



STATE BANK OF INDIA OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION
CHANDIGARH CIRCLE
C/O State Bank of India, Local Head Office, Sector 17, Chandigarh
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Circular No. 2021/43

Date: 21.04.2021

TO ALL OUR MEMBERS:

Dear Friends,

SPREAD OF COVID – 19 PANDEMIC
URGENT MEASURES TO BE INITIATED

We reproduce hereunder the text of UFBU Letter No.2021/08 dated 21.04.2021 (circulated vide AIBOC Circular No.2021/45 dated 21/04/2021) addressed to the Chairman, IBA on the captioned subject for your information. Copy of the letter has also been sent to the Chairman, SBI and MD & CEOs of all Banks.

With revolutionary greetings,

(Deepak K Sharma)
General Secretary

Text of UFBU Letter No.2021/08 dated 21.04.2021

LETTER No. UFBU/2021/8

Date : 21.04.2021

Shri Raj Kiran Rai G
Chairman
Indian Banks' Association
World Trade Centre Complex
Cuffe Parade
Mumbai 400 005

Dear Sir,

SPREAD OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC
URGENT MEASURES TO BE INITIATED

We recall that as a response to the extenuating circumstances and the dangerous situation arising due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent announcement of national lockdown last year, your office had issued advisory to member Banks to chalk out a feasible business continuity program to carry out basic essential transactions. Your good office had also sent out a communique in this regard on 22.03.2021. This had enabled the banks to take a slew of measures to reduce the risk of exposure of employees and stakeholders without any calamitous effects on service delivery. This effectively reduced the risk by breaking the chain. You are also aware that during the entire period post lockdown, nearly a thousand bank employees have laid down their lives in the line of duty having succumbed to the virus and nearly a lakh were infected.

02. The present situation of the pandemic after one year has turned into a matter of grave concern. It is really fearful and shocking to note that the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic with a high R factor has already devastated the nation, which is nothing short of national crisis. The spike in number of cases and deaths are peaking every day to set new highs. At the cost of repetition, we wish to reiterate that Bank branches, with continued footfalls and across the counter connect with customers are potential hubs of infections. We are deeply distressed to constantly receive news about infections, hospitalizations and deaths of bank employees round the clock every day. On our part, we have taken up the matter with the DFS vide our communique dated 15.04.2021, a copy of which had been endorsed to you, urging upon initiation of certain preventive and protective measure, which is yet to be responded.

03. In the light of grim situation, this is an urgent appeal on behalf of the entire banking fraternity to your good office to take up the issue immediately to issue appropriate instructions, specially encompassing the following:

- a. Restriction of Banking services only to basic, essential banking till improvement of the situation.
- b. Introduction Cluster/hub banking, identifying few branches of each bank in each locality.
This will enable working on rotation by the bank employees.
- c. Realignment of Banking hours/days to 3-4 hours a day and from Monday to Friday.

We are sure that the above measures will reduce the exposure faced by employees and break the chain of infections to a great extent.

04. We are continuously getting information from the grass root level about the non-availability of beds/infrastructure in hospital, dearth of life saving drugs, oxygen which has triggered panic across the nation. The tragic news of our own people dying without getting access to any medical facility has also aggravated the frustration and resentment. We strongly feel that any further delay in implementing the above measures as suggested to reduce exposure will be catastrophic and put millions of families of bank staff and the customers into severe risk of contamination and trigger a massive and uncontrollable outbreak of the contagion.

Therefore, we solicit an immediate and a proactive action in this matter from your good office.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/

SANJEEV K. BANDLISH

CONVENOR