CIRCULAR

Sub: Guidelines for testing, isolation, hospital admission and discharge with regard to 2019-nCoV
Ref: WHO, GoI & ICMR guidelines

In view of 2019-nCoV outbreak in Wuhan City of China and reporting of confirmed 2019-nCoV cases in various countries, WHO has declared the 2019-nCoV outbreak as the Public Health Emergency of International Concern on 30.01.2020.

In this regard, all are here by instructed to conduct thorough surveillance activities and follow the guidelines for testing, isolation, hospital admission and discharge with regard to 2019-nCoV attached with this letter.

Enclosures:
1. Guidelines for testing, isolation, hospital admission and discharge with regard to 2019-nCoV.
2. Annexure-01- Laboratory testing Guidelines
3. Annexure-02 – Discharge Guidelines

Copy sent to following officers for necessary action:
1. Director-Medical Education, Bengaluru
2. District Health and Family Welfare Officers, All Districts of Karnataka
3. District Surveillance Officers, All Districts of Karnataka
4. President-IMA, Karnataka
5. Director- RGICD, Bengaluru
6. Medical Superintendents of all Major Hospitals, Karnataka
7. Medical Superintendents of all Medical College Hospitals, Karnataka

Copy sent to following officers for information:
1. Principal Secretary-Health, GoK, Karnataka
2. Mission Director-NHM, Bengaluru
3. Director-H&FWS, Bengaluru
4. Project Director-IDSP, Bengaluru
5. Joint Director-CMD, Bengaluru
6. Deputy Director-SSU, Bengaluru
Government of Karnataka  
Directorate of Health And Family Welfare Services, Ananda Rao Circle, Bengaluru  

**Guidelines for Testing, Isolation, Hospital Admission and Discharge with regard to 2019-nCoV**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No</th>
<th>Traveler Details (Travelled after 15th Jan 2020)</th>
<th>Symptomatic Cases</th>
<th>Asymtomatic Cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1     | Travelers from Wuhan Province in China who have come to Karnataka | * Lab test has to be done as Annexure-1 (As per GoI Guidelines)  
* Admission in identified Isolation Hospital - Symptomatic treatment  
* POSITIVE Lab result: Keep in Hospital isolation until the patient recovers and becomes negative for testing. To be discharged as per discharge guidelines. (Annexure-2)  
* NEGATIVE lab result: Keep in Hospital isolation until the patient recovers; After recovery, Home isolation for total 28 days from the day of arrival to India. | * Lab test has to be done as Annexure-1 (As per GoI Guidelines)  
* Home isolation for total of 28 days from the day of arrival to India - Observation & Follow up  
* POSITIVE Lab result: Admission in identified Isolation Hospital and treatment; Keep in isolation until the patient becomes negative for testing; Discharged as per discharge guidelines and home isolation for a total of 28 days from the day of arrival to India.  
* NEGATIVE lab result: Home isolation for total of 28 days from the day of arrival to India. |
| 2     | Travelers from China (Other than Wuhan city) | * Lab test has to be done as Annexure-1 (As per GoI Guidelines)  
* Admission in identified Isolation Hospital - Symptomatic treatment  
* POSITIVE Lab result: Keep in Hospital isolation until the patient recovers and becomes negative for testing. To be discharged as per discharge guidelines. (Annexure-2)  
* NEGATIVE lab result: Keep in Hospital isolation until the patient recovers; After recovery, Home isolation for total 28 days from the day of arrival to India. | * Observation, Follow up and home isolation for total of 28 days from the day of arrival to India.  
* If becomes symptomatic during observation period, re-classify and follow the guidelines given for symptomatic cases |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No</th>
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<th>Symptomatic Cases</th>
<th>Asymptomatic Cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 3     | Travelers from affected countries other than China | * Lab test has to be done as Annexure-1 (As per GoI Guidelines)  
* Admission in identified Isolation Hospital - Symptomatic treatment  
* POSITIVE Lab result: Keep in Hospital isolation until the patient recovers and becomes negative for testing. To be discharged as per discharge guidelines. (Annexure-2)  
* NEGATIVE lab result: Keep in Hospital isolation until the patient recovers; After recovery, Home isolation for total 28 days from the day of arrival to India. | * Observation, Follow up and close monitoring for total of 28 days from the day of arrival to India.  
* If becomes symptomatic during observation period, re-classify and follow the guidelines given for symptomatic cases |
| 4     | Contact persons with known positive cases | * Lab test has to be done as Annexure-1 (As per GoI Guidelines)  
* Admission in identified Isolation Hospital - Symptomatic treatment  
* POSITIVE Lab result: Keep in Hospital isolation until the patient recovers and becomes negative for testing. To be discharged as per discharge guidelines. (Annexure-2)  
* NEGATIVE lab result: Keep in Hospital isolation until the patient recovers; After recovery, Home isolation for total 28 days from the day of arrival to India. | * Observation, Follow up and home isolation for total of 28 days from the day of arrival to India.  
* If becomes symptomatic during observation period, re-classify and follow the guidelines given for symptomatic cases |

