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**By Email Only**

Central Organisation, ECHS  
Adjutant General's Branch  
Integrated Headquarters  
Ministry of Defence (Army)  
Thimayya Marg, Near Gopinath  
Circle, Delhi Cantt-110010

B/49770/AG/ECHS/Treatment/Policy

05 Mar 2020

(All Regional Centres ECHS)

**ADVISORY : CORONA VIRUS DISEASE-PREVENTION AND CONTROL**

1. An advisory by O/o DGMS (Army) vide their letter No 76910/Un Occur/coronavirus/DGMS-5B dt 24 Jan 2020 and even No dt 02 Mar 2020 is fwd herewith.
2. You are requested to circulate the same to all ECHS Polyclinics under your AoR for info of all ECHS beneficiaries.

(Anupam N Adhulia)  
Col  
Dir (Med)  
for MD ECHS

**Encl** : As above.

**Internal**

Ops & Coord, Claim Sec  
P & FC Sec, C&L Sec

} - for info.

Stats & Automation Sec

- for uploading the letter on ECHS website.

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Integrated HQ of MoD (Army)  
Adjutant General's Branch  
Dte Gen of Medical Services  
'L' Block, New Delhi-01

76910/Un Occur/coronavirus/DGMS-5B

24 Jan 2020


HQ Southern Comd (Med)  
HQ Eastern Comd (Med)  
HQ Western Comd (Med)  
HQ Central Comd (Med)  
HQ Northern Comd (Med)  
HQ South Western Comd (Med)

**NOVEL CORONA VIRUS DISEASE: PREVENTION AND CONTROL**

1. Ref Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt of India advisory issued on 11 Jan 2020 to the travellers to 'Novel Corona Virus' infected area of China.
2. An infection with a 'Novel Corona Virus' has been reported from China. As on 11 Jan 2020, 41 confirmed cases have been reported, of which one has died. According to MoHFW 9150 passengers have been screened for the 'Novel Corona Virus' till date. Thermal screening centres have been established at various airport locations, where travellers from China are being regularly screened.
3. **Mode of transmission** : Mode of transmission is unclear as of now. However, so far there is little evidence of significant human-to-human transmission.
4. **Sign and Symptoms** : The clinical signs and symptoms are mainly fever with a few patients having difficulty in breathing.
5. **The travel advisory issued by MoHFW is reproduced below** :
  - (a) Although as per World Health Organisation risk assessment, the risk for global spread has been stated as low, as a matter of abundant precaution, the travellers to China are advised the following :
    - (i) **Travellers to China should follow simple public health measures at all times as under** :
      - (aa) Observe good personal hygiene
      - (ab) Practice frequent hand washing with soap
      - (ac) Follow respiratory etiquettes – cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing
      - (ad) Avoid close contact with people who are unwell or showing symptoms of illness, such as cough, sneezing, running nose etc
      - (ae) Avoid contact with live animals and consumption of raw/undercooked meats
      - (af) Avoid travel to farms, live animal markets or where animals are slaughtered
      - (ag) Wear a mask if you have respiratory symptoms such as cough /sneezing/ runny nose.

- (ii) All travellers to China (in particular Wuhan city) to monitor their health closely
- (iii) If you feel sick and have fever and cough
- (aa) Cover your mouth while coughing or sneezing
  - (ab) Don't plan travels if sick
  - (ac) Seek medical attention promptly
- (iv) If you feel sick on flight, while travelling back to India :
- (aa) Inform the airlines crew about illness
  - (ab) Seek mask from the airlines crew
  - (ac) Avoid close contact with family members or fellow travellers
  - (ad) Follow the directions of airline crew while disembarking
- (v) If you feel sick on flight or at the time of disembarkation :
- (aa) Report to airport health authorities/immigration
  - (ab) Follow the direction of the airport health officer
- (vi) If you feel sick within a span of one month after return from China :
- (aa) Report the illness to the nearest health facility and also inform the treating doctor regarding your travel history

6. It is requested to disseminate the above information to all units/fmn under your AOR.

  
(Vanu Suriyam)  
Col  
Col Med (Health)  
for DGMS (Army)

Encls: As above

Copy to :-

DGAFMS/DG-3A - for info please.

76910/Un Occur/coronavirus/DGMS-5B

02 Mar 2020

HQ Southern Comd (Med)  
HQ Eastern Comd (Med)  
HQ Western Comd (Med)  
HQ Central Comd (Med)  
HQ Northern Comd (Med)  
HQ South Western Comd (Med)

### CORONA VIRUS DISEASE-2019 (COVID-19) OUTBREAK

1. Further to this Dte letter no 76910/Un Occur/coronavirus/DGMS-5B dt 24 Jan 2020. The details of actions required to be taken for COVID-19 are given in succeeding paragraphs.

#### Introduction

2. Corona Virus Disease-2019 (COVID-19) outbreak was first reported from Wuhan, China on 31 Dec 2019. As on 01 Mar 2020, 87137 confirmed cases have been reported globally, with China reporting about 79968 cases along with 2873 deaths. 58 countries other than China have reported 7169 confirmed cases and 104 deaths. World Health Organization has set a Very High level of risk in China and globally in its Risk Assessment for COVID-19.

#### Case Definitions

##### 3. Suspect Case:

(a) Patients with severe acute respiratory infection (fever, cough and requiring admission to hospital) and with no other etiology that fully explains the clinical presentation and at least one of the following:-

(i) A history of travel to or residence in China in the 14 days prior to symptom onset, or (list of countries as updated by MoHFW from time to time on [www.mohfw.gov.in/media/diseasealert](http://www.mohfw.gov.in/media/diseasealert))

(ii) Patient is a health care worker who has been working in an env where severe acute respiratory infections of unknown etiology are being cared for.

(b) Patients with any acute respiratory illness AND at least one of the following:-

(i) Close contact with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 in the 14 days prior to illness onset, or

(ii) Worked or attended a health care facility in the 14 days prior to onset of symptoms where patients with hospital-associated COVID-19 infections have been reported.

4. Probable Case: A suspect case for whom testing for COVID-19 is inconclusive or for whom testing was positive on a pan-corona virus assay.

5. Confirmed Case: A person with laboratory confirmation of COVID-19 infection, irrespective of clinical signs and symptoms.

Travel advisory by MoHFW (as on 26 Feb 2020)

6. In view of the spurt of cases being reported from China and other countries, travelers are advised the following:

(a) It is advised to refrain from travel to the following countries:

- (i) China
- (ii) Singapore
- (iii) Republic of Korea
- (iv) Islamic Republic of Iran
- (v) Italy

(b) Pers coming from China, Republic of Korea, Iran and Italy or those having history of travel to these countries may be quarantined for 14 days on arrival to India.

7. Any indi with history of international travel (other than countries mentioned in Para 6 above) with suspected exposure to COVID-19 should be put on home quarantine for 14 days with following advice:

- (a) Observe good personal hygiene.
- (b) Practice frequent hand washing with soap.
- (c) Follow respiratory etiquettes- cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing.

If the indi becomes symptomatic during home quarantine, he/ she should be admitted to isolation ward in the service nosp and sample (Throat swab) collected and fwd to the nearest designated lab.

