

No. 18/17/2020

2<sup>nd</sup> April 2020

The Chief General Manager-in- charge (Sri Vivek Deep ji)  
Human Resource Management Department  
Reserve Bank of India, Central Office, Mumbai

Dear Sir, (Attention: Sri Sudhir Kumar Jha, CGM, HRMD, pl)  
-Reimbursement of pneumonia vaccine under MAFS

Your instruction to permit reimbursement of pneumonia vaccination for Bank's MAFS retirees, in the age group of 60-70 years, once in every five years, is highly welcome and in the context of prevalent Corona-virus infection induced situation is very timely. This would definitely be a protective measure for RBI retirees, who are senior citizens.

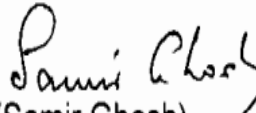
In this regard we have to make a few suggestions, which may please be examined sympathetically.

- 1) The scheme covers retirees in the age group of 60-70 years, but is silent for those beyond 70 years. If the idea is that seniors beyond 70 years of age, coming under Bank's OPD scheme can be covered under that, for self and spouse, this will mean their coverage under OPD scheme will be less to that extent for other OPD treatment. This will not be fair. Besides, as of now, non-pensioners beyond 70 years do not come under Bank's OPD scheme. So, they will be totally excluded, which Bank definitely do not intend. We would, therefore, request that this pneumonia vaccination can come under a separate package, applicable for all beyond sixty years.
- 2) Vide our letters 18/13/2020 dated the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and 18/11/2019 dated the 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2019 we also referred to annual 'flu vaccination' for people of this age group, which is being highly recommended by the medical experts, both in our country and abroad. The pneumonia vaccination once in every five years and annual influenza vaccination are said to be supplementaries. Bank may kindly seek doctors' opinions in this respect and depending on their advice may also introduce this vaccination for RBI senior citizens. This will be extremely beneficial.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,  
Sd/-  
(Samir Ghosh)  
General Secretary

Copy forwarded for information to all units.

  
(Samir Ghosh)  
General Secretary

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No. 18 / 13 / 2020

19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

The Chief General Manager-in-Charge (Sri Vivek Deep)  
Human Resource Management Department  
Reserve Bank of India  
Central Office  
Mumbai

Dear Sir,

**(Attention: Sri Rahul Kamble, GM, HRMD, RBI, CO, Mumbai please)**

**Reimbursement of costs of Influenza  
and Pneumonia Vaccinations**

We draw your kind attention to our letter No.18/11/2019 dated the 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2019 to the Bank on the captioned matter (copy enclosed).

In view of the current situation related to onset of Novel Corona Virus (COVID-19), which has taken the dimension of a 'pandemic', affecting people across the globe, and also the serious concerns expressed by the Government of India and other important agencies, including Reserve Bank of India, in the context of our country, our extant letter assumes much more relevance and significance. We request you, therefore, to view the matter with urgent seriousness.

It is being suggested by medical experts that the elderly people, those beyond sixty years of age, having lesser immunity generally, are susceptible to this deadly virus. They require greater protection and safety measures. Those who suffer from cardio-vascular diseases, respiratory illness like 'flu', lung disease like pneumonia, diabetes etc. are particularly vulnerable.

For people of this age group, sixty years and above, Specialists now-a-days, prescribe 'flu vaccine' once in a year and pneumonia vaccine once in five years, which protect them from these two diseases which otherwise become deadly in polluted environs, which our big cities are particularly affected with.

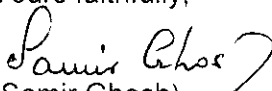
RBI's concern for its staff and retirees have been amply manifest in many a welfare measure, of which medical support is an important one. Even now to protect RBI staff from COVID-19, the management have initiated urgent and serious steps like providing masks, intensive sanitization, paid home-stayal, etc., for which we are thankful.

Counting on that, may we request you once again to reimburse for all RBI ex-staff and spouses, beyond sixty years, cost of these two vaccines, which are considered essential for them. Bank's expenses on this count will be minimal, **one vaccine yearly and the other one once in five years**, but the benefit in terms of health and well being of these senior citizens, the ex-staff of the Bank, will be immense.

Please consider sympathetically.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

  
(Samir Ghosh)  
General Secretary

Encl: 1

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No. 18 / 11 / 2019

22<sup>nd</sup> April 2019

The Chief General Manager-in-Charge (Sri A. K. Sarangi)  
Human Resource Management Department  
Reserve Bank of India  
Central Office  
Mumbai

Dear Sir,

**Reimbursement of costs of Influenza  
and Pneumonia Vaccinations.**

We are very much thankful to the Bank for the O.P.D. Scheme as has been extended to our retired colleagues of 70 years of age and above. We are hopeful that the same facility will also be provided to the rest of the retirees who have not yet been included within that periphery. Pending that improvement, we would like to bring the following matter for your kind consideration. Though likely to be small matter, but now a days it has strong relevance.

You are well aware that environmental pollution and poor air quality, specially in the cities has contributed greatly to the alarming increase in cardio-vascular diseases and specially respiratory illnesses. Influenza (flu) is such a contagious respiratory illness which is increasing at galloping rates – we are experiencing daily. Complication of flu as per the experts in this field can cause bacterial pneumonia and worsening of chronic medical conditions, such as congestive heart failure, asthma or diabetes etc. Please appreciate that new strains of flu in addition result in higher than average mortality rates not only in our subcontinent but also globally. It is also observed that the elderly patients who are getting admission into hospital with some common ailments soon become the victims of pneumonia with serious infections in the lungs, lining of the brain and spinal cord etc. and ultimately succumbs to this deadly disease unfortunately.

In consideration of this, specialist doctors often prescribe influenza and pneumonia vaccines for the senior citizens as protective antidotes to avoid future complications and state of vulnerability of such age group. As per the present arrangement the serving employees normally and retired employees above 70 years of age through OPD Scheme, are eligible to get reimbursement of the cost of those two vaccines administered on the basis of prescription of specialist doctors and related cash memos. But only the retired staff members of RBI belonging to the age group of 60 – 70 years are deprived of the facility that has been extended to their counterparts. This anomaly, we feel, should be set right in view of the growing importance of these two specific vaccines in present context. According to medical experts, the flu vaccine is administered once a year and that of pneumonia vaccine is administered once in five years.

Therefore we request you to have a relook over the matter and allow reimbursement of cost of these two vaccines (Influenza and Pneumonia) at least to our retired colleagues of 60 – 70 age group on production of proper documents including prescriptions of specialist doctors and cash memo. of purchase.

We solicit your positive response.

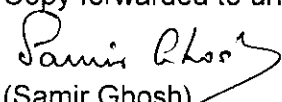
Thanking you,

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General Secretary

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