

Conservancy Workers and their role during Covid-19 Outbreak

The coronavirus pandemic is the biggest challenge after world war –II from which several countries are suffering. In India the outbreak has been declared an epidemic in more than a dozen states and union territories, where provisions of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 have been invoked. The Government has taken a decision of lockdown for 21 days, to take a control over the infectious disease.

Along with the State Government the New Town Kolkata Development Authority (NKDA) has taken different initiatives to arrest the outbreak of the disease. Where the major challenge lies into keeping the city clean during this pandemic the Conservancy workers are doing some outstanding job. In order to maintain better sanitation and hygiene conditions the New Town Kolkata Development Authority (NKDA) has stepped up several measures across the city.

1. Transforming Chittaranjan Cancer Hospital into Quarantine Centre:



Just after the initial outbreak of the disease in India City authority was asked to transform a Cancer Hospital into quarantine Centre .It was a very challenging task to convert a newly constructed Hospital into full-fledged Quarantine Centre in a much stipulated time. Solid Waste Management team of NKDA played a crucial role in this context. The entire building was cleaned and disinfected by the conservancy worker. Additional workers were hired to complete the work at urgent basis. Special attention were given to clean and disinfect the patient ward, corridors and toilets.

After initial cleaning of the Quarantine Centre few more initiatives were taken to maintain maximum hygiene:

Conservancy Workers and their role during Covid-19 Outbreak

1.1. Mechanized sweeping:



Mechanized sweeping has been introduced to the Quarantine Centre. One sweeping machine is operating continuously to clean the premises of quarantine centre and its surrounding roads. Along with that manual sweeping is also done at daily basis where machine sweeping is not possible.



1.2. Opening of 2nd and 3rd Quarantine Centre at NBCC Complex and Haj House



Cleaning and sanitization work under progress at 2nd and 3rd Quarantine Centre. This will reduce the pressure of patients from 1st Quarantine Centre. Presently all three Quarantine Centre are functioning.

Conservancy Workers and their role during Covid-19 Outbreak

1.3. Litter collecting team:



To keep the premises and its surrounding roads clean manpower has been deployed to clean plastic, papers and other litters on regular basis.

1.4. Regular Collection of Solid Waste:



Separate waste collection van is allotted to Quarantine Centre to collect the Solid waste. Dry and Wet waste are collected separately at daily basis

Conservancy Workers and their role during Covid-19 Outbreak

1.5. Sprinkling disinfectant:



Sprinkling of Bleaching Powder and lime is carried over to disinfect the surrounding of Quarantine Centre.

The activity is done at every residential area of the city to maintain hygiene.

1.6. Safety measures taken:



Soaps, Gloves and Musk has been provided to every conservancy workers by NKDA. Special attention given to those workers who are in operation to keep the quarantine centre clean. They are using Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) provided by the WB health Department.

- 2. Solid Waste Management in the City:** While the Country is under complete lockdown management of waste is a big challenge for City Authority because many waste-pickers could not pick up garbage due to police restrictions. New

Conservancy Workers and their role during Covid-19 Outbreak



Town Kolkata Development Authority and their conservancy workers are doing some outstanding work at this time. City Authority has ensured regular collection of dry and wet waste from housing complexes of different blocks regularly. Allocated collection van are collecting the waste from respective blocks into separate chambers and carrying it to their destination. Every time after collection disinfectant are being spread to maintain hygiene.

3. Twin Dustbin:



Dustbin for separate collection of bio and non- bio degradable waste has been introduced by City Authority. Two separate dustbin has been distributed to every individual house hold and housing society. This has ensured segregation of waste at its source.

Conservancy Workers and their role during Covid-19 Outbreak

4. Cleaning of Roads:



300 No of Workers are working regularly to keep 240 Kms of road clean within the City regularly. Besides manual sweeping 4 sweeping machines' are also running continuously.

5. Plastic waste Collection:



A team of 30 people is working continuously to collect the plastic and other solid waste from streets of the city.

Conservancy Workers and their role during Covid-19 Outbreak

6. Cleaning of Offices:

To deliver emergency and citizen services few Government offices are kept open by city authority. Conservancy Workers are working continuously to ensure hygiene and cleanliness of those offices.



7. Sanitization of Vehicle:



Car Sanitization are ensured by cleaning and spraying disinfectant to each cars which are used for office and emergency purpose.

8. Special Attention to Market Area:



The City Authority has taken special drive to keep all of its market area clean. There are 12 numbers of organised market place running within city. During the outbreak of the disease Conservancy workers are collecting waste twice a day and spraying disinfectant.

9. **Secondary Segregation of Dry Waste:** The civic body is running a centre near patharghata where processing of Dry waste is done. Dry waste are collected from residential area, market place, and offices and taken to Patharghata collection centre. These are further segregated into chambers based on its type and quality. The conservancy workers are working hard to keep this centre run.

10. 24x7 Helpline:



The City Authority has started one 24 hours helpline number where citizen can call anytime if they require sanitization of their area or residence. They are also free to reach the authority if they face any problem on waste collection

11. **Social Security:** As declared by Prime Minister and Chief Minister every conservancy workers working during this period are entitled for a health Insurance of Rs. 10 Lakh. NKDA has started registering the name and details of those conservancy workers who will get those benefits. The authority is doing its best to ensure timely payment of wage to the conservancy workers.

Conservancy Workers and their role during Covid-19 Outbreak

12. Working Card:



The City authority has issued working card to every conservancy worker where details of individual worker is mentioned. This working card is helping them to work smoothly within city during this emergency period.

13. Efforts to Disinfect the City:



The civic body has started spraying disinfectants at various establishments and public places to maintain hygiene. In coordination with the Fire Services personnel, NKDA is conducting this work. The process has started from Action Area –III which will continue regularly. Apart from the spraying of

disinfectants the civic body has also started fogging activities across the city along with road cleaning, bush cutting and spraying of disinfectants.

Conservancy Workers and their role during Covid-19 Outbreak



Spraying of disinfectant is carried over at market place, Major and internal roads and within Housing complexes.
