



**COVID-19 (nCorona) Virus Outbreak Control and Prevention State Cell  
Health & Family Welfare Department  
Government of Kerala**

No 31/F2/2020/Health-

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**COVID-19 - ADVISORY FOR QUARANTINE AND TESTING OF PRISONERS  
WHO ARE NEWLY INCARCERATED OR RETURNING TO JAIL AFTER  
PAROLE**

1. World Health organisation has declared COVID-19 as a pandemic. Kerala has been taking all measures to contain the outbreak through strict surveillance and infection control measures.
2. In order to ensure there is no spread of COVID19 in Jails the following guidelines have been issued for screening of prisoners who are newly incarcerated or returning to jail after parole in the state.

1.	Asymptomatic prisoner brought to jail after parole	Pool testing by rRTPCR. To be kept in a single separate cell in jail till results are obtained. To follow strict masking, hand hygiene and environmental hygiene.
2.	Symptomatic [ILI] prisoner brought to jail after parole	Pool testing by rRTPCR. To be kept in a single separate cell in jail till prisoner becomes asymptomatic. To follow strict masking, hand hygiene and environmental hygiene.
3.	Asymptomatic new prisoner brought to jail	Pool testing by rRTPCR. To be kept in a single separate cell in jail till results are obtained. To follow strict masking, hand hygiene and environmental hygiene
4	Symptomatic [ILI] new prisoner brought to jail	Pool testing by rRTPCR. To be kept in a single separate cell in jail till prisoner becomes asymptomatic. To follow strict masking, hand hygiene and environmental hygiene.
5	Asymptomatic prisoner who is on parole with epidemiological link	14 days strict institutional quarantine.

	[covid-19 suspect] in last 14 days.	
6	Symptomatic prisoner on parole with epidemiological link [covid-19 suspect] in last 14 days.	Test by RTPCR. 14 days strict institutional isolation.

3. In order to ensure good quality quarantine in Jail detailed instructions are given attached as **Annexure A**.

  
Principal Secretary

## **Annexure: Ensuring Good Quality Quarantine in Jail**

### **Essential Criteria for Quarantine/ Isolation**

1. The incoming prisoner under quarantine should be put in an independent cell himself/herself to a bath attached room inside the Jail. Nobody else would use that room or bathroom till the quarantine period is over.
2. If there is limitation to the above arrangements, after every use of bathroom, the user should be asked to clean it properly.
3. The individual under quarantine under any circumstances should never come in contact with other inmates in the jail.

### **General Precautions to be taken by prisoner in Quarantine**

- Restrict to the cell identified for quarantine.
- Never come out from the room even for dining. If there is limitation to do such dining arrangements, then do time structuring for all new incoming prisoners to have food during fixed timing for dining by maintaining social distance.
- All dining plates should be handled by the individual and cleaned after the use. Nobody else should handle the same.
- Always cover the nose and mouth using mask while coughing or sneezing.
- Never come in contact with a person within 2 meters
- Attend calls from health authorities and respond positively. Keep in touch with the Jail Health authority and local public health authority if any symptoms running nose, cough, fever, breathlessness develop.
- Jail authorities to watch out for any symptoms and inform DISHA helpline number 1056 or Medical Officer of Primary Health Centre over phone if he/she develops any symptoms even if mild.
- Never go out of the cell without permission of the authority even if it is for medical reasons.

### **Precautions to be taken by Jail authorities – care taker**

- Jail authorities should wear proper surgical face mask and gloves
- Dispose off mask and gloves immediately after single use, never reuse.
- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water immediately after interacting with prisoner who have come in jail in the last 14 days.
- Do not touch any other surfaces inside the room including door knobs, switches or tables.

- Watch for symptoms of prisoner and inform to local public health authority if any symptoms develop even if mild.
- As a good practice frequently wash hands and avoid touching face, nose and eyes.

#### **Precautions to be taken by other visiting family members if any**

- Preferably other family members who are elderly or any member with morbidity need not be permitted to meet the prisoner till quarantine period is over.
- All visiting members should follow frequent handwashing using soap and water.
- Family members should never touch the frequent touched surfaces like door knobs or switches touched by the individual in quarantine
- Watch for symptoms, inform local public health authority even if mild any member develops mild symptoms.

#### **Waste Collection**

Keep three buckets for waste collection inside the room

1. Soiled linen, clothes, towel- disinfect with bleach solution, wash and dry in sun
2. Soiled masks, tissue, pad etc- burn it
3. Food and other general waste - Deep burial