



DG/COAI/2021/121
May 10, 2021

Dr. Pradeep Haldar
National Health Mission
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
New Delhi

Subject: Covid Vaccination for Telecom Warriors

References:

1. **Do Letter from DG COAI dated April 7, 2021**
2. **Letter from Secretary DoT to Ministry of Health and Family Welfare dated March 16, 2021**

Dear Dr. Pradeep Haldar Ji,

1. This is in continuation to our letter under reference requesting you to accord priority to telecom frontline workers for getting the COVID-19 prevention vaccine.
2. As you are aware when the pandemic hit us last year, telecom operations once again proved to be a critical part of the country's Information Infrastructure. During the outbreak and spread of Covid-19 infection in the country, telecom industry ensured the availability and continuity of telecom operations throughout the country.
3. Even today, when the situation has worsened from last year, the telecom warriors continue to work persistently. It would be impossible for people to function – conduct everyday business, bank, learn, utilize tele-health services and simply communicate, all while minimizing exposure if the frontline workers had not been at the forefront.
4. In this regard, we would like to reiterate that with the increase in the number of cases in India, various restrictions are being imposed by some states. However, telecom being an essential service, the Telecom service staff would have to be on the move to keep the networks live 24X7. Even with steep rise in the number of cases all across the country, the telecom professionals have to be on duty but there is fear in the minds of these professionals.
5. Hence, it is essential that they are categorised under the frontline workers category so that they are given priority for getting the COVID-19 prevention vaccine, which would motivate them to continue their work. We also request that free movement is allowed to telecom professionals during the lockdown to maintain networks.

I request you to treat this on priority and facilitate vaccination for telecom frontline workers.

Regards,

Lt. Gen Dr. SP Kochhar
Director General

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CC : Shri Rajesh Bhushan, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
: Shri Anshu Prakash, Secretary, Department of Telecommunications