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COMMISSIONERATE Health and Family Welfare Service

No: NVBDCP / EST7A / COVID 19 / 2020-21

Date:23.12.2020

Circular

Subject: Standard Operating Procedure for surveillance and response in the context of new variant of SARS-CoV-2 virus detected in United Kingdom

- Reference:**
1. SOP from MoHFW-GOI regarding epidemiological surveillance and response in the context of new variant of SARS-CoV-2 virus detected in United Kingdom dated 22.12.2020.
 2. As per the discussions in the Meeting held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare and Medical Education, GoK, Dated: 23.12.2020.

1. Introduction:

A new variant of SARS- CoV 2 virus [Variant Under Investigation (VUI)-20212/01] has been reported by the Government of United Kingdom (UK) to World Health Organization (WHO). This variant is estimated by European Center for Disease Control (ECDC) to be more transmissible and affecting younger population. This variant is defined by a set of 17 changes or mutations. One of the most significant is an N501Y mutation in the spike protein that the virus uses to bind to the human ACE2 receptor. Changes in this part of the spike protein may result in the virus becoming more infectious and spreading more easily between people.

2. Scope :

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) describes the activities to be undertaken at the point of entry (i.e. International airports at Bengaluru and Mangaluru; Mangaluru and Karwar seaports) and in the community for all international passengers who have travelled from or transited through UK in the past 4 weeks (from 25th November to 23rd December 2020). Any reference to testing in this SOP implies RT-PCR testing only.

3. Actions to be taken at International Airports/Seaports

- All international travellers as described in the scope above will be required to declare as per existing procedure, their travel history (of past 14 days) and fill up the Self Declaration Form to be screened for COVID-19.

- The flights from UK stand suspended temporarily from 23rd December till 31st December 2020 or till further orders. All the passengers coming from UK during the intervening period from 21st to 23rd December 2020 shall be subjected to the following process:
 - 3.1 KIAL Bengaluru, Mangaluru airport, Mangaluru seaport and Karwar seaport shall ensure that all passengers travelling from or transiting through airports in UK and disembarking in India would be subjected to RT-PCR test on arrival. RT-PCR test shall be done for all such passengers on arrival even if they are carrying negative test report.
 - 3.2 In case of a positive sample, it is recommended that spike gene-based RT-PCR test should also be performed by an appropriate laboratory.
 - 3.3 Passengers testing positive shall be isolated in an institutional isolation facility in a separate (isolation) unit co-ordinated by the respective District Health Authorities/BBMP. They should earmark specific facilities for such isolation and treatment. All passengers testing positive shall not be allowed for home isolation irrespective of symptoms till genomic sequencing is completed. Discharge from isolation facility/hospital shall be as mentioned in 3.4.2
 - 3.4 All testing labs are hereby instructed to send the positive samples to InStem (NCBS) / NIMHANS, Bengaluru for genomic sequencing.
 - 3.4.1 If the report of these quenching is consistent with the current SARS-CoV-2 virus genome circulating in the country; the ongoing treatment protocol including home isolation/treatment at facility level as per case severity may be followed.
 - 3.4.2 If the genomic sequencing indicates the presence of new variant of SARS-CoV-2 then the patient will continue to remain in a separate isolation unit. While necessary treatment as per the existing protocol will be given, the patient shall be tested on 14th day, after having tested positive in the initial test. In case the sample is found positive on 14th day, further sample may be taken until his two consecutive samples taken 24 hours apart are tested negative.
 - 3.5 Those who are found negative on testing with RT-PCR at the airport/seaport would be advised strict quarantine at home for 14 days and followed up as detailed in para 5.
 - 3.6 The concerned airlines shall ensure that prior to check-in, the traveller is explained about this SOP. In-flight announcements must also be made explaining the relevant information to the passengers. Relevant information in this regard shall be prominently displayed in arrival area and waiting area of the airports.

3.7 Adequate arrangements for passengers waiting for their RT-PCR test results duly following effective isolation may also be made at the airports/seaports in conjunction with the airport/sea port authorities.

4. SOP for data received from Bureau of Immigration (BOI)

4.1 The State-wise passenger manifest of the flights from UK landing at various International airports in India for the past 4 weeks (from 25th November 2020 to 23rd December 2020) shall be conveyed by the Bureau of Immigration to State Government/Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP). The data of manifests provided by Bureau of Immigration will also be supplemented by the online Self-declaration Forms available on 'AIR SUVIDHA' portal

4.2 This data should be immediately conveyed to DCs / Commissioner-BBMP and DSOs of respective districts for follow-up through surveillance teams.

