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சுகாதார மற்றும் சுதேச வைத்திய சேவைகள் அமைச்சு Ministry of Health and Indigenous Medical Services

All Provincial Directors of Health Service
All Regional Directors of Health Service
Director, National Institute of Health Sciences

Chief Medical Officer of Health, Colombo Municipal Council

Quarantining of high-risk individuals for the control of COVID-19 outbreak

As you are aware, certain categories of people has been undergone either institutional or home quarantine in order to prevent any spread of COVID-19 from infected people. However, it was brought to my attention that some people are subjected to quarantine unnecessarily and/ or subjected to quarantine for extended period of time without any rationale behind.

Therefore, you are hereby instructed to adhere to the below mentioned criteria when decisions are made on quarantining people:

- The objective of quarantining overseas returnees is to ensure that they are not
 infected when arriving to Sri Lanka. For this, such returnees need to undergo
 quarantining for a period of fourteen days since the date of arrival to the country.
 Extension of the period of quarantining of such persons are necessary ONLY if they
 are exposed to a confirmed COVID-19 patient during the period of quarantining.
- Since there are no substantial evidence for community transmission within the
 country, currently, there is no need for quarantining any person who has travelled
 out of the residing district or returning home from another district. This include
 those who have travelled to district identified as high-risk for COVID-19.

3. Quarantining of certain groups of people due to specific reasons related to confirmed or high possibility of exposure to COVID-19 patients may need quarantining. In such instances this will be communicated to you as a part of the epidemiological investigations.

For any matter encountering during quarantining, advise the Regional Epidemiologist of your area to contact the Epidemiology Unit for further instructions.

Dr. Anil Jasinghe

Dr. Anil Jasinghe

cc:

Director General of Health Services
Ministry of Health & Indigenous Medicine Services
"Suwasiripaya"
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Director General of Health Services

Hon. Minister of Health and Indigenous Medical Services

Secretary Health

Additional Secretary (Medical Services/ Public Health Service)

All Deputy Director Generals

Chief Epidemiologist Director Quarantine

All Regional Epidemiologists