

Covid 2019 here to Remain

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The dictum to prevent spread of Covid 19 infections in today's Covid infested society is "wear a mask, wash your hands frequently and keep a safe distance".

It is rather unfortunate that the society has created an exasperating situation by neglecting all the components of the dictum either individually or collectively. The reasons for this are many.

- Wearing a mask raises the questions- what type and what quality? In underserved societies unless the governments take up responsibility of "providing good quality masks at cheaper costs, no individual will be able to do it himself or herself. Till date it is not clear as to what type of mask is safe and how many hours or minutes the safety lasts.
- The second component of the dictum is to "wash your hands with soap and water". In the same impoverished society, soap is expensive and water is scarce. There is no strict crowd controlling machinery. The other day I believe in a village wedding as many as 400 people attended and took food sitting close to one another and went on to the stage to "wish the couple" with no mask and ignoring the safe distance policy. The marriage hall had scarcity of water too.
- The third component of the dictum is "maintaining a safe distance between individuals". "Keeping a safe distance" is better said than done. In over populous societies like India and China, is it ever possible to maintain 2 meters distance between individuals? The society in these over-populous countries celebrates festivals, marriages and other functions with large gatherings ignoring the government imposed restrictions.

The difficult situations as above, compromise the good efforts of the government in maintaining the restrictions imposed. The

restrictions perhaps are applicable to societies with lesser populations and better financial positions. When such is the situation with simpler measures how can you anticipate the governments to provide vaccination to the masses which will be effective. When all these factors are studied carefully, it goes without saying that Covid 19 infection will not leave the earth.

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