Joint Director-CMD  
H&EWS, Bengaluru  
01/21/2020
Annexure -1

Lab testing Criteria for 2019-nCoV suspected travelers:

- Any passenger with a history of travel to or residence in the city of Wuhan, Hubei Province, China in the last 14 days, whether symptomatic or asymptomatic sample has to be collected & tested as per protocol.
- Any passenger with a history of travel to or residence in any city of China other than Wuhan City and other affected countries in the last 14 days, sample has to be collected & tested only if they are symptomatic.
- Any contact persons associated with positive lab confirmed 2019-nCoV and if having symptoms, only then sample has to be collected.
- Any health personnel associated with the 2019-nCoV infected persons develop symptoms, sample has to be collected.

Specimen collection details: (Adapted from the WHO guidelines on 2019-nCoV):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specimen type</th>
<th>Collection materials</th>
<th>Transport to Lab</th>
<th>Storage till testing</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nasopharyngeal and Oropharyngeal Swab</td>
<td>Dacron or polyester flocked swabs*</td>
<td>4 °C</td>
<td>≤5 days: 4 °C</td>
<td>The nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swabs should be placed in the same tube to increase the viral load.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>&gt;5 days: -70 °C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronchoalveolar lavage</td>
<td>sterile container*</td>
<td>4 °C</td>
<td>≤48 hours: 4 °C</td>
<td>There may be some dilution of pathogen, but still a worthwhile specimen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>&gt;48 hours: -70 °C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tracheal aspirate, nasopharyngeal aspirate or nasal wash</td>
<td>sterile container*</td>
<td>4 °C</td>
<td>≤48 hours: 4 °C</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>&gt;48 hours: -70 °C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sputum</td>
<td>sterile container</td>
<td>4 °C</td>
<td>≤48 hours: 4 °C</td>
<td>Ensure the material is from the lower respiratory tract</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>&gt;48 hours: -70 °C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tissue from biopsy or autopsy including from lung</td>
<td>sterile container with saline</td>
<td>4 °C</td>
<td>≤24 hours: 4 °C</td>
<td>Autopsy sample collection preferably to be avoided</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>&gt;24 hours: -70 °C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serum (2 samples – acute and convalescent)</td>
<td>Serum separator tubes (adults: collect 3-5 ml whole blood)</td>
<td>4 °C</td>
<td>≤5 days: 4 °C</td>
<td>Collect paired samples:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>&gt;5 days: -70 °C</td>
<td>• acute – first week of illness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• convalescent – 2 to 3 weeks later.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*For transport of samples for viral detection, use VTM (viral transport medium) containing antifungal and antibiotic supplements. Avoid repeated freezing and thawing of specimens.
*These protocols are subject to revision as and when new updates are made available by Govt. of India.

Joint Director CMD
Clinical samples of any suspect/probable case of nCOV will be sent for laboratory confirmation to designated laboratories. The case will be kept in isolation at health facility till the time of receipt of laboratory results and given symptomatic treatment as per existing guidelines. If the laboratory results for nCOV are negative, the discharge of such patients will be governed by his provisional/confirmed diagnosis and it is up to the treating physician to take a decision. The case shall still be monitored for 14 days after their last contact with a confirmed 2019-nCoV case. In case the laboratory results are positive for nCOV, the case shall be managed as per the confirmed case management protocol. The case shall be discharged only after evidence of chest radiographic clearance and viral clearance in respiratory samples after two specimens test negative for nCOV within a period of 24 hours.
Case Classification*

Suspect case

A. Patients with severe acute respiratory infection (fever, cough, and requiring admission to hospital), **AND** with no other etiology that fully explains the clinical presentation **AND** at least one of the following:
- a history of travel to or residence in the city of Wuhan, Hubei Province, China in the 14 days prior to symptom onset, or
- patient is a health care worker who has been working in an environment where severe acute respiratory infections of unknown etiology are being cared for.

B. Patients with any acute respiratory illness **AND** at least one of the following:
- close contact with a confirmed or probable case of 2019-nCoV in the 14 days prior to illness onset, or
- visiting or working in a live animal market in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China in the 14 days prior to symptom onset, or
- worked or attended a health care facility in the 14 days prior to onset of symptoms where patients with hospital-associated 2019-nCov infections have been reported.

Probable case:
Probable case: A suspect case for whom testing for 2019-nCoV is inconclusive or for whom testing was positive on a pan-coronavirus assay.

Confirmed case: A person with laboratory confirmation of 2019-nCoV infection, irrespective of clinical signs and symptoms.


Joint Director CMD
H&FWS, Bengaluru