



Subject: Action Taken by New Town Kolkata for Prevention of Dengue and other Vector Borne Diseases

To address the spread of vector-borne diseases in New Town Kolkata, the New Town Kolkata Development Authority (NKDA) has implemented a comprehensive vector control management system. This includes routine mosquito control activities conducted throughout the year, leveraging advanced technology, and fostering community engagement. NKDA has created a 30-point Action plan to ensure the reduction of Dengue cases.

- **Identification of Hotspots-** NKDA supervisory team has identified the potential hotspots for Dengue, based on the Garbage Vulnerable Points (GVPs) in all the three action areas of New Town.
- **Formation of Advisory Committee-** NKDA has formed a dedicated Public Health & Vector Control Advisory Committee to oversee the management of Vector-borne diseases in the NKDA area. The committee meets periodically to oversee and analyze the ongoing works and decide further strategies for vector control.
- **Micro Plan of Spraying Larvicide from June to December-** NKDA has issued an order with a comprehensive block-wise list of personnel for the spraying of Larvicide in New Town Area. Concerned supervisors have been assigned to visit the areas under different zones mentioned against each and submit the report.
NKDA's vector control workforce comprises 3 field supervisors and 40 sprayers, with an additional 30 sprayers recently engaged to improve operational efficiency under the surveillance of 28 official supervisors.
- **Training of Vector Control Team at NKDA Office-** As a capacity building program for the Vector Control Team, NKDA conducts regular training sessions. These sessions cover the identification of vectors, understanding vector behavior and breeding sites, house-to-house activity, and supervision with a focus on the Check, Identify, and Destroy (CID) mechanisms. Training also includes clinical aspects of dengue, such as recognizing signs and symptoms, testing protocols, dos and don'ts, and spraying activity preparation.
- **Awareness campaigns-** NKDA hosts awareness meetings with the owner of construction sites and the Residents Welfare Associations (RWAs) of New Town. These initiatives educate residents and developers on vector control management systems and emphasize the importance of proactive measures.
- **NKDA Guidelines for Vector Control Management in the Under Construction Sites-** NKDA issued Guidelines to prevent mosquito breeding in New Town's construction sites. The guideline urged all promoters, developers, contractors, and house-owners to implement the preventive measures to combat dengue.
- **House to House Survey-** NKDA has deployed 111 nos. of 2-member team under the surveillance of 22 Supervisors to check the waterlogging conditions and cleanliness of each house in the New Town area. The HTH survey teams conduct regular domestic and peri-domestic visits within a 100-meter radius to monitor mosquito breeding sites and report it to the authorities. The NKDA Vector Control Team then visits these

sites as per the micro plan suggested by the Public Health Advisory Committee, including under-construction sites and vacant plots, to clean waterlogged areas and prevent mosquito breeding. NKDA also actively removes stagnant water to mitigate breeding grounds.

- **Identification of Waterlogged Areas-** NKDA leveraged drone technology to monitor mosquito breeding in and around construction sites and other inaccessible areas prone to water logging. This innovative approach allows for efficient surveillance and timely intervention in potential breeding grounds. Moreover, NKDA has prepared a comprehensive list of places with waterlogging areas through its CCTVs monitoring network. The entire situation of waterlogging is monitored at Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC), and it is ensured that no waterlogging takes place for long period.
- **Preparation of a database of all construction sites, ponds, vacant plots, and streets-** NKDA has prepared a consolidated database of all the Construction Sites, Vacant Plots, Ponds, Markets, Offices etc. for comprehensive monitoring of the Solid Waste management and waterlogging for the prevention of Dengue.
- **Comprehensive Health Infrastructure for Vector Borne Diseases-** All health centers in NKDA are equipped with doctors and paramedics for OPD-based treatment of Vector Borne Diseases, adhering to government SOPs for treatment protocols. UPHC 1 at NKDA is equipped with an in-house ELISA reader for NS1 & IgM testing and a cell counter machine for accurate diagnosis and management of positive cases. All health centers act as blood sample collection units, with samples sent to UPHC 1 for testing. Patient follow-ups on blood reports are conducted at respective centers.
- **Patient Referral and Reporting System-** Patient referral services, including ambulance and 24/7 helpline support, are provided when admission is required. Malaria testing and treatment are available at all health facilities. Regular reporting is done through the ASWAS App as per SUDA guidelines.
- **Integration and Coordination for Vector Control-** As decided in the Public Health Advisory Committee meeting, all private clinical establishments are integrated into a WhatsApp-based reporting and monitoring system for positive case identification and address verification, ensuring cases from adjoining areas are not included in NKDA line lists prepared by the state. Moreover, a new Vector Control Officer (VCO) is expected to join soon in NKDA to further strengthen and regulate vector control activities.
- **Other Initiatives-** A study team was constituted by NKDA for studying the scope for covering the peripheral canals in New Town and a special team was formed for combatting littering in planning areas and peripheral canals. NKDA ensures regular cleaning of drains and canals to check the uninterrupted water flow. Regular cleaning of C&D waste is done. Jungle Cutting and dressing of land is done to ensure zero water stagnation. Guppy fish was released in canals and water bodies to combat with mosquito breeding. Letters have been drafted to all the developmental agencies like RVNL/PHED/ WBSEDCL etc. to take appropriate measures so that there remains no scope of stagnation of water. Letters have been sent to the gated communities and the schools to maintain vector control protocols in their premises. Special emphasis is led on the vacant plots and under construction sites. There has been installation of rain gauge and continuous data collection from the Airport observatory to ensure compliance.

Following these comprehensive efforts, New Town Kolkata has reported only two dengue cases this year so far and will continue to fight against the outbreak of the disease.