COVID-19 Outbreak Control and Prevention State Cell

Health & Family Welfare Department

Government of Kerala

Addendum to Advisory on testing of expatriates screened positive for IgM at Airport (No: 31/F2/2020/Health- 25th June 2020)

NO: 31/F2/2020/Health- 2nd July 2020

All expatriates arriving from outside country to Kerala are being tested for COVID-19 at airport as per GO Rt No 380/2020/NORKA dated 24th June 2020. Advisory has been issued on 25th June 2020 for those found to be tested positive for IgM using Rapid antibody tests at airport.

Those tested IgM positive were subjected to RTPCR tests now. Minimum turnaround time for RTPCR is 6-7 hours. This has caused many inconveniences to the passengers who tested positive for IgM at airport. Rapid Antigen test kits are recommended by ICMR as a diagnostic test.

In this context following amendments have been done to the advisory issued on 25th June 2020.

1. **Clause No.6** – instead of RTPCR for confirmation, Rapid Antigen testing may be performed for all those who tested positive with IgM. Rapid antigen tests can give the results within 30 minutes. Detailed advisory on performing antigen testing has been issued (Advisory on performing rapid antigen diagnostics assay for COVID-19 dated 2nd July 2020).

2. Antigen testing may be performed at airport or at COVID Care Centres. Antigen postive traveller are COVID positive patients.

3. As a general protocol, all symptomatic traveller, even if Antigen negative need to be offered RTPCR testing.

4. As patients may find it convenient to get treatments from their own residential districts, following arrangements may be considered regarding transportation of patient.

5. Transportation of COVID positive Patients to Residential District

a. Those found to be positive at airport using an antigen test **AND** asymptomatic **AND** clinically and psychologically stable shall be transported directly to the COVID hospital in their residential districts in the special ambulances.

b. The Medical Officer in charge of Airport screening need to co-ordinate with the DSO and the COVID hospital to which the confirmed cases are being transferred and ensure that communications are clear.

c. Proper counselling needs to be given to the positive patients before referral.

d. Duly filled SRF forms (patient details with detailed address, 2 mobile numbers including one local number, COVID Jagratha ID] with test results entered need to be scanned and transferred electronically to the official email of DSO of the residential district.

e. Hardcopy of the same need to be put in sealed cover and handed over to the responsible officer in COVID Hospital of residential district through Ambulance driver. Copy of the same need to be kept with DSO of the airport district.

f. Medical Officer in Charge of Airport need to ensure that the referred patients have reached the COVID hospital with proper co-ordination.

g. Confirmed case belonging to same residential districts can be cohorted in a single vehicle with additional precautions including masks, social distancing and hand sanitisation.

Flow diagram regarding the screening and diagnostic tests at airport are attached as **Annexure 1.**

Principal Secretary

Fig 1: Schematic Diagram showing Screening and Testing at Airport

Expatriates at Airport

Symptomatic

Asymptomatic

Rapid Antibody Test

IgM Negative

IgM

Positive

Quarantine Protocol

Rapid Antigen Test

CFLTC/ COVID Hospital

Do RTPCR test

Negative

Positive

Quarantine Protocol

CFLTC/ COVID Hospital

Transfer to COVID hospitals of residential district.