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சுகாதார அமைச்சு
Ministry of Health

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எனது இல) DGHS/COVID-19/347/2021
My No.)

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Your No.:)

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திகதி) 2021.03.18
Date)

All Deputy Director Generals
Director, Quarantine
Chief Epidemiologist
Provincial Directors of Health Services
Regional Directors of Health Services
Regional Epidemiologists
Medical Officers of Health
Medical Officer, Airport Health Offices

Mandatory home quarantine for Sri Lankans or Foreign Nationals currently residing in Sri Lanka who are undertaking an important State visit or Official visit by Sri Lankan government officials/business visit for major investments under bio secure travel bubble

A) Eligibility

- (1) Sri Lankans and Foreign Nationals **currently residing in Sri Lanka** should get the permission from relevant authorities (Foreign Ministry, Civil Aviation Authority etc) to enter into Sri Lanka after travelling overseas.
- (2) Applicant who requests for mandatory home quarantine upon return from Director General of Health Services (DGHS) should fulfill the following criteria.
 1. Should be a Sri Lankan or Foreign National **currently residing in Sri Lanka**
 2. Maximum duration between the date of departure from Sri Lanka and date of arrival to Sri Lanka should be seven days.
 3. Should travel within **bio secure travel bubble** practicing recommended COVID-19 preventive measures throughout the visit as described in Annex 01.
 4. Sri Lankans who are on State Visits or Sri Lankan Government Officials on Official Visits can request for mandatory home quarantine upon return
 5. Both Sri Lankans or Foreign Nationals attending business visits related to major investments can request for mandatory home quarantine upon return. If attending for business visit for major investments, should produce a letter issued by the organization in overseas indicating the purpose of the visit and undertaking to ensure the adherence to bio secure travel bubble during the overseas stay.
 6. The residence where undergoing home quarantine in Sri Lanka after return should have a separate room and a wash room facility that will not be shared by others during the mandatory home quarantine period.

B) Process to obtain the approval

(1) In order to obtain the approval for mandatory quarantine after return, the eligible officer/foreign national currently residing in Sri Lanka should **email** a request with following details to the DGHS (dghs@health.gov.lk) with a copy to the Director, Quarantine (approvalquarantinemoh@gmail.com) at least **two weeks prior** to the **date of departure** from Sri Lanka.

1. Full name
2. Data page of the passport
3. Passport Number
4. Permanent address in Sri Lanka
5. Address of the residence in Sri Lanka where the intended residence for home quarantine is located (if different from permanent address)
6. Letter from the area Medical Officer of Health (MOH) where the intended residence for home quarantine is located, certifying that the residence is suitable for home quarantine.
7. Name of the visiting country
8. Address in the foreign country
9. Official approval letter from the work place in Sri Lanka
10. Official letter of invitation from foreign country
11. Letter issued by the organization in overseas indicating the purpose of the visit and undertaking to ensure the adherence to bio secure travel bubble during the overseas stay.
12. Date of departure
13. Date of arrival
14. Travel itinerary with details of all transits.
15. COVID-19 vaccination status: Copy of the vaccination certificate (vaccination certificate should be in English language and if not in English, need a certified copy of English language translation of the certificate), The certificate should contain the Date/s of vaccination and Name of the vaccine.

C) Approval by the Director General of Health Services

1. Granting approval will be considered case by case basis subjected to the conditions stipulated by the Director General of Health Services.
2. The decision will be communicated to the officer concerned via the email provided.

D) Procedures to be followed after arrival

1. Should submit the filled Health Declaration Form to the Airport Health Office at Health counters at the arriving airport.
2. After getting the immigration, custom and security clearances, passenger can leave the airport based on the approved letter of Director General of Health Services who is the Proper Authority for the whole of Sri Lanka under Quarantine and Prevention of Diseases Ordinance No 3 of 1897.

E) Procedure to be followed during travel to home

1. Should arrange own transport method to travel to their residence from arriving airport in Sri Lanka.

2. A known person (adhering to recommended personal protective measures) should drive the vehicle. Should not use public transport or any other transport method or any other driver for this purpose.
3. Driver / passenger should adhere to recommended personal protective measures.
4. If the driver / passenger travelling in the vehicle become febrile or displays symptoms of COVID-19, PCR test should be done immediately and results should be submitted to relevant units as indicated above.
5. They should directly travel to their approved residence from the arriving airport without getting down at any place in between.