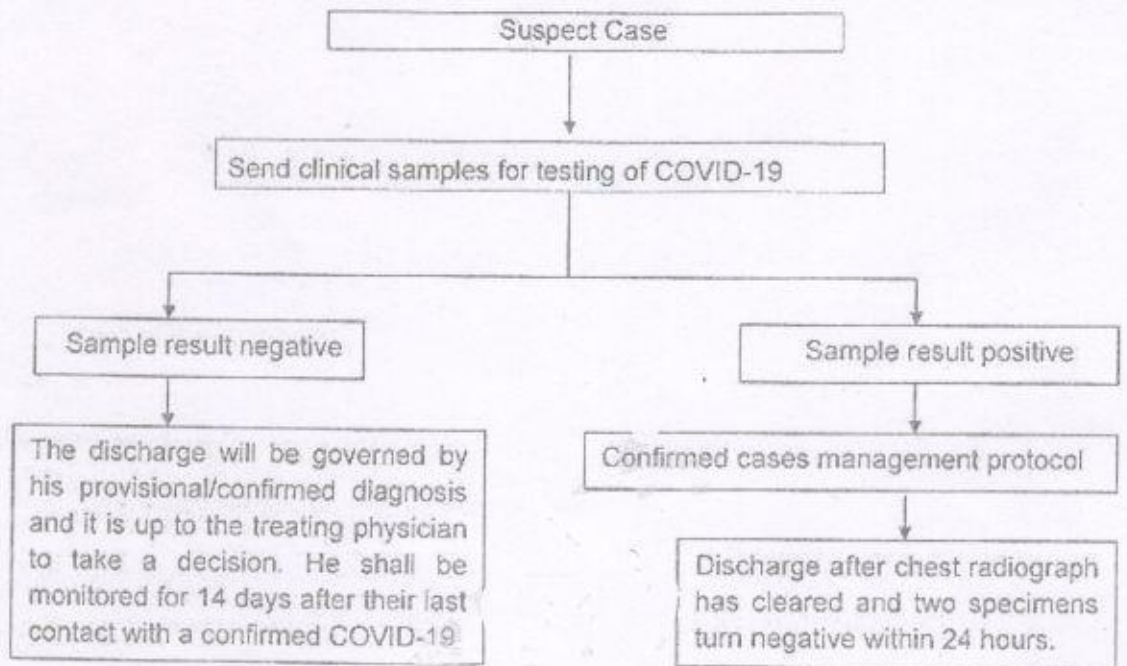
Discharge policy of nCoV Case

8. Clinical samples of any suspect/probable case\* of COVID-19 will be sent for laboratory confirmation to designated laboratories as given below:

- (a) Apex Lab: NIV, Pune
- (b) AIIMS Delhi
- (c) KGMU Lucknow
- (d) SMS, Jaipur
- (e) NICED, Kolkata
- (f) IGGMC, Nagpur
- (g) Kasturba Medical College, Mumbai
- (h) Gandhi Medical College, Secunderabad
- (j) BMCRI, Bangalore
- (k) NIV Field Unit, Bangalore
- (l) KIPMR, Chennai
- (m) NIV Field Unit, Kerala
- (n) BJMC, Ahmedabad
- (o) GMC, Guwahati

9. The case will be kept in isolation at health facility till the time of receipt of laboratory results and given symptomatic treatment as per existing guidelines. If the laboratory results for COVID-19 are negative, the discharge of such patients will be governed by this provisional/ confirm diagnosis and it is up to the treating physician to take a decision. The case shall still be monitored for 14 days after their last contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case. In case the laboratory results are positive for COVID-19, the case shall be managed as per the confirmed case management protocol (given in MoHFW website).

The case shall be discharged only after evidence of chest radiographic clearance and viral clearance in respiratory samples after two specimens test negative for COVID-19 with a period of 24 Hrs.




10. During admission in the isolation wards following guidelines as given on MoHFW site will be followed:

- (a) Guidelines on clinical management of SARI in suspect/ confirmed nCoV cases.
- (b) Guidelines for Infection Prevention and Control in Health care facilities.
- (c) Guidelines for Sample collection, packaging and transportation for 2019-nCoV.

11. Your attention is also drawn to 'Guidelines on Surveillance for human infection with 2019-nCoV' available on MoHFW website.

12. It is requested to disseminate the above information to all medical units under your AoR. Health education of troops and families on prevention and control of COVID-19 infection to be carried in all stations.

  
(Vani Suryam)  
Col  
Col Med (Health)  
for DGMS (Army)

Copy to:-

DGAFMS/DG-3A - for info please