

3. Institutional Framework

3.1. Legal Framework

As per Constitution, health is a State subject. The preparedness and response mechanisms for Zika virus disease are to be primarily that of the State/ UT Administration. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare would provide the State/ UT Administration with guidance and logistic support. The Epidemic Act, 1897 provides for the State to act in a manner to facilitate control of the Zika virus disease outbreak.

Legal provision on Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act will be reviewed/ modified, if required

3.2. Institutional Framework

The following paragraphs identify institutional mechanism at National, State and District level and defines their roles and responsibilities.

3.2.1. National level

3.2.1.1. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) would be the nodal ministry. It would support States in managing human cases caused by Zika virus and containing its further spread.

MOHFW will be supported by other Ministries namely Home Affairs, Agriculture, Civil Aviation, Urban Development, Defence, External Affairs, Information and Broadcasting, Chemicals and Fertilizers and other Ministries as deemed relevant for prevention/ control/ mitigation measures.

MOHFW will also liaison with the international agencies namely WHO (technical and logistic support) and UNICEF (for risk communication).

3.2.1.2. Inter Ministerial Task Force

Policy decisions and inter-sectoral issues would be decided in the Inter Ministerial Task Force, comprising the following:

<i>Secretary (Health & FW)</i>	<i>--- Chairman</i>
<i>Secretary (Bio Technology)</i>	<i>--- Member</i>

<i>Secretary (Urban Development)</i>	<i>--- Member</i>
<i>Secretary (Environment)</i>	<i>--- Member</i>
<i>Secretary (NDMA)</i>	<i>--- Member</i>
<i>Secretary and DG, ICMR</i>	<i>--- Member</i>
<i>Director General of Health Services</i>	<i>--- Member</i>
<i>Special DGHS (Public Health)</i>	<i>--- Member</i>
<i>Mission Director, NHM</i>	<i>--- Member</i>
<i>Additional Secretary (H)</i>	<i>--- Member</i>
<i>Joint Secretary (public Health)</i>	<i>--- Member Secretary</i>

The Task Force would co-opt Secretaries of concerned Ministries/ Departments as and when required.

3.2.1.3. Joint Monitoring Group

The Joint Monitoring Group will review regularly the global/ Indian situation, and provide recommendations on technical matters to MOHFW, Government of India. It would also monitor outbreak situation. The constitution of the Joint Monitoring Group (JMG) would be:

<i>Director General of Health Services</i>	<i>--- Chairman</i>
<i>DG, ICMR/Sr DDG, ICMR</i>	<i>--- Member</i>
<i>WR, WHO/or representative</i>	<i>--- Member</i>
<i>Special DGHS</i>	<i>--- Member</i>
<i>Animal Husbandry Commissioner</i>	<i>--- Member</i>
<i>Representative of M/o Environment and Forest</i>	<i>--- Member</i>
<i>Director, National Centre for Disease Control</i>	<i>---Member</i>
<i>Director, NVBDCP</i>	<i>---Member</i>
<i>HoD, Respiratory Medicine, AIIMS</i>	<i>--- Member</i>
<i>HoD, Microbiology, AIIMS</i>	<i>--- Member</i>
<i>HoD, Epidemiology, NCDC</i>	<i>--- Member</i>
<i>HoD, Microbiology, NCDC</i>	<i>--- Member</i>
<i>DDG, Medical Stores Organization</i>	<i>---Member</i>
<i>Director (EMR)</i>	<i>--- Member Secretary</i>

The Joint Monitoring Group may co-opt technical experts, as and when required.

3.1.4. National Crisis Management Committee

If the nature of the Zika virus disease outbreak is such that it requires coordination of multiple sectors or attains the potential of a national crisis, the National Crisis Management Committee would review and advise the MOHFW on mitigation measures.

3.2.2. State level

Chief Secretary of a State would ensure co-ordination between health and other relevant sectors. The Principal Secretary / Secretary of the State Health Department will take administrative and financial decisions with regard to prevention, preparedness and response activities pertaining to the health sector. A Technical Committee under DHS would provide the technical support.

The State Health Department would draw up an Action Plan for the Zika Virus disease and test it. The plan would provide for surveillance for detecting cases early, institute preparedness measures, provide training to State and District RRTs, and provide necessary infrastructure for clinical management of cases. The Central Government's efforts in creating awareness among the community and soliciting their active engagement on mitigating the risks would be further facilitated by the State's own initiatives through print, audio, social and visual media.

3.2.3 District level

District Collector / District Magistrate would assume charge of overall co-ordination. The District Health Officer/ Chief Medical Officer would support in implementing all actions pertaining to health sector. The District Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) would be responsible for surveillance of Zika virus disease. The District Rapid Response Team under IDSP would investigate the outbreak and provide support in instituting public health measures.