



सत्यमेव जयते

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs  
Government of India



National Institute of Urban Affairs

# Slum Sanitation and Covid 19 : Health and Safety of Sanitation and Allied Workers Webinar : Smart Cities Mission

Depinder Kapur

National Institute of Urban Affairs

[dkapur@niua.org](mailto:dkapur@niua.org)

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# Health and Safety of Sanitation and Allied Workers

- ▶ Sanitation Workers Safety Issues
- ▶ What has been done till date
- ▶ What needs to be done
- ▶ Understanding Sanitation and Allied Workers Health and Safety

**While We Are Busy Appreciating Doctors, Health Worker And Nurses Somewhere In India We Do Not Talk About Sanitation Workers**



**They Are The Real Frontline Covid-19 Warriors ❤️**

## Issues faced by Sanitation Workers

- Are viewed as **unclean and stigmatized**; scant value of the work they do.
- Little or **no protective equipment**, is provided to them leading to regular accidents, some resulting in fatalities
- Little support for **rehabilitation and self-employment**
- Unfair and untimely **payment of wages**
- **Poor contractual mechanisms** and lack of SOPs in local governments
- Lack of **awareness and sensitivity** for sanitation workers' safety among service seekers
- No provision of **insurance** considering the **hazardous nature** of sanitation work
- No provision of **periodic health check ups**
- Lack of facilities to maintain **hygiene**



Source: Manvita Baradi,  
UMC, Ahmedabad

# Sanitation Workers Safety and Covid 19 : What has been done till date

- ▶ Advisories issued by GoI and State Governments ; March-May 2020
  - ▶ Rational use of PPEs
  - ▶ Prioritized safety of workers from infection - advised the treatment of household waste from Covid infected households as Bio Medical Waste
  - ▶ Other Safety measures
- ▶ Insurance, Compensation in case of death
- ▶ Incentives
- ▶ Training and Awareness
- ▶ PPEs

# RESOURCE BOOK



Sanitation Capacity  
Building Platform

- ▶ Resource Book :  
<https://scbp.niua.org/response-to-covid-19>
- ▶ Part A : Govt Advisories  
<https://scbp.niua.org/content/government-advisories-part>
- ▶ Part B: Knowledge Resources  
<https://scbp.niua.org/content/practitioners-resources-part-b>
- ▶ Part C: Emergency Response Proposal Dev  
<https://scbp.niua.org/content/preparing-emergency-covid-response-part-c>



# Government of India Advisories

Sr No	Name of the Document	Aspects covered	Organisation	Date
1	<a href="#">Guidelines on rational use of Personal Protective Equipment</a>	Specifications for PPE and instructions for their rational usage among various categories of frontline workers in Healthcare facilities	MoHFW, GoI	March-20
2	<a href="#">Guidelines for Handling, Treatment and Disposal of Waste Generated during Treatment/Diagnosis/ Quarantine of COVID-19 Patients</a>	Regarding issuing PPE for workers involved in CBWTF	CPCB, MoEFCC	25.03.20
3	<a href="#">Advisory for maintaining cleanliness during lockdown period</a>	Welfare and protection of Sanitary workers engaged in collection and transportation of COVID-19 waste	MoHUA, GoI	26.03.20
4	<a href="#">Guidelines on disinfection of public places</a>	PPE requirement, instructions for hand hygiene and usage of masks for sanitary workers involved in sanitising public places	MoHFW, GoI	29.03.20
5	<a href="#">Advisory on Safe Management of Water Supply and Sanitation services during COVID19 crisis</a>	Health and safety of sanitary workers involved in water and sanitation services and their interests	CPHEEO, MoHUA	April-20
6	<a href="#">Role of Frontline workers in prevention and management of Corona virus</a>	How to take care of oneself and carry on with their duties as a frontline worker?	MoHFW, GOI	April-20
7	<a href="#">Ensuring Health and Safety of Sanitation Workers and Waste- pickers in the wake of spread of COVID-19</a>	Guided the ULBs to prepare the SOP covering, Mandatory orientation, Social Distancing norms and key precautionary measures for Sanitary Workers	NSKFDC, MoSJE, GoI	07.04.20
8	<a href="#">Advisory for ensuring Health and Safety of Sanitation Workers during COVID-19</a>	Putting in Place a Standard Operating Procedure for sanitation workers	MoSJE, GoI	20.04.20
9	<a href="#">Instructions for safe disposal of waste from quarantined households</a>	Safe disposal of waste from quarantined households, Sanitary workers' attendance	MoHUA, GoI	21.04.20
10	<a href="#">Additional guidelines on rational use of Personal Protective Equipment</a>	Specifications for PPE and instructions for their rational usage among various categories of frontline workers in Healthcare facilities	MoHFW, GOI	15.05.20

