

डॉ. सुनीता शर्मा

Dr. Sunita Sharma

MD (Pathology)

स्वास्थ्य सेवा महानिदेशक

DIRECTOR GENERAL OF HEALTH SERVICES



भारत सरकार
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय
स्वास्थ्य सेवा महानिदेशालय

Government of India
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Directorate General of Health Services

D.O. No. NRCP/555007/2019/DZDP/NCDC(Part-1)

Dated: 9 September, 2025

Dear Dr Umesh,

World Rabies Day, commemorated worldwide on **28th September** each year, provides a vital opportunity to raise awareness about rabies prevention and to strengthen collaborative efforts for its elimination. The **2025 theme**, "**Act Now: You, Me, Community**", emphasizes the need for immediate and collective action to safeguard individuals and communities from this entirely preventable yet invariably fatal disease.

To support this global initiative, it is proposed to observe the week of **22nd–28th September 2025** as 'World Rabies Week', during which a series of awareness and preventive activities will be carried out across the country.

Veterinary professionals engaged in the handling, vaccination, and care of dogs in field and camp settings are at particularly high risk of rabies exposure. **Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)** with rabies vaccination has been demonstrated to be highly effective in preventing rabies among individuals in such high-risk groups. Its wider implementation among veterinary professionals will significantly reduce the occupational risk of rabies transmission.

The **Veterinary Council of India**, being the apex body governing the veterinary professionals in the country, holds a pivotal role in guiding and supporting the veterinary workforce. Your guidance and support is critical in ensuring the safety and well-being of both veterinary professionals and the communities they serve.

In this regard, it is requested to **Veterinary Council of India (VCI)** may kindly issue a formal **advisory to all registered veterinary professionals** across the country, recommending **rabies pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)** as mandatory for all veterinary professionals who will be involved in handling, vaccinating, and providing care to dogs during the **World Rabies Week (22nd–28th September 2025)** and beyond.

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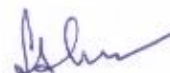
This important preventive measure will not only safeguard the health of veterinary professionals but will also strengthen India's collective efforts toward the elimination of rabies.

A copy of the advisory may kindly be shared with the Program Division at: nahreindia-ncdc@ncdc.gov.in

Your kind cooperation in issuing the necessary advisory at the earliest will be highly appreciated.

With regards

Yours Sincerely,



(Sunita Sharma)

To,

Dr. Umesh Chandra Sharma,
President, Veterinary Council of India, MoFAHD, Gol

Copy to:

Animal Husbandry Commissioner,
Minister of Fisheries,
Animal Husbandry and Dairying (MoFAHD), Gol

Copy for Information:

1. PS to Secretary-Health, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Gol.
2. PS to Addl. Secretary (VHZ), MoHFW, Gol
3. PS to Joint Secretary (PH), MoHFW, Gol
4. PS to Director, National Centre for Disease Control, Dt.GHS, MoHFW, Gol