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Media alert from the Media Scanning & Verification Cell, IDSP-NCDC.

Alert ID	Publication Date	Reporting Date	Place Name	News Source/Publication Language
6443	29.11.2021	30.11.2021	Thane Maharashtra	The Times of India English Newspaper 29 th November, 2021/Page No. 12
Title:	62 test positive, Maharashtra old age home now containment zone, Thane			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU – Thane, SSU – Maharashtra			

Sixty-two residents of an old age home in Bhiwandi, including 55 inmates, five staffers and two of their relatives, have tested positive for Covid-19, district health officials informed on Sunday. Another five inmates who are suspected to be infected have also been hospitalised. The area has been declared a containment zone. Importantly, 60 of the 62 infected were fully vaccinated, the health department said.

An inmate was the first to test positive on Friday after he was screened at a private facility. Thereafter, a team of government doctors visited the Matoshree old age home in Sorgaon village in rural Bhiwandi on Saturday and tested 109 inmates, said Dr Manish Renghe, district health officer. Following the tests, the cluster of cases was discovered. Among the relatives of the staffers who came positive are a pregnant woman and a girl aged two and a half years. It is one of the biggest clusters to be detected in recent months from Thane district. An international academic report that came out in May this year outlined the risk factors for Covid-19 among healthcare workers (HCWs). As frontliners battling the pandemic, they are most at risk of acquiring the infection for being directly or indirectly exposed to infectious material.

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Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), National Centre for Disease Control,
Ministry Of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India

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While the pandemic has placed immense pressure on health systems, experts have pointed out the need for healthcare providers to ensure vaccination and devise protocols on how best to distribute scarce resources equitably between HWCs and patients.

The 55 Matoshree inmates, all above 60 years of age, were admitted to Thane Civil Hospital for treatment early on Sunday. Of the total infected, one male patient is admitted in ICU while six others are in general wards. Among the total positive cases, 39 are male. Around 41 patients have comorbidities, while 32 are showing symptoms. The pregnant woman and child have been admitted to the civil hospital.

Dr Renghe said Sorgan has been declared as a containment zone and the district administration is keeping a tab on the health of other inmates. "We are taking adequate steps to curb further spread of the infection," he said. At least 15 samples from the cluster are likely to be sent for genome sequencing, he added.

Meanwhile, 108 new patients were added in Thane district on Sunday, taking the total count of positive patients to 5.69 lakh. No death was reported in the district, maintaining the tally of Covid fatalities at 11,581. The count of active positive patients was 1,062 on Sunday. Officials said they have stepped up vaccination in the district with nearly 21,000 taking jabs on Sunday; 93 lakh doses have been delivered till date in Thane district, of which 58 lakh are first doses.

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