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Step up virus fight, BSY tells ministers

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Chief minister BS Yediyurappa on Wednesday directed cabinet members to work more proactively in the districts they oversee to slow the worrying spread of Covid-19. The instructions came a day after the opposition criticised the government's handling of the crisis at an all-party meeting.

In a letter to the ministers, Yediyurappa said that the second Covid-19 wave was taking the entire country into its grip, and all the districts must take measures to contain it. "Against this backdrop, you need to swing into action to prevent the spread of the disease in your district. Be in touch with district authorities continuously and create awareness among people," he wrote.

Yediyurappa, who is recovering from Covid-19 at a hospital in Bengaluru, asked cabinet members to ensure that people get timely medical treatment.

Congress, meanwhile, continued its attack on the BJP government, alleging that it had failed on all fronts. Former deputy chief minister G Parameshwara said that the government had been unable to protect the people of Karnataka and patients were struggling to get beds, oxygen and medicines. State Congress president DK Shivakumar said that Yediyurappa appeared to have changed his mind about imposing a lockdown after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address to the nation.

Shivakumar demanded free vaccination for everyone. "Differential pricing for states and private hospitals is discriminatory. The Centre and state government must make vaccination free for 18 plus as a welfare measure," he tweeted.