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சுவசிரிபாய  
SUWASIRIPAYA

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சுகாதார அமைச்சு  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

මගේ අංකය )  
எனது இல ) DGHS/COVID-19/2020-347  
My No. )  
මගේ අංකය )  
உமது இல )  
Your No. : )  
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திகதி ) 2021.01.11  
Date )

All Deputy Director Generals  
Provincial Directors of Health Services  
Regional Directors of Health Services  
Director, NIHS  
Chief Medical Officer of Health, Colombo Municipal Council  
Regional Epidemiologists  
Medical Officers of Health

**Movement restrictions and closing of establishments under the Quarantine and Prevention of Disease Ordinance**

The Quarantine and Prevention of Disease Ordinance No. 03 of 1897 stipulates provisions on movement restrictions and declaration as a diseased premises to prevent spread of diseases. It is important to apply these legal provisions for control of COVID-19 in a scientific and rational manner.

It has been brought to my notice as well as raised in many forums that movements are restricted in areas and establishments are being closed down irrationally. This has led to many hardships to the general public. In addition, serious note should be taken that such actions would lead to objections/resistance from the general public which would have a negative impact on the much-needed public support to control COVID-19 disease.

Considering the above facts, you are requested to adhere to the following when declaring movement restrictions and closing down establishments.

1. When there is a possibility of COVID-19 spread in an area, the area Medical Officer of Health should personally assess the situation.
2. Considering the situation and the instructions stipulated in guidelines/circulars and letters issued by the Ministry of Health, if there is a real need for movement restriction/closure of establishments, it should be communicated to the Regional Epidemiologist and the Regional Director of Health Services outlining the justification together with relevant data for such request.
3. The Medical Officer of Health will be responsible for the requests made for movement restrictions/closure of establishment in the MOH area.

4. The Regional Director of Health Services should assess the situation and if there is a need for movement restriction (lockdown) or closure of establishments, should make the request to the Director General of Health Services outlining the justification together with relevant data for such request and also inform the Provincial Director of Health Services.
5. In the Colombo Municipal Council area, the Chief Medical Officer of Health and in the MOH areas coming under the NIHS Kalutara, the Director NIHS should make the request to the Director General of Health Services.
6. With regard to requests for closing down of workplaces with 50 or more employees, the request should be submitted to the Director, Environment, Occupational Health and Food Safety (E mail: eohunit2020@gmail.com, Fax: 0112112704) who will assess the request and submit for the approval of the Director General of Health Services. No workplace should be closed down even if the management decides to close at their own discretion and approval of the DGHS should be obtained as indicated above.
7. No person should be quarantined when travelling from a high prevalent district to a low prevalent district without getting the prior approval of the Director General of Health Services.
8. The Director General of Health Services will assess the situation and as the Proper Authority to the whole of Sri Lanka under the Quarantine and Prevention of Disease Ordinance No. 03 of 1897 and issue directions on movement restrictions, closing down establishments and quarantine.

You are requested to strictly adhere to the above instructions and refrain from declaring movement restrictions, closure of establishments and quarantining persons travelling from one district to another district without obtaining the approval of the Director General of Health Services.

  
Dr Asela Gunawardane  
Director General of Health Services  
Proper Authority

**Dr. ASELA GUNAWARDENA**  
Director General of Health Services  
Ministry of Health  
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Copies:

All Hon Governors, Provincial Councils  
Secretary, Ministry of Health  
Secretary, Ministry of Internal and Home Affairs and Provincial Councils and Local Government  
Additional Secretary (Public Health Services/ Medical Services)  
All Provincial Health Secretaries  
Head, National Operation Centre for Prevention of COVID - 19 Outbreak  
Inspector General of Police  
Director, Environmental, Occupational health & Food safety  
Director Quarantine  
Chief Epidemiologist  
Director General, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka