



COVID-19 (nCorona) Virus Outbreak Control and Prevention State Cell

Health & Family Welfare Department

Government of Kerala

**ADVISORY ON QUARANTINE AND COVID-19 TESTING OF GUEST WORKERS
RETURNING TO KERALA**

No.31/F2/2020/ Health 18th July 2020

The Department of Health and Family Welfare has put up a surveillance mechanism to detect the COVID positive cases and take prevention activities. It is informed that the Guest Workers have gone to their respective states and now many of them are returning back. The places from where they are returning back are high prevalent States/ districts. Therefore, it is essential to have a surveillance mechanism for the all people who are coming back to Kerala. The Guest Workers are coming back to the respective work places and projects. Their respective Contractors are instructed to take all COVID prevention precaution.

In order to make the protocol clear to the stakeholders, contractors and the individual the following advisory is issued.

1. All guest workers who return to Kerala from other states have to undergo strict room quarantine for 14 days from the day of arrival in Kerala. Arrangements for the same has to be made by the contractor/ agent in charge of the guest workers.
2. The arrangements/facilities made for quarantine should be informed in advance to the nearby PHC / UHC / CHC Medical Officer or District Health authorities by the contractor/agent.
3. The labour contractors/agents/Entrepreneurs recruiting/facilitating guest workers travel to kerala shall ensure that details of guest workers are reported to nearby PHC/UHC/CHC Medical Officer/District Health authorities on arrival as well as to other parallel departments (Labour, Skills,

- Fisheries etc). Adequate quarantine facilities and food should be provided by the contractors/agents/Entrepreneurs
4. If any guest worker who returns independently, they themselves should inform the local government health institution (PHC/UHC/CHC etc) via DISHA help line number and immediately undergo room quarantine for 14 days.
 5. During the period of quarantine, they shall strictly adhere to the quarantine guidelines (no social contact, practice frequent hand washing, sharing of mobile phones, objects and articles, self-monitoring for any symptoms etc). Care givers should also follow the quarantine guidelines.
 6. Rapid Antigen Assay based COVID-19 testing is to be performed on all Guest workers on the day of arrival in Kerala.
 - a. If Antigen Assay is positive, they should be admitted in CFLTC/COVID Hospital based on severity.
 - b. If Antigen Assay is negative guest workers are required to be in strict room quarantine for 14 days.
 - c. Symptomatic guest workers who are rapid antigen assay negative should be subjected to RTPCR.
 7. The contractor/agent/Entrepreneur or by the individual guest worker if independent shall bear the cost of testing.
 8. While in quarantine, the guest workers are to be closely monitored over phone by local government health institution for symptom onset. If they become symptomatic, RTPCR test is to be performed as per the existing guidelines.
 9. After release from quarantine, they should be in observation for next 14 days. During the observation period they may engage in work. If they develop symptoms, it should be reported to the nearby PHC/UHC/CHC Medical officer.
 10. After completion of 14 days of quarantine, contractor/agent/Entrepreneurs should ensure that the guest workers adhere to strict wearing of mask, social distancing and hand hygiene guidelines while at work and in public places.
 11. Adequate facilities for accommodation are to be provided so that there is no overcrowding. Mask should be worn and social distancing should be maintained. Personal and environmental hygiene should be observed. Personal items should not be shared.
 12. Transportation of workers in vehicles should be as per the transportation regulations.

13. Extra precaution should be taken when laborers are working together and safe distancing not be feasible.
14. Sharing of instruments and equipment should be avoided as far as possible.
15. Frequently touched surfaces on machines, tools and other areas should be disinfected frequently during the day.
16. Guest worker community gatherings and socialization should be avoided.
17. Social and psychological support should be provided to the guest workers through LSG and DMHP respectively.
18. Health education should be imparted using appropriate languages of the guest workers.

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read 'Rajan', is written over a horizontal line.

Principal Secretary