

A.R.I. in Children: Status Report, 15.03.2023

Current Situation

So far **13,061 acute respiratory infection cases** in children had been admitted in the last two and half months. Till date on only 19 deaths have been reported due to adeno virus infections and out of these, 13 cases were having serious comorbidities ie Low Birth Weight- 3, pre-existing lung disease- 2, Congenital Heart Disease- 3 , Congenital Metabolic Disease- 2, Muscular Dystrophy -2, Other serious Infection- 1.

New admissions in hospitals have come down from around 800 daily a week back to 600 per day now.

Paediatric bed position

Category	Number of Beds Available	Occupied Beds	Vacant Beds
General paediatric beds	5000	2950	2050
PICU beds	654	259	395
NICU beds	223	165	58
SNCU beds	1748	1165	577

Government doctors have been oriented on the case management protocol. Separate Paediatric ARI Clinics are continuing at every secondary and tertiary care hospital. 24x7 Paediatric emergency service has been made available. A 24X7 helpline has been started (ph. No. 1800-313-444-222) and widely published for addressing queries/concerns of common people.

A high level Task Force on ARI has been formed under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal and consisting of renowned experts meeting on day to day basis to monitor the situation and take corrective actions.

The following actions have been taken after 1st meeting of the Task Force dated 13-3-2023:

1. Visits by State level monitors to different hospitals has been geared up.

2. Community level monitoring and awareness generation are being done by the ASHA Workers.
3. Sensitization of Anganwadi Workers has been taken up. Advisory in Bengali has been prepared on primary screening of the young children and awareness of families for early identification of the respiratory infection.
4. Sensitization of Private hospitals on current situation and the treatment protocols has been done on 14-3-2023.
5. Meeting with Indian Medical Association (IMA) and Indian Association of Paediatricians (IAP) have been done on 14-3-2023 for orientation of their members.

In the second meeting held on 15.3.2023 the following important decisions were taken:

1. IEC for parents through social media and government portals will be undertaken.
2. Advisory on home care of sick children would be recirculated. Copy is enclosed.
3. Monitoring of referral from peripheral hospitals to higher centres would be intensified.
