

Ph.: 9717647594
TELEPHONE : 23365912 (P&T)
23343493 (P&T)
81-22270 Rly.)
81-22769 (Rly.)
Fax + 91- 11-23363167



A.I.R.F.
All India Railwaymen's Federation

4, State Entry Road, New Delhi - 110055 India
Estd. - 1924

Email :- airffice@gmail.com
Email :- airfindia@gmail.com
web: www.airfindia.org
Twitter: @shivgopalnish1
fbpage@airf1924
Facebook: mishrashivagopal
Instagram: shivgopal_mishra

No. AIRF/564

Dated. 20.04.2021

**THE CHAIRMAN & CEO
RAILWAY BOARD
NEW DELHI**

Respected Sir,

Sub: 2nd wave of COVID 19 – preventive measures to curb the spread of COVID-19 –req.

The 2nd wave of COVID 19 is on a rampage in the country resulting in an alarming rise in the number of cases reported. As per statistics available, yesterday (19.04.2021) alone there were more than 2.5 lakh fresh cases reported.

It is learnt that the new variant is far more lethal than the one in the first wave as it directly affects the lungs and shows no symptoms till 75% of the lungs are damaged. The new variant is also seen to be more virulent and is highly infectious; infecting the entire family once an individual is infected. It is also noticed that the new variant affects not only those above 50 as seen during the 1st wave but it even affects the newborn babies, youngsters and the old alike. This is precisely the reason that there is a rush for the vaccines. However it is understood that all the hospitals are filled to capacity and there is an acute shortage of ventilators/Oxygen cylinders which makes it all the more difficult for the patients.

Under these circumstances attending duties is proving to be hazardous for even healthy persons. The plight of those with co-morbidities is worse as they have to be doubly careful. Despite all the precautions taken by the employees, cases of staff and officers falling prey to the virus are on the increase. Deaths have also been reported across the Zonal Railways and the employees live in the grip of fear.

The guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs in connection with preventive measures to be adopted to curb the spread of COVID 19 states that the following officers & employees should be allowed to work from home as they are more susceptible to the infection.

- those who are above 55 years of age
- if the employees or their wards or relatives staying with them suffer from co-morbid conditions like severe diabetes, hypertension, heart diseases, cancer, bronchitis, asthma, the immune compromised and those under immune-suppressive medication
- pregnant employees
- Persons with disabilities (Divyangjan)

However it is noticed that this facility is seldom extended to employees as it is the discretion of the officer to permit Work From Home.

During the 1st wave when the MHA guidelines were issued, they were strictly followed. Since no fresh guidelines have been issued till date despite the fact that the present situation is far worse than during the 1st wave, the administration is silent on the issue. Hence it is requested that directions may kindly be circulated over the Railways permitting those with co-morbid conditions, the disabled, pregnant women and those above the age of 55 years to work from home till the situation improves.

Further it is noticed that several persons suffer the after effects of vaccination for a day or two after being administered the vaccine. Permitting them to avail SCL on the day of vaccination and the following day would motivate more employees to come forward to get vaccinated.

As there is no clarity with regard to granting SCL or quarantine leave for the employees in such harsh conditions as the one at present, it is requested that clear cut orders may kindly be issued to all the General Managers over Indian Railways in this connection so as to alleviate the distress of the employees.

With regards,

Sincerely yours,



(Shiva Gopal Mishra)
General Secretary