

Praja report: Mumbai struggles with medical infrastructure amid Covid



At a time when doctors worry about a third wave with the rise in Omicron cases, nearly 45% of health department posts are vacant in the most populous city of Mumbai, Praja Foundation's annual health report claims.

As of December 22, the city has recorded 7,68,033 Covid-19 cases with 16,366 deaths. In the past week, the average daily number of new cases has risen from 180 to more than 230 as a result of strict monitoring of Omicron. The representatives of the Praja Foundation also emphasized the strengthening of the infrastructure.

"Budget wise, under the BMC, only 20% of the health budget was allocated to primary health care revenue expenditure. Due to this, there are gaps in access to primary health care in Mumbai. During the pandemic, public health institutions were burdened beyond their borders," said Yogesh Mishra, Research and Data Head, Praja Foundation.

According to the National Building Code standard (one pharmacy for 15,000 inhabitants), Mumbai needs 858 government pharmacies. However, the city only has 199 government pharmacies, of which only 15 were open for 14 hours. Others were only accessible for 5-8 hours.

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