# Initiatives by Various State Governments for Sanitation Workers- CoronaWarriors

**Delhi-**

Rs. 1 Crore

**Punjab-**

Rs. 50 Lakh

**UP**

Rs. 50 Lakh

**Karnataka**

Rs. 30 Lakh

**Amritsar**

Rs. 30 Lakh

**Gujarat**

Rs. 25 Lakh

**Tripura**

Rs. 10 Lakh

**West Bengal** Rs.  
5 Lakh

**Compensation, in case of death  
on duty**

**Telangana**

5.0 -7.5 K

**Tamil Nadu**

1 month's  
salary

**One time monetary benefit**

**West**

**Bengal** 5L

**Punjab** 50 L

**Health Insurance**

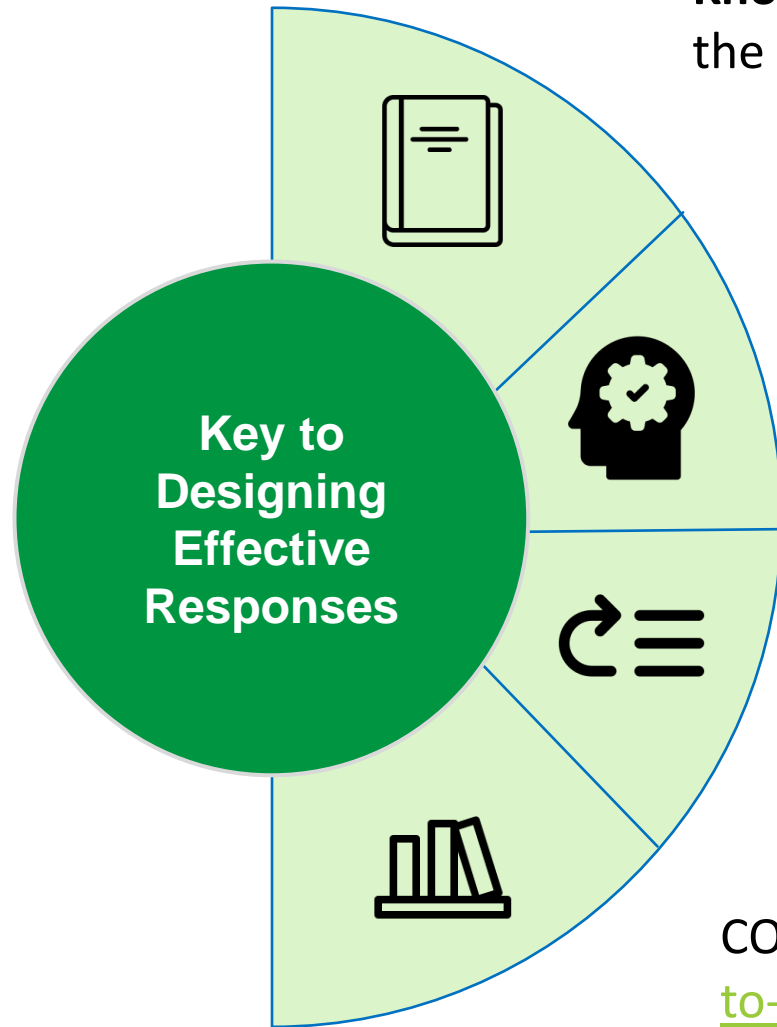
Source : Manvita Baradi,  
UMC, Ahmedabad



**Amritsar-** the bank is opening zero balance and savings account for each employee under which Rs30 lakh would be insured in case of accidental death as well as Rs3.25 lakh in case of natural death. In this insurance, Covid-19 disease has also been included, under which no cost of treatment would be borne by the employee.



