH (all States/UTs)
4. RDs RoHFW (all States/UTs)
5. OIC NCDC Branches (all States/UTs)