

KERALA

CONTACT TRACING PROTOCOL -

The state's contact tracing protocol was developed at the Government Medical College. Field teams, composed of ASHA workers, junior public health nurses, medical officers and block-level officials were charged with identifying primary and secondary contacts, assessing CCTV footage on the basis of approximate time frames and checking records of various places an individual might have visited. Route maps are prepared on the basis of details collected from patients and their primary contacts which helped with the identification of primary or secondary contacts who might have been missed by field teams. Once information about location and timing was shared, several people came forward to get their health status evaluated. In-depth interviews of patients also helped in identification of places visited by a person and the people they interacted with. For patients under intensive care who were unable to engage with authorities, contact tracing and preparation of route maps was done with the assistance of primary and secondary contacts.

TRAINING OF FRONTLINE HEALTH WORKERS -

The Wayanad district proactively trained its doctors, nurses and other frontline workers in COVID management using virtual platforms during the early phase of the pandemic itself. This enabled the District to boost its health system preparedness.

FURTHER MEASURES OF REVIEW -

A control room was established at the state-level for combating COVID-19, undertaking surveillance to reduce the burden on individual Districts, and identification of primary contacts. A call centre was established and tools were developed at the Government Medical College in Thiruvananthapuram to assess the needs of individuals in home quarantine to ascertain whether or not they are adhering to the requisite guidelines. To keep quarantine violators in check, a WhatsApp number was made public for people to register their complaints and concerns. A dedicated team in District-level control rooms scans print, television and social media on a regular basis for identifying any challenges being faced by people who are under quarantine, debunking fake news as well as keeping a tab on pneumonia or related deaths.