

From: Bijay Acharya
Sent: Saturday, June 12, 2021 10:34 PM
To: Bhupesh Khadka; Ganesh; Bhupendra Basnet
Subject: Update - Re: project "Mass Testing Initiative"
Importance: High

Dear ANMF board,

Re – HFN testing project

- Binita – Exec director of HFN is on site in Gulmi to supervise and monitor the project.
- Events done till now
 - o Formal meeting with local leadership – hospital, mayors, ward leaders, provincial leaders. They have decided to supply few kits, ppe and personnel. Security services etc has been secured as well.
 - o Female community health volunteers (FCHVs) have been trained about rapid antigen test, covid 19, home isolation and red flag signs. They will have the oximeters and IR thermometers and will be our eyes/ears on the ground
 - o Nurse training has been conducted for our nursing team who will counsel the positive patients and symptomatic negatives for next steps
 - o We have basic home isolation support supplies pack to help patients and as an incentive to come get tested
 - o Radio ads have been played in the catchment area for last few days
 - o Using mic to inform people to come get tested
 - o Home isolation flyers are ready to be given for patients who need it
 - o PCR referral system in place
 - o Test data submission team working with WHO and lab personnel at the regional hospital
 - o Random sampling interviews to understand the covid-related education, stigma around covid, test hesitancy and vaccine readiness.
 - o Telemedicine team is in place and primary orientation is done.
- Barriers
 - o Significant test hesitancy is present so total number of people who might come for test could be significantly lower than expected.
 - o Lack of community isolation could be challenging but the health leaders in the area are open to support any patients who require referral and treatment.

Re – Alternative sites for mass testing

- If we get significantly lower number of tests, we will do the following –
 - o Run survey interviews during contact tracing of people who test positive. We have developed few surveys for another project I am helping the Alliance Team deploy across Nepal. We can modify that to address this issue.
 - o We have identified Ghorahi and possibly even another rural village where we have similar strong support for mass testing. We will use the unused kits and same strategy to conduct another mass testing. With lessons learned – we expect to rectify some of the issues/barriers we have faced here.

Bijay Acharya