

DISTRICT JAIL ENSURES 100% COVID VACCINATION TO ITS INMATES, LOHARDAGA

In a nutshell: 100% vaccination for prisoners who live in extremely vulnerable condition.

Nodal agency: District administration, Lohardaga, Jharkhand

Lohardaga district is situated in the south-western part of Jharkhand. It is under the Ranchi commissionerary and consists of seven blocks. viz- Lohardaga, Kuru, Bhandra, Kisko, Peshrar, Kairo and Senha. The total population of Lohardaga is 4,61,738 (as per the 2011 Census).

Mandal Karagar is district level Jail which is situated in the district headquarter. At present, there are 375 prisoners in custody. Mostly prisoners are convicted for murder and rape cases and sentenced to life imprisonment. During the second wave of the pandemic, 90% of custodians were infected and treatment was initiated at the jail premises. The special task force, Lohardaga understood the gravity of the situation and shared the vulnerable condition of the prisoners inside the jail with the Deputy Commissioner in the wake of the Supreme Court judgement on vaccination rights for the prisoners.

Vaccination plan for the prisoners initiated by special task force

Special task force, Lohardaga spoke with the jail superintendent of Mandal Karagar regarding the health implication of the pandemic on the prisoners who reside inside the district jail. A doctor, two nurses, a compounder and a data operator formed a team under the monitoring of the special task force to ensure 100% vaccination. It was conducted in four stages and parallelly, prisoners were informed of the importance of vaccination for their own health.

A counselling session by a doctor and a nurse led by the health department was conducted and the first dose of vaccine was given to 100% of prisoners. A considerable number of prisoners also received the second dose.

Impact

The special task force played a catalyst role in identifying the vulnerable communities and institutions in different geographic areas and highlighted to the district administration with proposed solution. Moreover, systemic follow up and monitoring action plan was prepared to ensure successful vaccination drive. Apart from this, other institutions, such as old age home, where population age group was above 50 years were identified and aligned with health department and vaccination teams.



Jail inmates receiving COVID vaccination