# Systemic Challenges in Emergency Response to Sanitation



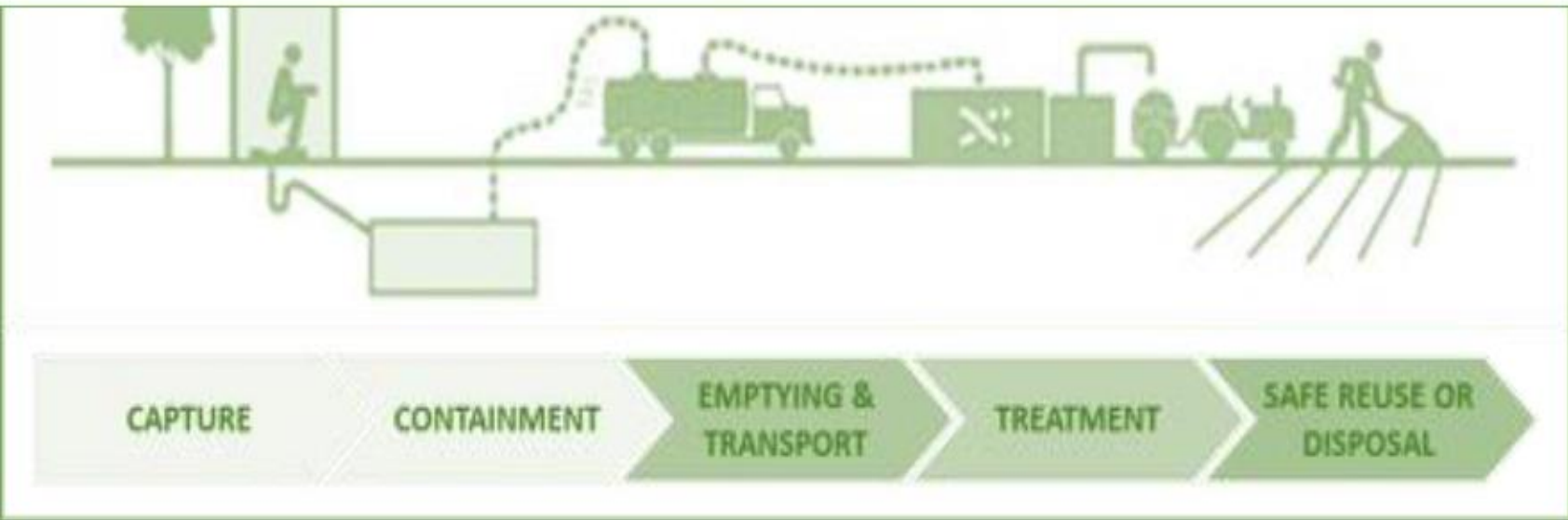
**Knowing number of workers** on payroll (contractual and regular) at the ULB-level as well as state-level

**Planning a response:** Identifying need & types of protective gear and quantity of Personal Protective Gear and sanitization material required

**Operational priorities:** Strategic deployment of sanitation workers like Health Sector, effective monitoring, people's engagement and support, and safe disposal of infected waste material

COVID-Urban Sanitation Resource Book: <https://scbp.niua.org/response-to-covid-19>

# Sanitation Workers and Full Cycle of Sanitation



Toilet cleaners (1,008*)	De-sludging operators (111*)	De-sludging operators & sewer cleaners (1,006*)	Workers at treatment facilities (7*)	Railway track cleaners (110*)	Solid Waste Management workers (724*)	Rag pickers (260*)
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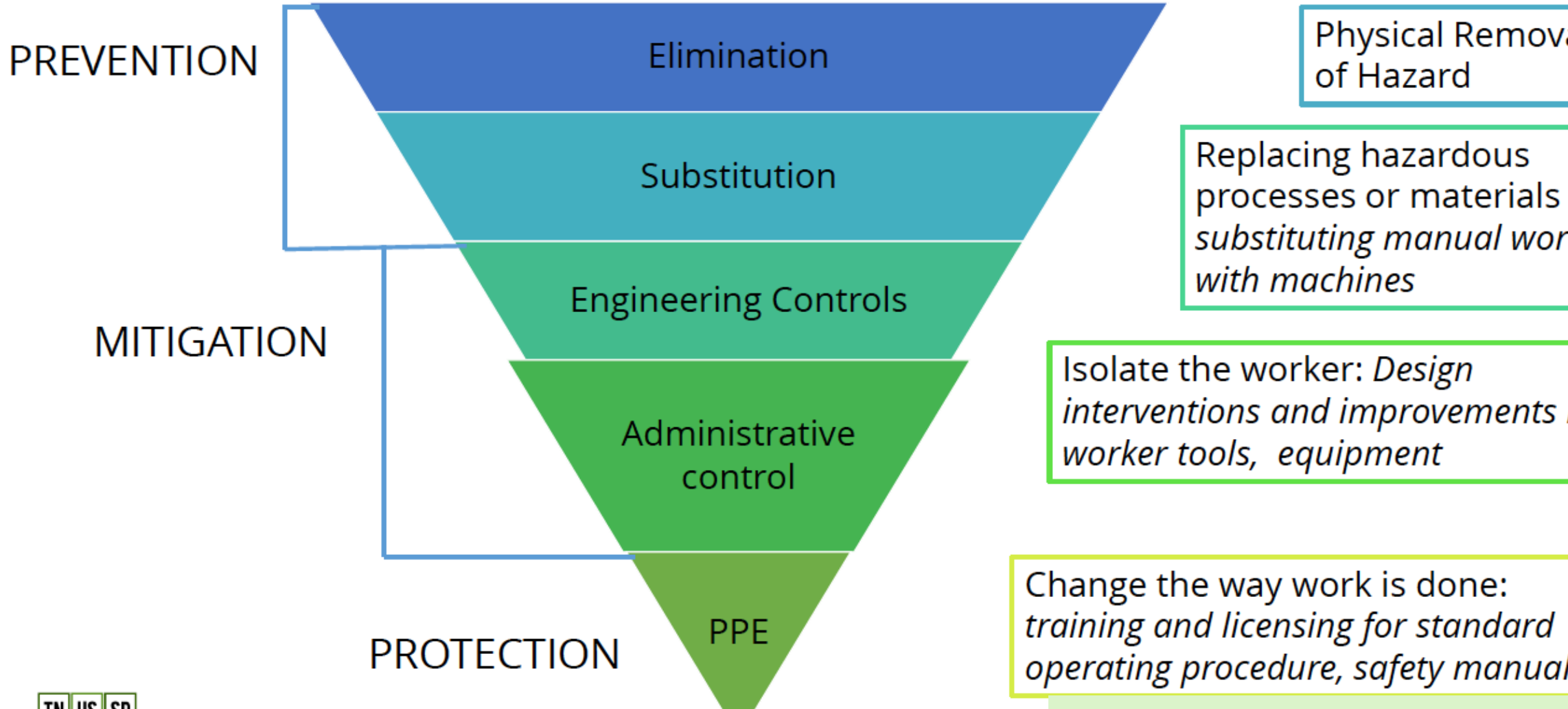
- Sanitation workers are an integral part of the full cycle of sanitation
- Workers can be categorised by:
  - Various roles in the sanitation chain (see above)
  - Contractual arrangements i.e. ULB-payroll, contracted by ULB, privately employed (e.g. sanitation workers employed by de-sludging truck operators) or independent (daily wage) workers