F) Procedure to be followed after arriving to the residence

1. Mandatory home quarantine should be done under the guidance and supervision of the area MOH for completion of seven days.
2. Based on the assurance of implementation of bio secure bubble throughout the travel and the relevance of the officer concerned, decision will be taken on number of days of quarantine in Sri Lanka, case by case by Director General of Health Services
3. Immediately after arrival to the residence, should promptly inform to the area MOH by telephone or email.
4. Area MOH should email the details (Name of the traveller, Passport Number, date and time of arrival to Sri Lanka, address of the home/residence, contact telephone number, date of arrival to home) to the Regional Epidemiologist and Epidemiology Unit (chepid@sltnet.lk and samithag@hotmail.com) of the Ministry of Health.
5. Should do a COVID-19 PCR test within 24 hours after arrival (**Day One**) from a Health Ministry approved private sector laboratory/ state laboratory. Sampling for PCR by a visiting team from the private laboratory to the residence. If not, should use private transport (self-driven or driven by a known person wearing appropriate Personal protective Equipment) to attend the private hospital laboratory/state laboratory by adhering to COVID-19 preventive measures. State laboratories are only for state visits/official visit by government officials.
6. Should be confined to the residence until the PCR test result is available.
7. If the Day 1 PCR test result is negative, test report should be submitted to area Medical Officer of Health.
8. **Should undergo mandatory home quarantine until completion of seven days**
9. Should undergo repeat PCR on the **Day Seven** after arrival to Sri Lanka from a Health Ministry approved private laboratory/ state laboratory and submit the report to area MOH.
10. If febrile or displays symptoms of COVID-19, a PCR test should be done immediately and results should be submitted to relevant units as indicated above.
11. If the driver of the vehicle becomes febrile or displays symptoms of COVID-19, a PCR test should be done immediately and results should be submitted to the area MOH.
12. Should practice recommended COVID-19 preventive measures during the home quarantine at residence. If the COVID-19 PCR test is negative on Day one and Day seven, area MOH should take measures to release from on completion of Day Seven Quarantine considering the adherence to bio secure travel bubble during the travel.

(G) If the person has completed recommended doses of COVID-19 vaccination and two weeks of completion of vaccination

1. On arrival, should submit the filled Health Declaration Form to the Airport Health Office counters at the arriving airport.
2. On arrival, should produce the original copy of the vaccination certificate together with a certified copy of English language translation (if the certificate is not in English language) to the Airport Health Officer.
3. Are allowed to travel home by using private transport driven by a known person wearing appropriate Personnel Protective Equipment
4. Should not use public transport or any other transport method or any other driver for this purpose.
5. Immediately after arrival to their home, should promptly inform to the area MOH by telephone or email.
6. Should do a COVID-19 PCR test within 24 hours after arrival (**Day One**) from a Health Ministry approved private sector laboratory/state sector laboratory. Sampling for PCR by a visiting team from the laboratory to the home/ residence. If not, should use private transport (self-driven or driven by a known person wearing appropriate Personal Protective Equipment) to attend the private hospital/state sector laboratory by adhering to COVID-19 preventive measures. State sector laboratories are only for state visits/official visit by government officials.
7. Should be confined to the home/residence until the PCR test result is available.
8. If the Day 1 PCR test result is negative, test report should be submitted to area Medical Officer of Health to exit from quarantine.
9. After informing the area MOH, as the traveller has completed the vaccination and having negative PCR report on Day one of arrival, traveller need not be quarantined further.
10. Area MOH should email the details (Name of the traveller, Passport Number, Date and time of arrival to Sri Lanka, address of the home/residence, contact telephone number, Date of arrival to home) to the Regional Epidemiologist and Epidemiology Unit (chepid@sltnet.lk and samithag@hotmail.com) of the Ministry of Health.
11. All travellers should undergo **repeat PCR** on the **Day Seven** after arrival to Sri Lanka from a Health Ministry approved private sector laboratory/ state sector laboratory.
12. If febrile or displays symptoms of COVID-19, should inform promptly to area MOH
13. All PCR test results should be promptly informed to the area MOH and area MOH should email to the Regional Epidemiologist and Epidemiology Unit (to the email address given above) as soon as they are available.
14. If the PCR test result is positive, should inform the area MOH and follow the treatment protocol of Ministry of Health

