

# ALL INDIA BANK OFFICERS' CONFEDERATION

(Registered under the Trade Unions Act 1926, Registration No.3427/Delhi)  
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Date: 07.01.2022

## To All Affiliates (Please Circulate)

Dear Comrade,

### COVID-19 PANDEMIC:OMICRON VARIANT SEAMLESS BANKING SERVICES TO THE SOCIETY PROACTIVE SAFETY MEASURES

We reproduce hereunder the text of AIBOC letter No. AIBOC/2022/01 dated 07.01.2022 addressed to the Hon'ble Finance Minister of Govt of India on the captioned subject for your information. Copy of the letter has also been sent to the Secretary, DFS and the Chairman of IBA for their information and necessary action.

Stay safe stay healthy.

With regards,

Yours Comradely,

(Soumya Datta)  
General Secretary

## Text of the Letter No. AIBOC/2022/01 dated 07.01.2022

Smt. Nirmla Sitharaman ji  
Hon'ble Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs  
Government of India  
North Block  
New Delhi

Respected Madam,

### COVID-19 PANDEMIC:OMICRON VARIANT SEAMLESS BANKING SERVICES TO THE SOCIETY PROACTIVE SAFETY MEASURES

Greetings from All India Bank Officers' Confederation (AIBOC), the apex trade union of officers in the banking industry.

You are aware that the country is witnessing the third wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, which is spreading exponentially. The daily new Covid cases have crossed the 1 lakh mark, while the omicron variant of Covid 19 has resulted in massive surge of Covid cases. This is causing cluster infections not only in offices but also in closed environments of homes and within extended families. The infections among the bankers have been rising rapidly as per reports pouring in from across the country. The anxiety among the bankers runs high and the fear for safety of near and dear ones is once again haunting the fraternity as the trauma of the last two waves, especially the second wave still persists.

2. Madam, you are aware that the bankers have been extending yeoman service to the citizenry during the crisis period and have been instrumental in keeping the wheels of the economy moving unhindered. As per our conservative estimate, over 2000 bankers have sacrificed their lives in the line of duty having succumbed to the contagion. Thousands of our family members have also died of Covid 19 virus. Many, who have contracted and recovered, too, suffer from heterogeneous issues on health. We consider ourselves to be a part of the 'Financial Army', who have braved the constraints and have served the nation in the time of crisis. Unfortunately, the recognition of Bank employees as Frontline Covid Warrior was delayed denying the opportunity of getting vaccinated along with other FLWS in the first instance, which could possibly have averted the loss of precious lives. Again, it appears that another colossal crisis is looming large and bankers are determined to render their services to the best of their abilities at the call of the nation.

3. In the above backdrop, we wish to offer the following suggestions for your kind consideration and issuance of necessary advisory urgently for ensuring safety and wellbeing of the bankers who are the most vulnerable section of frontline workers because of the nature of their job and responsibilities enshrine upon us in ensuring uninterrupted banking service across the nation.

- i) The bankers to be administered Booster dose along with other FLWs at the first instance when the scheme is rolled out.
- ii) Implementation of 5 day week and all Sundays and Saturdays to remain closed to break the chain of spread.
- iii) At all branches/ offices, only 50% staff should be physically present and remaining staff should be allowed to work from home.
- iv) Visually Challenged employees/employees with physical disability should be allowed to work from home.
- v) Pregnant women should be allowed to work from home
- vi) Business hours should be restricted between 10 am and 2 pm to reduce physical presence of customers at branches to contain transmission. Customers interests are unlikely to suffer because of rapid growth in Alternate Delivery Channels such as ATMs, phone, net and mobile banking. Unified Payment Service in use across various platforms continue to average transactions worth Rs.6000 crore per month.
- vii) The office hours should be strictly from 10 am to 5 pm to enable the bankers reach home safely in the backdrop of cancellation of local trains and withdrawal of public transport after dusk
- viii) Implementation of skeleton services at the branches for the time being as majority of the employees of the branches may remain on mandatory quarantine due to massive transmission of the virus.
- ix) Mandatory Rapid Antigen tests at HOs/ZOs/RBOs/CPCs and big establishments to 'Detect, isolate and treat" at regular intervals.
- x) Special status to bankers for availing Public transport including suburban railways under essential service category.

It is heartening to note that the Central Government have already initiated various cognitive measures for the wellbeing of the common people and also to effectively contain the contamination. Our suggestions will help strike a fine balance between controlling the spread of infections and ensuring seamless banking services. We reaffirm our wholehearted support and commitment for the development of the economy and the wellbeing of the common citizenry.

Stay Safe Stay Healthy

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-  
**(Soumya Datta)**  
**General Secretary**