GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

No. HFW/248/ACS/2020

Karnataka Government Secretariat
Vikasa Soudha,
Bengaluru, dated: 13.07.2020

CIRCULAR

Subject: Quarantine and testing of healthcare workers following ‘high risk exposure’ to COVID positive person.

In view of increase in number of COVID-19 cases in the State, more and more healthcare workers are getting exposed to COVID-19 infection. In this context, to ensure safety and continual availability of health care workers both in hospital and community settings, the following guidelines are issued.

Quarantine:

- Following a ‘high risk exposure’ to a COVID-19 positive case, the healthcare worker shall be advised home quarantine for 7 days.
- In case home quarantine is not feasible, institutional quarantine shall be arranged by government/private health institution.

Testing:

- If the healthcare worker is symptomatic, the person shall be immediately tested for COVID-19
- If healthcare worker is asymptomatic, the person shall be tested for COVID-19 on 7th day after high risk exposure to a COVID positive case.
- If the test result is negative, such healthcare workers shall be allowed to resume duty.

*High risk exposure:

- Had direct physical contact with COVID positive person including physical examination without PPE.
- Anyone in close proximity (within 1 meter/3 feet) of the confirmed case without appropriate PPE.
- Accidentally has come in contact with body fluids of the patient like respiratory secretions, blood, vomit, saliva, urine, faeces, etc.
- Touched or cleaned the linens, clothes, or utensils of the COVID-19 positive person.
- Lives in the same household as the COVID-19 positive person.
- Passenger in close proximity of within 1 meter and travelling for more than 6 hours duration with a symptomatic person, who later tested positive for COVID-19.

Signed

Additional Chief Secretary to Government Health and Family Welfare Department

Copy to:
1. Commissioner-BBMP
2. Commissioner-Health and Family Welfare Services, Bengaluru
3. Mission Director-NHM, Bengaluru
4. Deputy Commissioners of all Districts
5. CEOs of ZP of all Districts
6. Director- HFWS, Bengaluru
7. Director, Medical Education Department
8. District Health and Family Welfare Officers/ District Surgeons of Bengaluru Urban

Copy for kind information to:

1. Chief Secretary to GoK, Vidhana Soudha
2. ACS to Hon. Chief Minister, Vidhana Soudha
3. Principal Secretary, Medical Education