5. SOP for Surveillance by Districts administration/ BBMP

5.1 All the contacts* (without any exception) of those travellers who arrived at various airports on 21st-23rd December, 2020 and tested positive would be subjected to 'institutional quarantine' in separate quarantine centres and would be tested on Day 0 and Day 7 of most recent contact with COVID positive traveller (or earlier if the passenger develops any symptoms suggestive of COVID-19). Contacts testing positive shall be subjected to activities mentioned in Para 3.3

(*Contacts of the suspect case are the co-passengers seated in the same row, 3 rows in front and 3 rows behind along with identified cabin crew)

5.2 The list of travellers (travelling between 21st-23rd December) who are found RT-PCR negative at airport testing will be shared with respective district surveillance officers facilitated by APHO/state surveillance unit. They shall be advised for quarantine at home and tested as per ICMR guidelines (or earlier if the passenger develops any symptoms suggestive of COVID-19). Their monitoring should be ensured by respective district administrations/BBMP. Those found positive shall be subjected to activities mentioned in para-3.

5.3 Those international travellers from UK who arrived in Karnataka from 25th November to 8th December 2020 (1st & 2nd week from 25th November) should be contacted by District Surveillance Officers and advised to self-monitor their health. If anyone amongst them develops symptoms, they will be tested by RT PCR as detailed in para-3.



5.3.1 If tested positive, genetic sequencing will be done. If the results are consistent with current circulating SARS-CoV2, action as contained in para-3 will be followed.

5.3.2. If the results of genomic sequencing are consistent with new variant, then action contained in para 3.4.2 will be followed.

5.4 The list of international travellers who arrived in India, as described in the scope above, between 9th December to 23rd December (3rd & 4th week) will be shared with respective District Surveillance Officers for daily follow up till 14 days after their arrival in India.

5.4.1 For all such travellers District Surveillance Officer shall facilitate testing (irrespective of previous testing at the place of origin or at the airport of arrival) with RT-PCR. In case the passengers have moved to locations outside the city of arrival, intimation should be sent to the concerned District/ State for needful as above.

- a. Those who test positive shall be isolated in an institutional isolation facility in a separate (isolation) unit by the respective State health authorities and necessary action as in para 3.3 will be followed.
- b. If the genomic sequencing indicates the new variant of SARS-CoV-2 then action as in para 3.4.2 will be followed.

5.5 Passenger will be provided following advice during first visit/contact by health teams.

5.5.1 You will also receive daily calls/visit from State health officials/Apthamitra health helpline to ask your health status for the day, kindly cooperate with them.

5.5.2 You are requested to self-monitor for development of symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 i.e. Fever, cough, cold, throat pain, loss of taste, loss of smell, diarrhoea, difficulty in breathing, etc. for 28 days from the date of arrival from UK.

5.5.3 In case you develop symptoms (fever, cough, difficulty in breathing), put on a mask immediately, isolate yourself at home, and inform District Surveillance Officer or contact Apthamitra helpline 14410

5.5.4 District Surveillance Officer must ensure daily follow up of passengers under observation for 28 days starting from date of arrival.

5.5.5 All the community contacts (without any exception) of those travellers who have tested positive would be subjected to institutional quarantine in separate Quarantine Centres and would be tested on Day 0 and Day 7 from date of contact with positive passenger using RT-PCR (or earlier if the passenger develops any symptoms suggestive of COVID-19). Community contacts testing positive shall be subjected to activities as in Clause 3.3

5.5.6 Information regarding any passenger covered within the scope of this SOP, who travels to another State will be immediately notified to the concerned State Health Authority. If any passenger is not traceable initially or during any duration while being followed up should be immediately notified to State Surveillance unit by the District Surveillance Officer.


23/11/20
COMMISSIONER

Health and Family Welfare Services

To :

1. The Managing Director & CEO, KIAL, Bengaluru / Mangaluru International Airport, Mangaluru
2. The Chairman, Seaport Mangalore / Karwar.
3. The District Commissioner, All Districts.
4. The CEOs – ZPs, All Districts
5. The District Surgeon, All Districts.
6. The District Health Officer, All Districts.
7. The District Surveillance Officer, All Districts.
8. All COVID 19 Testing Laboratories.

Copy to:

1. The Commissioner, BBMP, Bangalore
2. The Special Commissioner – Health , BBMP, Bengaluru
3. The Mission Director, NHM, Arogyasoudha, Bangalore
4. The Director, Health & F W Services, Arogyasoudha, Bangalore
5. The Director, Medical Education, AnandaRao Circle, Bangalore

Copy submitted to:

1. The Additional Chief Secretary, Dept. of Health & Family Welfare , Vikasasoudha, Bangalore.