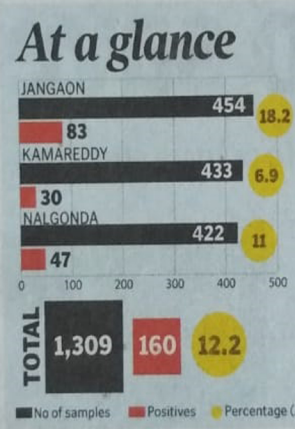


Most T people still susce Covid spread in three districts slow: Survey

Sero-surveillance held in Jangaon, Nalgonda and Kamareddy

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad



SURVEY COVERED 1K RESIDENTS

● Second round of SARS Cov-2 sero-epidemiological survey conducted in 30 villages of Jangaon, Kamareddy and Nalgonda districts

● Part of nationwide survey led by ICMR

● Baseline survey conducted in May

● Second round on August 26-27 in same districts and same villages in house-to-house survey

● As per ICMR guidelines, 10 villages or wards were selected in each district

● From each selected village ward, about 16 households selected randomly for study

● All available subjects, which are above 10 years of age, both males and females, from selected houses were covered

Hyderabad: Covid-19 prevalence across Telangana is occurring at a slow pace compared to other states, but major concerns remain as a large unaffected population is still susceptible to the virus, according to the latest ICMR-National Institute of Nutrition's (NIN) second round of sero survey conducted in three districts.

"Since a large number of people are still susceptible to SARS Cov-2 infection, all appropriate personal protection measures like wearing of masks, personal hygiene and social distancing should be continued," ICMR-NIN said in the report released on Thursday.

The survey was conducted by Avula Laxmaiah, scientist-G and ICMR nodal officer, along with B Dinesh Kumar, scientist-G, N Arlappa, scientist-F and 50 scientific and technical staff of ICMR-NIN.

"The increase in the number of cases is big when compared to the previous finding. But its slower when compared to other states," said Laxmaiah. The second round of SARS Cov-2 sero-epidemiological survey among the general po-

0.5% in the first round carried out during May 2020. In Nalgonda, 47 people had tested positive, which is 11.1% out of 422 people tested, as against only 0.25% in the first round. And in Kamareddy district, 30 people, that is 6.9% tested positive out of 433 people tested as against 0.25% in the first round.

The study was carried out by NIN in association with the ministry of health and family welfare, government of Telangana. The state health department/district authorities were also actively supported to ensure smooth conduct of house-to-house survey in 30 villages across three districts and total subjects covered were 1,309.

The second round of ICMR-National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) sero-surveillance in Jangaon, Nalgonda and Kamareddy conducted on August 26 and 27 has indicated that the Covid-19 epidemic was spreading at a slow pace in the three districts.

Overall, NIN researchers had collected blood samples of 1,309 persons from the three districts out of which 12.2 per cent had developed antibodies for Covid-19. In its report on sero-surveillance, the NIN researchers said that due to precautionary measures taken by general public and State health authorities, the progress of the infection was slow.

However, only 12.2 per cent of the local population in these districts has developed antibodies against Covid-19 while the rest of the population i.e. 88 per cent continues to remain susceptible, the sero-surveillance report said. "Large numbers of people are still susceptible to SARS-CoV-2 infection, hence all appro-

priate personal protection measures like wearing mask, personal hygiene and social distancing may be continued," the sero-surveillance report said.

The sero-prevalence study revealed that 83 persons tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 antibodies out of 454 people tested in Jangaon, which is 18.2 per cent, as against 0.5 per cent in the first round that was conducted in May. In Nalgonda, 47 persons tested positive for antibodies out of 422 persons, which is 11.1 per cent while during the first round in May, it was 0.25 per cent. Similarly, in Kamareddy, 30 persons were

positive out of 433 persons, which is 11 per cent as against 0.25 per cent in the first round. The survey, which was based on ICMR guidelines, covered 10 villages in each district and 16 households in each village were selected at random for the study. All the participants were aged above 10 years of age and overall the study covered 30 villages and 1,309 individuals in the three districts.

The survey was carried out by NIN scientists, including Dr Avula Laxmaiah, Dr B Dinesh Kumar, Dr N Arlappa, Dr JJ Babu, and other 50 scientific and technical staff from NIN.

NIN survey shows Covid-19 has slowed down

V NILESH @ Hyderabad

THE number of people who were infected by Covid-19 in Telangana increased around 40-fold from May to August. On a positive note, the Hyderabad-based National Institute of Nutrition has said that the rate of infection spread in Telangana is slow-paced and has attributed it to appropriate infection control measures.

NIN on Thursday released results of the second round of sero survey that it conducted from August 26-27 in Jangaon, Nalgonda and Kamareddy districts. The first round of sero survey was conducted by NIN in the same districts, earlier in

May. For the second round of sero survey in August, NIN collected blood samples from 1,309 people, aged 10 years and above, from 30 villages in the three districts.

The blood samples were tested to detect presence of antibodies pertaining to the novel Coronavirus.

In the sero survey, 18.2 per cent people in Jangaon, 11.1 per cent in Nalgonda and 6.9 per cent in Kamareddy tested positive.

In absolute numbers, 83 out of 454 people in Jangaon, 47 out of 422 people in Nalgonda and 30 out of 433 people in

Kamareddy, tested positive for the antibodies.

Compared to results from the first sero survey in May, the rise in the number of cases is 30-40 fold. In May, the number of people who tested positive were two in Jangaon and one each in Nalgonda and Kamareddy districts, of the about 400 samples collected from

each district. The NIN in a media release revealing the sero survey results said, "The results suggest that SARS Cov 2 (Covid-19) spread is occurring at a slow pace, which could be because of appropriate measures. However, large numbers of people are still susceptible to SARS Cov 2 infection. Hence, all appropriate personal protection measures like wearing of mask, personal hygiene and social distancing may be continued."

Around 50 personnel from the NIN including scientists and technicians were involved in the sero survey, headed by Dr Avula Laxmaiah, Scientist G and ICMR Nodal Office.



Indian Express 2-10-2020