

MOST IMMEDIATE

No. WQ-11021/1/2020-WQ-DDWS
 Government of India
 Ministry of Jal Shakti
 Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation

4th Floor, Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan,
 New Delhi – 110003
 Dated the 15th May, 2020

To,

Addl. Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary/ Secretary
 In-charge Rural Water Supply/ PHE Department,
 All States/ UTs

Subject: Taking up water quality monitoring and surveillance activities before and during coming monsoon – regarding

Madam/ Sir,

The Jal Jeevan Mission aims at providing Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) by 2024 to every rural household to provide drinking water in adequate quantity (minimum 55 lpcd) of prescribed quality (BIS:10500) on regular basis.

2. Water quality monitoring & surveillance is essential for ensuring supply of safe drinking water, timely identification and evaluation of water-borne health risks for taking preventive and measures and awareness generation on water quality issues, water-borne diseases, health effects, safe handling/ germ-free storage, etc. among all stakeholders. As per JJM guidelines, testing of sources/ samples is to be done by State, district and sub-division/ block level laboratories based on frequency of testing. Broad guidelines for undertaking laboratory testing of sources/ samples *inter-alia* stipulates that Sub-divisional/ block level laboratory will test 100% water sources under its jurisdiction, once for chemical contamination and twice for bacteriological parameters (pre and post monsoon) in a year. In case of unavailability of sub-division/ block level laboratories, services of laboratories of nearby educational institutions or universities may be explored and availed. The state to ensure that pre monsoon water quality testing of 100% water sources is done.

3. For water quality surveillance, States have been advised to engage local community at Gram Panchayat level to use FTKs to know the extent of contamination and to take up sanitary inspection of a water supply facility to identify actual and potential sources of microbiological contamination and to decide upon appropriate remedial action to improve or protect the water supply facility. States are to identify and train 5 women from local community to conduct water quality tests using FTKs/ bacteriological vials at Gram Panchayat (GP) level. All Gram Panchyats and/ or its sub-committee, i.e. Villages Water & Sanitation Committee/ Paani Samiti/ User Group will ensure to test 100% drinking water sources including private sources at the GP level, water quality testing at every Aganwadis using Field Test Kits (FTKs) and sanitary inspection under its jurisdiction. State to ensure that sufficient numbers of FTKs are available for surveillance activities at the Gram Panchayat level.

4. The water-borne diseases become more widespread and life threatening during monsoon season and have major health impacts especially among infants and children. In view of increased risk of water-borne diseases during monsoon, community-based surveillance is the key for early identification of risk spots. In view of this, it is strongly advised that all necessary measures for effective water quality monitoring and surveillance is taken up proactively on priority with special emphasis on areas that have prior history of water-borne diseases.
5. It may kindly be ensured that data related to water quality monitoring and surveillance is updated on IMIS of the Department on daily basis.

Yours sincerely,


(Ajay Kumar)
Director

Copy to: Engineer-in-Chief/ Chief Engineer, Rural Water Supply/ PHE Department, All States/ UTs for information and necessary action.