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சுவசிரிபாய

SUWASIRIPAYA

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சுகாதார அமைச்சு
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திகதி) 15 /10/2021
Date)

DDG/NHSL

DDG/NH Kandy

All Provincial Directors of Health Services

All Regional Directors of Health Services

Directors of all Hospitals

Medical Superintendents of all Hospitals

Chief Medical Officer of Health, Colombo Municipal Council

All Medical Officers of Health

Screening and testing strategy for COVID-19 for employees in workplaces

Considering the current COVID-19 transmission status in the country it has been decided to revise the protocol for screening and testing for COVID-19 in workplaces with effect from 15th October 2021.

Circulars on “Workplace testing strategy for COVID-19” dated 30th November 2020 and “Revised screening and laboratory testing strategy for COVID-19 for employees in workplaces – First revision” dated 14th March 2021 are hereby cancelled.

Following sections of the “Revised Guidelines on Laboratory Testing Strategy for COVID-19 dated 9th June 2021 are amended as follows.

4.2 .c Procedure for returning to work for close contacts (First line contacts)

(i) With the index case **outside the household**

- Fully vaccinated employees identified as close contacts (first line contacts) due to exposures outside the home can return to work with a **negative RAT result done on day 10** from the last exposure to the COVID-19 positive person.

- Partially vaccinated or unvaccinated employees identified as close contacts (first line contacts) due to exposures outside the home can return to work with a **negative RT-PCR result done on day 10** from the last exposure to the COVID-19 positive person.
- Irrespective of the status of vaccination, employees identified as close contacts (first line contacts) due to exposures outside the home can return to work after 14 days from the last exposure to the COVID-19 positive person. **No testing is necessary if they remain asymptomatic.**

(ii) With index case **in the household**

- Fully vaccinated employees identified as close contacts (first line contacts) can be released from home quarantine to report for work after completion of 14 days (since the date of onset of symptoms of the index case or from the date of first positive RT-PCR/RAT result of the index case) with a negative RAT or RT-PCR done on day 14.

If there are individuals developing symptoms subsequently in the same household, the 14 days of quarantine should be calculated from the date of onset of symptoms/test positivity of the last symptomatic/positive case in the household.

- All employees identified as close contacts (first line contacts) who are not fully vaccinated can be released from quarantine after 21 days (since the date of onset of symptoms of the index case or from the date of first positive RT-PCR/RAT result of the index case). Exit RT/PCR or RAT is not required.

If there are individuals developing symptoms subsequently in the same household, the 21 days of quarantine should be calculated from the date of onset of symptoms/test positivity of the last symptomatic/positive case in the household.

4.3 Testing of asymptomatic employees for routine surveillance

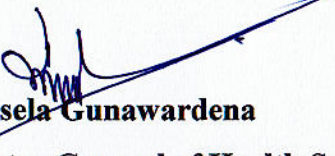
Routine asymptomatic testing of employees expected to be carried out by the management of workplaces using Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) on a weekly basis is discontinued.

However, the Medical Officers of Health are requested to carryout asymptomatic testing of employees in workplaces for routine surveillance

purposes in consultation with the Provincial/District Consultant Community Physicians and Regional Epidemiologist.

