

Do Whatever it Takes to Push Vaccine Production: Uday Kotak

Our Bureau

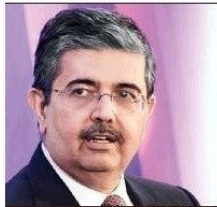
New Delhi: The government should do "whatever it takes" to ramp up vaccine production, supply and distribution in the country as Covid-19 cases surge again, Confederation of Indian Industry president Uday Kotak said on Monday.

The CII advised the government against imposing a lockdown and asserted that it was not the solution in the present time.

"At this juncture, CII calls for quick action to be taken by the government on 'whatever it takes' to ramp up production, supply and distribution of vaccines," Kotak was quoted as saying in a statement from by the industry grouping. Safety and hygiene protocols must be strictly followed by all sections of society and is absolutely critical, Kotak added.

CII emphasised that a lockdown is not a solution and requested for maintaining stringent Covid-19 related protocols for public places and workplaces. At the same time, the vaccination drive must be accelerated, CII stressed.

The Maharashtra state government is contemplating a lockdown in the wake of a surge in Covid-19 cases and a recommendation from the state Covid taskforce. The state government will take a final decision on the matter on April 14.



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Maharashtra, the state with the most active cases in the country, and Madhya Pradesh are among the states that have enforced restrictions such as night curfew and weekend curfew.

CII said industry members must ensure that safeguards are strictly in place with the highest degree of enforcement and outlined a five-point agenda to control the rampant spread of coronavirus infections. It proposed that no more than 10 people should be present at any type of meeting or gathering. All safety, hygiene and health protocols must be followed stringently.

Factories and shopfloors must be kept open so that production and supply chains are not disturbed. 'Work from home' must be advised or followed and where this is not possible, only one-third attendance of employees should be permitted, the industry body suggested.

Public transport including metros, trains and buses must run at one-third seating capacity. The vaccination drive should be opened up to all age groups and made available for longer time periods at vaccination centres, CII said.