



भारत सरकार

Government of India

पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय

Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change



केंद्रीय चिड़ियाघर प्राधिकरण  
Central Zoo Authority

F.No.25-1/2002-CZA(Vol.II)(AK)2469/B/2020

DATE: 06.04-2020

To

**The Chief Wildlife Warden of all States and Union Territories,**

**Sub: Precautionary measures in the wake of confirmation of SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) in a Tiger housed in the Bronx Zoo, New York - regarding**

**Ref:**

1. This office Circular F.No.25-1/2002-CZA(Vol.II)(AK)/2469/A/2020 dated 24.03.2020
2. This office Circular F.No.25-1/2002-CZA(Vol.II)(AK)/2469/2020 dated 23.03.2020
3. This office Circular F.No.19-115/93-CZA(53)(Vol.XIV)(Pt.)/2427/2020 dated 13.03.2020

Sir,

In continuation to this office Circulars cited above, it is to inform that the United States (USA) Department of Agriculture's National Veterinary Services Laboratories, in a statement dated 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2020, has confirmed SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) in a Tiger housed in the Bronx Zoo, New York. ([https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/newsroom/news/sa\\_by\\_date/sa-2020/ny-zoo-covid-19](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/newsroom/news/sa_by_date/sa-2020/ny-zoo-covid-19)).

2. Zoos in the country are, therefore, advised to remain on highest alertness, watch animals on 24X7 basis, using CCTV for any abnormal behaviour/symptoms, keepers/handlers not to be allowed in the vicinity without safety gear preferably PPE (Personal Protective Equipment), isolate & quarantine sick animals, and have least contact while providing feed to animals.

3. Mammals like carnivores especially cat, ferret and primates to be carefully monitored and fortnightly samples of suspect cases to be sent to the designated animal health institutes to initiate COVID-19 testing while following all bio-containment and safety measures required to handle this high risk pathogen as per the national / ICMR guidelines:

- National Institute of High Security Animal Disease (NIHSAD), Bhopal, MP.
- National Research Centre on Equines (NRCE), Hisar, Haryana.
- Centre for Animal Disease Research and Diagnostic (CADRAD), Indian Veterinary Research Institute, (IVRI), Izatnagar, Bareilly, UP.

4. All zoo personnel to strictly adhere to safety and disinfection protocol issued by the Government, time to time, on Novel Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19).

Further, zoos are advised to coordinate with designated nodal agencies of the Government responsible for public health response and permit screening, testing and surveillance and diagnostic samples as and when required by the nodal agency.

Yours sincerely

(Dr. S P. Yadav) 6.4.2020

Member Secretary

**Copy to:**

1. PS to Hon'ble Minister, MoEF&CC, Government of India
2. PS to Hon'ble Minister of State, MoEF&CC, Government of India
3. PPS to the Secretary to the Government of India, MoEF&CC
4. PPS to the Director General of Forests and Special Secretary, MoEF&CC, Govt. of India
5. The Officer in-charge of all recognised zoos