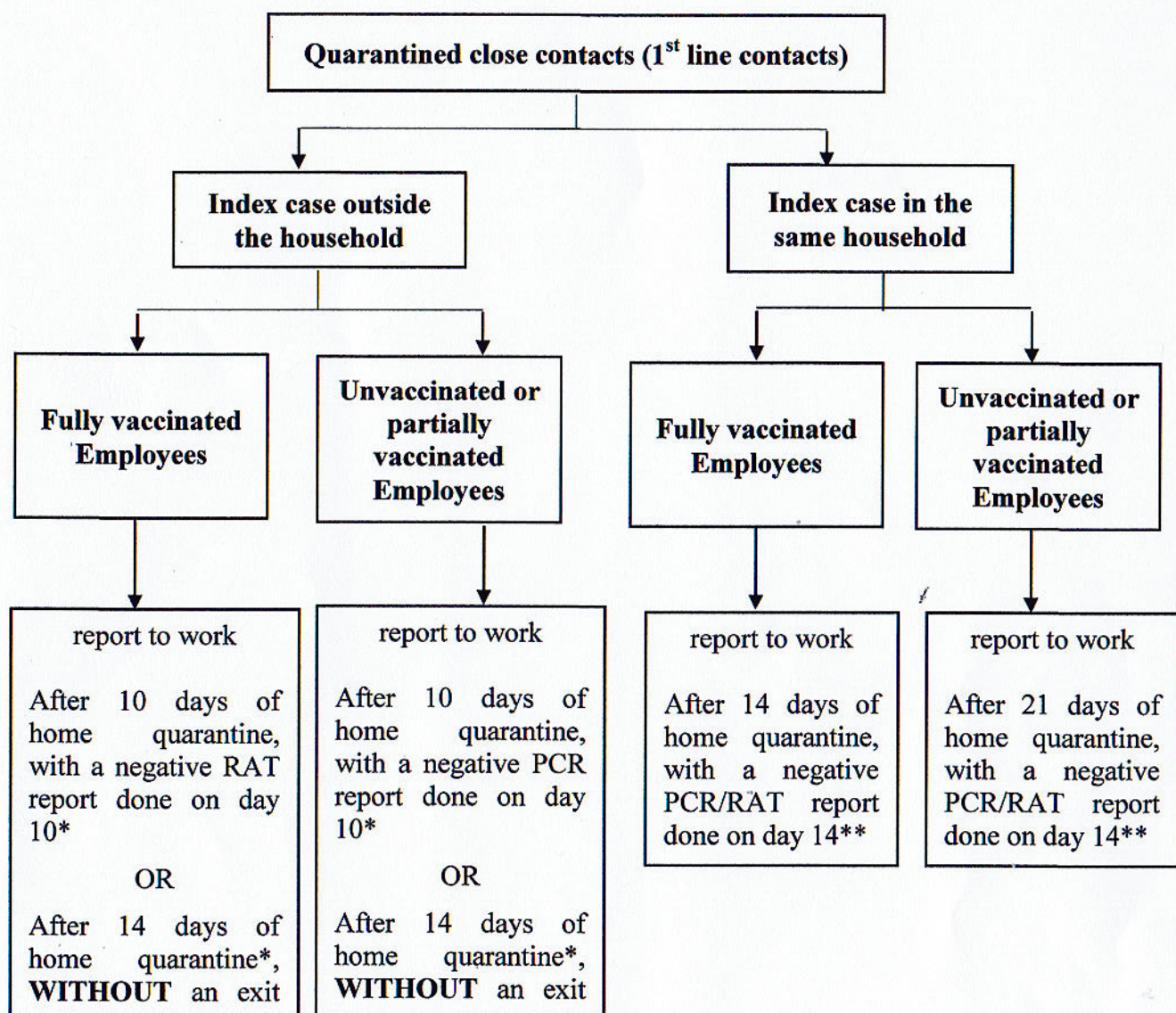
Further, sections 4.1, 4.2a and 4.2b of the "Revised Guidelines on Laboratory Testing Strategy for COVID-19 dated 9th June 2021 are unrevised and need to be adhered to as in that circular.

Please ensure that the content of this document is circulated to all relevant categories of staff, in order to take appropriate action.


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Additional Secretary (Public Health Services/Medical Services)
Deputy Director General (PHS I)
Deputy Director General (LS)
Deputy Director General (E&OH&FS)
Chief Epidemiologist

Figure I: Exit strategy for close contacts (1st line contacts)

* from the last exposure to the COVID-19 positive person

** from the date of onset of symptoms or first positive RT-PCR/RAT result of the index case

NB: If the index case is in the same household, the number of days that need to be quarantined should be calculated from the date of symptoms/test positivity of the last symptomatic /positive case in the household