(H) Procedures to be followed by the area Medical Officer of Health

1. On request of the Sri Lankans or foreign nationals **currently residing in Sri Lanka** who are undertaking an important state visit or official visit by Sri Lankan government officers /business visit for major investments, MOH or the Public Health Inspector (PHI) of the area should visit the residence and assess whether the condition of the proposed home is suitable for home quarantine safely. The minimum criteria for eligibility are that there are separate bed room with wash room facility exclusively to be used by the returned traveller.
2. The area MOH should submit his/her observation and recommendation in writing to the Director General of Health Services (dghs@health.gov.lk) with copies to the

Director/ Quarantine, the applicant, Regional Epidemiologist and Regional Director of Health Services.

3. During the quarantine period up to the availability of Day Seven PCR report, the area MOH/ area PHI should monitor the quarantining by the returned traveller.
4. Any breach of the quarantine should be immediately informed to the Regional Epidemiologist, Epidemiology Unit (chepid@sltnet.lk and samithag@hotmail.com) and Quarantine Unit (approvalquarantinemoh@gmail.com).
5. If the Day One and Day Seven PCR test reports are negative, area MOH should take measures to release from Quarantine.
6. At the end of the quarantine period, the area MOH should issue the Certificate of Completion mentioning that the traveller is released from Quarantine after completion of seven days with the availability negative reports on Day one and Day seven considering the adherence to bio secure travel bubble throughout the travel

Violation of stipulated conditions will result in immediate transfer to a quarantine centre/hotel and rejection of future requests for mandatory home quarantine by the applicant.

This guideline will be reviewed depending on the COVID-19 case situation of the country and the global situation

My letter No. DGHS/COVID-19/354/2021 dated 2021.03.10 on Public health measures to be adopted by Sri Lankans or foreign nationals residing in Sri Lanka who are undertaking an important state visit/ official visit/business visit under bio secure travel bubble is hereby cancelled.



Dr Asela Gunawardena
Director General of Health Services

Dr. ASELA GUNAWARDENA
Director General of Health Services
Ministry of Health
"Suwasiripaya"
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Colombo 10.

Copies:

Secretary, Ministry of Health
Secretary/ Foreign Ministry
Additional Secretary (Public Health Services/ Medical Services)
Head, National Operation Centre for Prevention of COVID - 19 Outbreak
Controller General, Department of Immigration and Emigration
Director General of Customs
Director General/Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka
Chairman/Airport Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited

Guidelines on visit under bio secure travel bubble

1. All participants should stay in a designated hotel during the stay at overseas adhering to COVID-19 preventive measures including use of face masks, physical distancing, hand sanitation and use non-contact greeting methods throughout the travel
2. Use of common areas in the hotel is not permitted and in room dining should be arranged
3. Persons adhering to the bio secure travel bubble are not permitted go to public places other than to meeting/discussion venues.
4. No person will be allowed to leave the bio secure travel bubble. They will have to stay together and travel together in a designated vehicle provided by the organizers.
5. Dedicated vehicles and drivers should be used to transport all individuals. These vehicles should not be used for transport of persons outside the bio secure travel bubble.
6. No person in a bio secure travel bubble shall have any physical contact with anyone outside his/her bubble at any time. (during accommodation, travelling, meetings, in the venue etc.)
7. In case if meetings are conducted,
 - a. Everyone attending the meeting shall wear masks
 - b. Sanitize hands before entering the meeting venue
 - c. Shall keep the distance of one meter with each other all the time
8. The passengers should arrive with a negative COVID-19 PCR test done within 96 hours of departure from overseas.
9. If there are COVID-19 positive persons detected in the bio secure travel bubble, returning travellers should undergo 14 days of mandatory quarantine even if the passenger has a negative PCR test result done within 96 hours of departure.
10. Quarantine measures of such travellers will be decided by Ministry of Health upon return.