

දුරකථන ) 2698475  
தொலைபேசி ) 2698490  
Telephone ) 2698507

ෆැක්ස් ) 2692913  
பெக்ஸ் ) 2693869  
Fax )

විද්‍යුත් තැපෑල )  
மின்னஞ்சல் முகவா ) postmaster@health.gov.lk  
e-mail )

වෙබ් අඩවිය )  
இணையத்தளம் ) www.health.gov.lk  
website )



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சுவசிரிபாய

SUWASIRIPAYA

මගේ අංකය )  
எனது இல ) Epid/400/2019/nCoV  
My No. )

ඔබේ අංකය )  
உமது இல )  
Your No. : )

දිනය )  
திகதி ) 10. 03. 2020  
Date )

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

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

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Director General of Health Services  
Ministry of Health & Indigenous Medicine Services  
"Suwasiripaya"  
385, Rev. Baddegama Wimalawansa Thero Mawatha,  
Colombo 10.

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