

# World Health Organisation praises Uttar Pradesh’s door-to-door Covid testing in villages

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LUCKNOW: After mentoring [Uttar Pradesh](#) to launch a massive door-to-door campaign to isolate hidden [Covid](#) cases in villages, [World Health Organisation](#) lauded the state’s effort, saying micro planning, house visits, concurrent monitoring and follow-ups were crucial to ensure no one missed access to vaccination and health care services.

In an article – Uttar Pradesh going the last mile to stop Covid-19 – published on its official website, WHO considered details of UP’s massive campaign in 97,941 villages in 75 districts.

“Uttar Pradesh government has initiated house-to-house active case finding of Covid-19 in rural areas to contain transmission by testing people with symptoms for [rapid isolation](#), disease management and contact tracing,” the article stated. The importance of the exercise may be gauged from the fact that, as per data, pandemic was shifting to rural areas. Speaking about the drive and WHO’s mention in its website, additional chief secretary [Navneet Sehgal](#) said: “Over four lakh symptomatic persons were identified in the exercise. Of these, 4,500 tested positive through the rapid antigen test. Arrangements to isolate others have been made. Prophylactic medication has been initiated.”

The article noted that as many as 1,41,610 teams led by 21,242 supervisors have been deployed by the state health department for active case finding exercise spanning five days.

“Each monitoring team has two members, who visit houses in villages and remote hamlets to test everyone with Covid symptoms using Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT) kits. Those who test positive are quickly isolated and given a medicine kit with advice on disease management. Contacts of those who test positive are quarantined and tested using an RT-PCR at home by a rapid response team,” it said.

It added that two mobile vans have been allocated to each block in a district in the state to test people with symptoms, even as routine sample collection and testing continues in community health centres.

“WHO, which supported Uttar Pradesh government in training and micro planning for the activity, now has field officers on the ground to monitor and share real-time feedback with the government for immediate corrective action. On the inaugural day, WHO field officers monitored over 2,000 government teams and visited at least 10,000 households,” the article said, adding WHO will also support the Uttar Pradesh government in compilation of the final reports.

The article concluded by stating that those with symptoms are tested and given medicine kits and information on quarantining and isolation, both at home and hospitals. People without symptoms are urged to get vaccinated and follow Covid-appropriate behaviours to prevent transmission in rural areas of India’s most populated state.