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சுவசிரிபாய
SUWASIRIPAYA

මගේ අංකය)
எனது இல)
My No.)

මගේ අංකය)
உமது இல)
Your No. : Epid/400/2019/2019/nCoV

දිනය)
திகதி)
Date) 24th February 2020

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சுகாதார மற்றும் சுதேச வைத்திய சேவைகள் அமைச்சு
Ministry of Health and Indigenous Medical Services

All Provincial Directors of Health Services,
All Regional Directors of Health Services,

Follow up of Sri Lankan Nationals and other Foreign Nationals returning from high risk areas for ongoing Corona Virus (COVID-19) Transmission

Due to the reported ongoing community transmission of COVID-19 (Corona virus) in Republic of Korea the Ministry of Health has decided to assess and follow up health status of all the locals and foreigners arriving from the **Republic of Korea** also for 14 days in addition to the Chinese returnees.

Therefore it is essential to follow up the Sri Lankan nationals and other foreign nationals returning from high risk areas for ongoing Corona Virus Transmission (e.g.- China, Republic of Korea) for a period of 14 days from the time of their arrival in Sri Lanka.

The Epidemiology unit will regularly provide a list of the Sri Lankan nationals and other nationals returning to the country from the risk areas through the Regional Epidemiologists to the respective Medical Officers of Health.

It is needed to get the PHI of the area to visit the house regularly up till 14 days. For the follow up activities the annexed follow up sheet should be used.

The following points should be adhered to by the health staff during the visit to the house.

1. It is essential to follow up the returnees from high risk areas for 14 days. (Approximate incubation period). Health staff is essentially duty bound to cooperate without any excuse.
2. MOH should know the total number of returnees in the area and update the Epidemiology unit/ RDHS office or any other necessary institution when required.
3. At the time of the PHI's visit to the house it is recommended to do it in a diplomatic and organized way which will cause no fear or social phobia to the occupants.
4. There is no need to wear a face mask by the PHI when visiting returnees as there is no indication to do so.


5. In case of a returnee developing sore throat, cough and fever (symptoms of new Corona virus) the PHI, MOH, RE should be informed immediately.
6. To give proper health education to the returnees and make available as a facilitatory person.
 - ❖ Wearing masks is a social responsibility of the individual returning from high risk country to minimize transmission (as there is a possibility of asymptomatic transmission).
 - ❖ It is not essential for the family members/co-workers to wear masks.
 - ❖ If there are provisions the person should stay in a separate room.
 - ❖ Avoid public places as much as possible. e.g:- festive celebrations, parties, temples, churches, markets and all other places of public gatherings.
 - ❖ To be away from high risk groups such as old people, young children, and immune compromised persons as much as possible as they come under the vulnerable group.
 - ❖ To have personal hygiene and cough etiquettes as advised per circular No. DDG (PHS)/DO2/12-9/2019/10 Interim summary Guidelines for Clinical management of patients with novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV).
7. All MOOH should inform the Epidemiology unit regarding each student by the end of 14 days of follow up after arrival, using the attached format.

All other foreign nationals returning from high risk areas (e.g – China, Republic of Korea) also need to be regularly followed up by the Public Health Inspector of the area based on the information provided by the Epidemiology unit to assess the health status and provide information specified above.

If your MOH area has projects with significant number of foreign nationals who have come from high risk areas within last 14 days they need to be followed up during the approximate incubation period using the same instructions.

Please bring the contents of this letter to all REE and MOOH of the area and ensure adherence to correct procedures to be followed.

Your kind early attention in this regard during the country emergency situation is greatly appreciated.


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Dr. Anil Jasinghe
Director General of Health Services

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