

Second wave of virus cases is likely to peak in May: Minister

There is a need for citizens to be vigilant till the end of that month, says Sudhakar

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Experts who are part of the COVID-19 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) have opined that the second wave of the infection is likely to peak by May first week and the number of cases likely to fall by the end of that month.

Health and Medical Education Minister K. Sudhakar, after a meeting with experts on Sunday, told presspersons that there was a need for citizens to be vigilant till the end of May.

"If there is surge in cases, our health infrastructure will be over burdened. Experts of the TAC have suggested being vigilant at the borders and ensuring that tests are conducted on tra-



Swab samples being collected at the KSRTC bus stand in Bengaluru on Sunday. *SUDHAKARA JAIN

COVID-19

vellers coming from States where the number of COVID-19 cases are high. The TAC has been directed to come up with a report, which will be submitted to the Chief Minister. Further measures will be taken after discussions with the Chief Minister," said Dr. Sudhakar.

He said that while suggestions which impact economic activities would not be considered, experts have suggested that there must be a curb on large gatherings and crowds. Dr. Sudhakar also pointed out that there was a need for officials and citizens to be alert as many people from Bengaluru may be travelling to their hometowns for Ugadi. "There is a high chance that they will spread the virus in districts where the positivity rate is low," he said.

Curfew plans

Asked if the night curfew, which has been imposed in a few districts in Karnataka, would be extended to other

Other suggestions made by TAC

- Check pulse oximeters in the market and ban defective ones
- Provide Remdesivir to private hospitals at government rates
- Procure Tocilizumab injection
- Ensure there is adequate supply of oxygen, beds, other drugs, etc., at COVID-19 hospitals
- Station two ambulances in each ward of BBMP immediately
- Give refresher training to doctors, staff nurses, and others about protocols of COVID-19 management
- Enforce Section 144 in areas of public congregations such as markets
- Provide hotel facilities for healthcare personnel on COVID-19 duty

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K. SUDHAKAR,
Health and Family Welfare Minister

districts, Dr. Sudhakar said it was too premature to discuss it as the night curfew only began on Sunday. While night curfew has been imple-

mented in seven districts between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m., experts on Saturday suggested that it should be implemented from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m.

The Minister also pointed out that with COVID-19 cases on the rise in the State, there was a need to strengthen the tele-ICU system.

'Home isolation should be monitored'

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Health and Family Welfare Minister K. Sudhakar said on Sunday that there was a need for better scrutiny of home isolation cases.

M.K. Sudarshan, chairman of the COVID-19 Technical Advisory Committee, said that

better monitoring of home isolation cases would ensure that the level of hospitalisation did not increase. He said strong, good home isolation would reduce the load on hospitals.

He added that they had also told the government that there needed to be

efficient utilisation of hospitals. "After a person who has serious symptoms is admitted in a hospital, avails treatment, and recovers, he or she must be transferred to a COVID care centre so that the bed can be allotted to another patient who is in need of it," he said.