



17.04.2020

To,
Smt. Preeti Sudan, I.A.S
Union Secretary Health,
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare,
Government of India

Dear Madam:

Sub: Suggested Guidelines to be followed by Non COVID hospitals in the event of a patient testing positive for COVID 19

In continuation to our earlier communication in this regard [reference to our mail dated **14.04.2020** and attached letter], kindly find details of the guidelines.

In combatting the COVID -19 pandemic the private health sector is partnering with the government health sector. However, actions taken by few civic bodies in some cities is disheartening.

In the event of a patient testing positive to COVID - 19, in a non COVID hospital rather than shutting down the institution, the following can be carried out.

1. Every hospital has a fever clinic with strict protocols on PPE and every suspected case is isolated and tested and the patient flow is such that there is no mixing with other patients.
2. The patient who has been tested positive is to be isolated and transferred to a COVID-19 dedicated hospital.
3. Disinfect the areas where the suspect patients could have moved such as canteen, pharmacy and parking lot etc.
Similarly all areas where patient contacts have moved in the hospital to be disinfected according to guidelines.
Following disinfection guidelines, all regular services should be restored [shutting down is not required] to the public in order to overcome inconvenience.
4. In the event of COVID suspect or confirmed having being admitted in the ICU or isolation rooms' disinfection to be done as per MOHFW guidelines.



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5. Testing by RT-PCR or rapid antibody testing of all symptomatic cases, history of travel, history of contacts as per the definition provided by MOHFW.
6. Hospital management should closely monitor the infection prevention steps being taken and communicate timely with District/ State administration.
7. Daily meeting of top management, ID Physicians, Infection Prevention team will help to understand the patient flow, dynamic situation with reference to guidelines and resource allocation.
8. Staff in the front line management to be offered HCQS prophylaxis as per ICMR recommendations.

These guidelines will prevent inconvenience to the other patients.

Warm regards,

Dr. Alexander Thomas
President, AHPI

Dr. Girdhar Gyani
Director General, AHPI

Copy to: Shri. C K Mishra, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change and Chairman of the MHA Empowered Group on 'Availability of hospitals, Isolation and quarantine facilities, diseases surveillance, testing and critical care training'.

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