# Type of sanitation activities, severity of risks involved and protective gear prescribed

S. No.	CATEGORY	TYPE OF RISK	PROTECTIVE GEAR PRESCRIBED		SOURCE (ESSENTIALS)
			ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE	
1	Sanitary workers in COVID-19 Hospitals and all other Healthcare facilities	Very High	N95 Mask, Nitrile gloves	Aprons, Gum boots, Coveralls	Guidelines for rational use of PPE by MoHFW
2	Sanitary workers involved in cleaning quarantine centres	Very High	Triple layer masks, Nitrile gloves	Aprons, Gum boots	Guidelines for rational use of PPE by MoHFW
3	Sanitary workers involved in handling and collection of BMW from quarantine centres, homes and houses of people under self quarantine	Very High	Triple layer masks, Aprons, Nitrile gloves, Gum boots and Safety goggles		Guidelines for waste disposed from quarantine facilities, CPCB, <b>and</b> Advisory for Health and Safety of Sanitation Workers during COVID-19 by MoSJE
4	Workers at CBWTF	Very High	Triple layer masks, Aprons, Nitrile gloves, Gum boots and Safety goggles		Guidelines for waste disposed from quarantine facilities, CPCB, MoEFCC
5	Sanitary Workers involved in Cleaning of CTs and PTs	Moderate to High risk	Triple layer masks, Gum boots, Nitrile gloves, Aprons. Head band and wrist band		Guidelines on disinfection of common public places including offices by MoHFW <b>and</b> Advisory for Health and Safety of Sanitation Workers during COVID-19 by MoSJE
6	Sanitary workers collecting waste from rest of the households	Moderate Risk	Triple layer masks, Gum boots, Nitrile gloves, Aprons. Head band and wrist band		Additional advisory for maintaining cleanliness during lockdown period by MoHUA <b>and</b> Advisory for Health and Safety of Sanitation Workers during COVID-19 by MoSJE
7	Street sweepers and drain cleaners	Low risk to moderate risk	Triple layer masks, Gum boots, Nitrile gloves, Aprons. Head band and wrist band		Guidelines on disinfection of common public places including offices by MoHFW <b>and</b> Advisory for Health and Safety of Sanitation Workers during COVID-19 by MoSJE
8	Desludging operators	Moderate risk	Triple layer masks, Nitrile Gloves, Gum boots, Safety goggles/face shield, Protective outer wear/Aprons		Advisory on safe management of water supply and sanitation services during COVID-19 crisis by MoHUA
9	Workers employed at STP/FSTP	Moderate risk	Triple layer masks, Nitrile Gloves, Gum boots, Safety goggles/face shield, Protective outer wear/Aprons		Advisory on safe management of water supply and sanitation services during COVID-19 crisis by MoHUA

# Hierarchy of Safety Controls

Emptying and De-sludging Pr  
An Occupational Safety Needs Assessment



Source: Kavita Wankhade, IIHS/TNUS

# SCBP Knowledge Portal : [scbp.niua.org](http://scbp.niua.org)

