

BANGLADESH

HEALTH WATCH

Dated: 29 July 2021

To

Prof. Dr. Abul Bashar Mohammad Khurshid Alam

The Director General of Health Services

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Subject: Bangladesh Health Watch welcomes easing of Covid vaccination process

Dear Sir,

The Government has recently announced that the Covid vaccination programme will be expanded and accelerated to cover largest segment of the population within shortest time. According to the latest plan, a simplified nation-wide vaccination campaign reaching up to the ward level will be launched from August 7 with the cumbersome registration through the Shurokkha app being no longer mandatory. Instead, people now can register at the vaccination sites with their NIDs, or in case of those who don't have an NID yet, through on the spot registration.

Bangladesh Health Watch (BHW) welcomes this timely and bold step which has been a popular demand since the vaccination started. We also appreciate the government's success in procuring vaccines despite many challenges. While we wish success for this campaign which aims to do 60 lakh vaccinations a week, we firmly believe that to carry out an operation of this scale and leave no one behind, support of every individual citizen and citizens' platforms would be needed. The mass scale mobilization that will be required to cover the target population will only be possible when there is involvement and participation of all citizens. We are encouraged to see the government already thinking along these lines, and would like to urge the government to create the right space for this to happen successfully.

Bangladesh Health Watch also appreciates the government's efforts to implement the lockdown in true sense. While the lockdown was observed more stringently during the initial two days, the recent laxity in its observance is a matter of concern. While we appreciate the negative impact of such a measure, we would also strongly urge every individual citizen to use masks at all times when venturing out of their houses. Here also, this can only be ensured when the government works closely with citizens groups.

BHW is closely monitoring the Covid situation in the country and would like to offer its all-out assistance and support to all sectors of the society in combatting this huge threat to our survival and well-being.

Sincerely,



Dr. Ahmed Mushtaque Raza Chowdhury
Convenor, Bangladesh Health Watch

Copy for kind information to:

1. PS to Honourable Health Minister, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka
2. PS to Secretary, Health Services Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka
3. Professor Dr. Meerjady Sabrina Flora, Additional Director General, DGHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka
4. Professor Dr. Tahmina Shirin, IEDCR Director, DGHS, Mohakhali Dhaka