All Private Laboratories

Re: Performance of COVID-19 PCR Testing at Private Sector Medical Laboratories

I would like to bring to your kind notice that all private laboratories should strictly adhere to the Circular guidelines issued by Ministry of Health regarding the performance of COVID-19 PCR testing (Interim Summary Guidelines for Clinical Management of patients with novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Letter No: DDG (PHS)1 /DO2/12-9/2019/10 dated 26/01/2020) - Annex 1.

According to this guidelines, it was clearly mentioned that COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) PCR testing is indicated only to the suspected cases of COVID-19. Case definition for suspected COVID -19 patients was updated in the Circular Letter issued by the Ministry of Health on 04 March 2020 (Letter No: DDG (PHS)1 /DO2/12-9/2019/10 dated 02/03/2020) - Annex 2.

According to the National guidelines all suspected patients need to be admitted to one of the 17 Hospitals with isolation facilities identified by the Ministry of Health. Therefore, there is no place and should not be used COVID-19 PCR test as a screening test.

Dr. Anil Jasinghe
Director General of Health Services

cc Secretary Health
DDG (PHS) 1
DDG (Laboratory Services)
Chief Epidemiologist
Director Private Health Sector Development – For circulate among all private Hospitals & Laboratories