



# INDIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (HQs.)

(Registered under the Societies Act XXI of 1860)  
Mutually Affiliated with the British & Nepal Medical Associations  
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## PRESS RELEASE

### IMA CAUTION ON THE IMPENDING OMICRON DISASTERS IN INDIA, BUT NO NEED TO PANIC.

The new variant of concern Omicron covid virus is spreading across and percolated to more than 40 countries across the world starting from South Africa. India is seeing exponential raise of Omicron cases in double digits within a week's time. All the major States have now confirmed the presence of cases, and it will bound to increase further. With the scientific evidence available and the experience noted in countries of origin like South Africa, Germany, Tanzania, etc. it is evident that the new virus Omicron will have high Penetrability and will affect more people. At this time when India is limbing back to normalcy, this is a great setback and concern. If we are not taking adequate measures of preventing transmissibility, we may enter into a massive third wave.

However, on the positive side, India with the pro-active leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister has crossed 1.26 billion vaccinations by which more than 50% of our adult population are being vaccinated at least with one doze. Vaccination all over the world has been proved, it will prevent severe forms of infection especially for the Omicron infection too. So, if we can altruistically focused on, war footing on vaccination, India can definitely overcome the impact of Omicron causing serious disasters to this country. Hence IMA earnestly appeals to everyone concerned to take the vaccination as priority agenda and focus attention to reach all the unreached and also ensuring the 2nd doze is given to all the needy people who are yet to get it.

At this juncture, IMA also appeals to the government on the eve of the impending third wave, to officially announce the health care front line workers and immune-compromised individuals to be given an additional dose to augment the immunity.

Omicron has proved to be less virulent in producing severe infections but definitely 5 to 10 times more potent in transmissibility than Delta Virus. Hence It is necessary for Government and all Stake Holder to take appropriate measures to control the transmissibility of this infection, by enhancing immunization.

IMA also demand and appeal, in this precarious situation, everyone should avoid and put on hold any massive social gathering on any pretext of religious, political, or academic events and also ensure wearing mask and hand washing as the Covid appropriate behaviors. Let us not loosen our grip on the proactive protective measures.



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IMA does not support the imposition of a travel ban; However, we appeal to all the public to avoid, avoidable and unnecessary travel especially pleasure Tourism and social gatherings. All our public transport system including Air and Train should strictly adhere with code of covid protocol.

It is also noted that with Omicron in most of the African Countries there is a sudden increase in children who are getting more infected and admitted to Intensive Care Units. This possibility of enhancing infection in the Paediatric age group is also inevitable, hence IMA appeal to all the schools and colleges shall strictly adhere to the covid protocol and ensure all the adults in the school's milieu to be vaccinated properly. IMA also demands Governments should expedite the proposal for vaccination of children about 12 – 18 years at the earliest.

Thanks to the Government of India and the Ministry of Health, India is ahead in its efforts of preparedness to face the third wave with adequate infrastructure development, treatment protocol, and proactive measures. However, we are still concerned about the manpower shortage in the health care scenario especially with the impending third wave and it is disastrous to note the postponement of NEET PG admission in medical colleges. This will be resulting in a shortage of almost two batches of Post Graduates, one appearing for the exam and one batch waiting for admission resulting in nearly one lakh of the young resident doctors not available to tackle the crises. IMA demands to Government of India to proactively involve in this issue of PG admission and ensure without further delay, the PG admission should be done on a war footing. It will be too late if we postpone the PG admission to tackle the Covid crisis.

We appeal to the public and all concerned that do not get panic and distress but be cautious in adopting the appropriate covid behaviors.

IMA along with its 3.5 lakhs modern medical doctors and its health care infrastructure assures our full-hearted, dedicated services along with the Ministry of Health to ensure a safe and protected environment to all our public even in the third wave which is impending in our country

**Prof. Dr. J A Jayalal**  
National President, IMA

**Dr. Jayesh M Lele**  
Honorary Secretary General, IMA