

දුරකථන ) 011 2669192 , 011 2675011  
தொலைபேசி ) 011 2698507 , 011 2694033  
Telephone ) 011 2675449 , 011 2675280

ෆැක්ස් ) 011 2693866  
பெக்ஸ் ) 011 2693869  
Fax ) 011 2692913

විද්‍යුත් තැපෑ, ) postmaster@health.gov.lk  
மின்னஞ்சல் முகவரி )  
e-mail )

වෙබ් අඩවිය ) www.health.gov.lk  
இணையத்தளம் )  
website )



සුවසිරිපාය  
சுவசிரிபாய

SUWASIRIPAYA

මගේ අංකය )  
எனது இல )  
My No. )

ඔබේ අංකය )  
உமது இல )  
Your No. : )

දිනය ) 05.04.2020  
திகதி ) 05.04.2020  
Date )

සෞඛ්‍ය සහ දේශීය වෛද්‍ය සේවා අමාත්‍යාංශය  
சுகாதார மற்றும் சுதேச வைத்திய சேவைகள் அமைச்சு  
Ministry of Health and Indigenous Medical Services

To All Provincial Directors and Regional Directors of Health Services,  
All Heads of Institutions

**UPDATED INTERIM CASE DEFINITIONS ON COVID-19 AND ADVICE ON INITIAL MANAGEMENT OF PATIENTS (version dated 04.04.2020)**

The present recommendation is to isolate and test all clinically/epidemiologically suspected cases of COVID-19 infected patients.

**All patients with medical/surgical, obstetrics/gynecological or paediatric conditions should receive the usual standards of care in keeping with clinical status, in a designated area. Management of these patients should NOT be delayed under any circumstances pending COVID-19 test result.**

All confirmed cases **once stable** should be transferred to a designated COVID-19 Treatment Centre.

**Clinically Suspected Case:**

**A.** A person with ACUTE RESPIRATORY ILLNESS (with Cough, SOB, Sore throat; one or more of these) with a history of FEVER (at any point of time during this illness), returning to Sri Lanka from ANY COUNTRY within the last 14 days.

OR

**B.** A person with ACUTE RESPIRATORY ILLNESS (with Cough, SOB, Sore throat; one or more of these) AND having been in **close-contact\*** with a confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case during the last 14 days prior to onset of symptoms;

**\*Close-contact:** A person staying in an enclosed environment for >15 minutes (e.g. same household/workplace/social gatherings/travelling in same vehicle). OR who had direct physical contact.

OR

C. A person with ACUTE RESPIRATORY ILLNESS (with Cough, SOB, Sore throat; one or more of these) with a history of FEVER (at any point of time during this illness), with a **history of travel to or residence in a location designated as an area of high transmission of COVID-19** disease as defined by the Epidemiology Unit, MoH, during the 14 days prior to symptom onset.

OR

D. A patient with **acute pneumonia** (not explainable by any other aetiology) regardless of travel or contact history as decided by the treating Consultant.

- Management of such patients should NOT be delayed under any circumstances.
- Patients should receive the standards of care in keeping with the known underlying cause in a designated area (ETU/isolation unit/designated respiratory unit/designated ward-HDU/ICU).
- A sample for the PCR test obtained and sent (**not the patient**) to a designated laboratory.
- Once the result is available, if positive, the patient (once stable) can be transferred to a designated COVID-19 treatment center.

OR

E. A patient with fever and in **respiratory distress** as evident by RR>30 per minute, SpO2 <90% on room air, regardless of travel or contact history and **without a definable cause**, as decided by the treating Consultant.

- Management of such patients should NOT be delayed under any circumstances.
- Patients should receive the standards of care in keeping with the clinical condition in a designated area (ETU/isolation unit/designated respiratory unit/designated ward-HDU/ICU).
- A sample for the PCR test obtained and sent (not the patient) to a designated laboratory.
- Once the result is available, if positive, the patient (once stable) can be transferred to a designated COVID-19 treatment center.

F. Any person **irrespective of the presence of symptoms**, with an epidemiological link to a confirmed COVID-19 case who needs testing, as decided by the Regional Epidemiologist or the Central Epidemiology Unit.

**Confirmed Case:**

A person with laboratory confirmation of COVID-19 infection, irrespective of clinical signs and symptoms.

**Disposition of cases:**

### Disposition of suspected cases

- All patients fitting to the above suspected case definitions (A, B, C) should be admitted and transferred by ambulance to the closest designated hospital (refer updates on the list of designated hospitals) for confirmatory testing and management. **This should be done only after stabilizing the patient and in prior consultation with the respective designated hospital**, adhering to necessary infection prevention and control (IPC) precautions.
- In case of **D and E**, patient should be managed in the same hospital in a designated area (ETU/isolation unit/designated respiratory unit/designated ICU). A sample for the PCR test obtained and sent (not the patient) to the designated laboratories. Once the result is available, if positive, the patient (once stable) can be transferred to a designated COVID-19 treatment center.
- In case of **F**, all COVID-19 positive individuals will be admitted to a designated treatment facility.

### Disposition of confirmed cases

All confirmed cases should be transferred to a COVID-19 Treatment Centre.

This is to be applied in all hospitals/settings, including those in the private sector.



.....  
Dr. Anil Jasinghe  
Director General of Health Services

Cc:

Hon. Minister of Health  
Secretary of Health  
All relevant DDGs and Directors  
Presidents of relevant Professional Colleges