

May 7, 2021 Letter from Father Tomy

Covid Response

During the initial period from April to December 2020 our health care workers Bel-Air managed two institutional quarantine centers, one in Mahabaleshwar with 100 bed capacity and another in Bel-Air Campus. Bel-Air was designated a Dedicated Covid Health Care Center with a capacity of 92 beds. Over 990 Covid positive patients were admitted and treated in the DCHC. Bel-Air also deputed nurses to Covid Hospitals in Satara District including Satara Civil Hospital, Maine "Medical College, Gotvadekar Hospital, Wai, Shirwal CCC, Spundanam Hospital, Wai, Geetanjali Hospital Wai and Rural Hospital Koregaon.

Vaccination

Bel-Air has taken the responsibility of Covid vaccination in the area and has exceeded its targets. To this day we have given 20,000 number of doses.

Second Wave

With the onset of the second surge from February 2021 there has been an exponential increase of Covid cases across the state. Villages in Mahabaleshwar Taluka are testing an alarming 60% positivity rates. The non-availability of ventilators and oxygen beds has proved fatal for many. Bel-Air with its experience of managing Covid patients during the first wave took on the second wave head on. With the help of donors, Bel-Air has revamped its infra-structure by procuring 2 ventilators, which are the only ones available in Mahabaleshwar Taluka, and has increased the oxygen beds to 103. It has also signed an MOU with the District Administration, Satara to dedicate 60 beds free for Covid patients. Today Bel-Air is full to capacity with Covid patients while the demand is surging. Most patients are from Mahabaleshwar, Jawali and Wai Talukas. Currently the hospital is only admitting severe patients and putting in all efforts to reduce mortality. A team of our nurses are spread out in the region to visits at home, give medications and screen them to identify serious patients for referral to hospital.

Oxygen shortage

Due to the acute shortage in the supply of oxygen, Bel-Air is struggling to meet the demand. It is only because of the extraordinary commitment of our dedicated staff and the goodwill we have with our District Collector that Bel-Air has managed to keep up with the oxygen requirement. Our vehicles end up waiting in queue for hours on end to get refills of oxygen cylinders. To overcome the problem, we are planning to set up an oxygen generating plant for which we have already identified a donor.

Ventilators

Many Covid patients admitted in the hospital need to be put on ventilators. Our ICU has only 2 ventilators and 2 BiPaP. We have got donations for additional 8 ventilators and will be installing the same within a week.

Thanking you,

Regards,

Fr.Tomy