The Department of Water Supply and Sanitation, Government of Punjab has initiated various emergency measures and ramped up infrastructure facilities to handle patients in case of a flare-up in COVID-19 cases.

According to official data, the groundwork has already started for setting up dedicated COVID care units at separate locations in all the districts with the provision of isolation beds.

One such isolation centre has been set up in Village Dhahan Kaleran of District SBS Nagar, with the help of doctors from Guru Nanak Charitable Hospital, and the support of Buildings and Roads (B&R) Department. Nine air conditioning systems have been installed within the centre in a short time for the comfort of the patients. The Centre has also been equipped with a ventilation system along with sodium hypochlorite solution tank on the roof.

Health infrastructure in other hospitals has also being spruced up to deal with the crisis, according to Mr. Ankush Sidana, Junior Engineer, DWSS, SBS Nagar.

Apart from the above, the Department is taking all necessary steps to maintain uninterrupted water supply and unhindered sewage services. Adequate measures have been taken by the concerned officers to resolve issues and carry out prompt repairs to provide better facilities to the citizens.
Additionally, as many as 40 trained pump operators have been assigned to all the villages of Banga Block to ensure that all water supply systems run smoothly. Pump operators are liaising with Gram Panchayat Water and Sanitation Committees (GPWSCs) to ensure the smooth operation of water supply schemes being run by them.

Pump operators have also been trained on precautionary measures to be taken to combat COVID-19. In case of any breakdowns, leakages, etc., technical support along with repair materials are being provided by the department, Mr. Gaurav Sharma, Sub Divisional Engineer, SBS Nagar who is also working as duty magistrate in COVID 19 positive villages of tehsil Banga said.

Disinfection is being carried out regularly to ensure the availability of potable water for drinking purposes.

The Department has also revamped the toilets in the COVID care centre set up at KC Engineering College, SBS Nagar to ensure that adequate sanitation facilities are available to the patients. Also, 4 AC units and 3 Drinking Water Coolers with RO system have been installed under the supervision of Mr. Jaspreet Singh, Junior Engineer, DWSS, SBS Nagar.

**Inputs:** Ms. Sevya Sharma, Community Development Specialist, DWSS.