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சுகாதார அமைச்சு
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

මගේ අංකය)
எனது இல) DGHS/COVID-19/347/2021
My No.)

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Your No. :)

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திகதி) 13.04.2021
Date)

All Deputy Director Generals
Director, Quarantine
Chief Epidemiologist
Provincial Directors of Health Services
Regional Directors of Health Services
Provincial/District Consultant Community Physicians
Regional Epidemiologists
Medical Officers of Health
Medical Officer, Airport Health Offices

Mandatory home quarantine for officials currently residing in Sri Lanka who are undertaking an important State visit or Official visit by Sri Lankan government officials for government purposes under bio secure travel bubble

My letter No. DGHS/COVID-19/354/2021 dated 2021.03.18 on Mandatory home quarantine for Sri Lankans or Foreign Nationals currently residing in Sri Lanka who are undertaking an important State visit or Official visit by Sri Lankan government officials/business visit for major investments under bio secure travel bubble is hereby cancelled.

A Eligibility to request for mandatory home quarantine upon return

- A.1 Officials currently residing in Sri Lanka should get the permission from relevant authorities (Foreign Ministry, Immigration etc.) to enter into Sri Lanka after travelling overseas.
- A.2 Applicant who requests for mandatory home quarantine upon return from Director General of Health Services (DGHS) should fulfill the following criteria.
- A.2.1 Should be **currently residing in Sri Lanka**
- A.2.2 Maximum duration **between the date of departure from Sri Lanka and date of arrival to Sri Lanka should be seven days.**
- A.2.3 Should **travel within bio secure travel bubble** practicing recommended COVID-19 preventive measures throughout the visit as described in **Annex 01.**
- A.2.4 Only the officials who are on State Visits or Sri Lankan Government Officials on Official Visits for government purposes (important meetings, discussions, programs) can request for mandatory home quarantine upon return.
- A.2.5 The residence where undergoing home quarantine in Sri Lanka after return should have a separate room and a wash room facility

that will not be shared by others during the mandatory home quarantine period.

- A.2.6 Should get an approval letter from the area Medical Officer of Health (MOH) where the intended residence for home quarantine is located, certifying that the residence is suitable for home quarantine prior to departure.

B Process to obtain the approval

B.1 In order to obtain the approval for mandatory home quarantine upon return, the eligible officer currently residing in Sri Lanka should **email** a request with following details to the DGHS (dghs@health.gov.lk) with a copy to the Director, Quarantine (approvalquarantinemoh@gmail.com) at least **two weeks prior** to the **date of departure** from Sri Lanka.

- a) Letter from the area Medical Officer of Health (MOH) where the intended residence for home quarantine is located, certifying that the residence is suitable for home quarantine.
- b) Name of the official
- c) Copy of the data page of the passport
- d) Address of the residence in Sri Lanka where the intended residence for home quarantine is located.
- e) Contact numbers in Sri Lanka
- f) Name of the visiting country
- g) Official approval letter from the work place in Sri Lanka
- h) Official letter of invitation from foreign country mentioning the purpose of the visit indicating visit will be conducted adherence to bio secure travel bubble during the overseas stay.
- i) Travel itinerary with date of departure, date of arrival and details of all transits.
- j) If vaccinated, COVID-19 vaccination status with the name of the vaccine and dates of vaccination

C Approval of the Director General of Health Services for mandatory home quarantine

C.1 Granting approval will be considered case by case basis subjected to the conditions stipulated by the Director General of Health Services based on the assurance of implementation of bio secure bubble throughout the travel and the relevance of the officer concerned.

C.2 The decision will be communicated to the officer concerned via the email provided.

D Procedures during the visit to overseas

D.1 Should adhere to recommended COVID-19 preventive measures throughout the visit.

D.2 Should carry the original vaccination certificate/ card/ verifiable document (should be in English language and if not in English, need a certified copy of English language translation of the certificate), The certificate should contain the Date/s of vaccination and Name of the vaccine.

D.3 Should maintain the bio secure travel bubble throughout the travel as mentioned in **Annex 01**

D.4 Pre departure PCR testing

If the duration of stay is more than 72 hours in the overseas country, the official should carry negative COVID-19 PCR test results (in English) done within 96 hours of embarkation or a negative COVID-19 Antigen test done within 48 hours before embarkation.

Note: Airlines may request a negative PCR test result done within 72 hours prior to embarkation.

E Procedures to be followed after arrival in Sri Lanka at the airport

E.1 Should submit the filled Health Declaration Form to the staff of Airport Health Office at the arriving airport.

E.2 If completed the recommended doses of vaccination and departs from abroad after two weeks of vaccination, will be considered as "Fully Vaccinated".

Fully vaccinated officials should produce the vaccination certificate/ card to the staff of Airport Health Office at the arriving airport.

E.3 After the health, immigration, custom and security clearances, official can leave the airport based on the approved letter of Director General of Health Services who is the Proper Authority for the whole of Sri Lanka under Quarantine and Prevention of Diseases Ordinance No 3 of 1897.

F Procedure to be followed during the travel to home

F.1 Should arrange own transport method to travel to their residence from arriving airport in Sri Lanka.

F.2 A known person (adhering to recommended personal protective measures) should drive the vehicle.

F.3 Should not use public transport or any other transport method or any other driver for this purpose.

F.4 Driver and official should adhere to recommended personal protective measures when travelling.

F.5 Should directly travel to their approved residence from the arriving airport without getting down at any place in between.

G Procedure to be followed after arriving at the residence approved for home quarantine

G.1 Home quarantine should be done under the guidance and supervision of the area MOH.

G.2 Immediately after arrival at the residence, the area MOH should be informed of the commencement of home quarantine by telephone or email.

G.3 On arrival (Day One) COVID-19 PCR testing

G.3.1 Regardless of the COVID-19 vaccination status, the official should be subjected to an on arrival (Day One) COVID-19 PCR test within 24 hours after arrival from a Health Ministry approved private sector laboratory/ state laboratory. Sampling for PCR could be

done by a team visiting from a private laboratory to the residence. If not, should use private transport (self-driven or driven by a known person wearing appropriate Personal protective Equipment) to attend the private hospital laboratory/state laboratory by adhering to COVID-19 preventive measures.

G.3.1.1 Fully Vaccinated Officials

If the recommended doses of the COVID-19 vaccination are completed and departs from abroad two weeks after completion of vaccination, they will be considered as "fully vaccinated" and if the on arrival (Day One) COVID-19 PCR test is negative, no further quarantine is necessary for fully vaccinated officials.

G.4 Exit COVID-19 PCR testing

G.4.1 If not received COVID-19 vaccination/ not completed the recommended doses of vaccination, should be mandatorily home quarantined for **seven days** and COVID-19 PCR test should be carried out on Day Seven (exit COVID-19 PCR test) after arrival, from a Health Ministry approved private sector laboratory/ state laboratory.

G.4.2 If completes the two weeks period of recommended doses of vaccination during the home quarantine period after arriving to Sri Lanka, should inform the area MOH and should conduct a COVID-19 PCR test after completing the two weeks from last vaccination date.

If the result is negative, no further quarantine is necessary.

G.5 COVID-19 PCR Test results should be informed to area MOH

G.6 Should practice recommended COVID-19 preventive measures during the home quarantine at residence.

G.7 If febrile or displays symptoms of COVID-19, a PCR test should be done immediately and results should be informed to area MOH.

G.8 If the driver of the vehicle becomes febrile or displays symptoms of COVID-19, a PCR test should be done immediately and results should be informed to area MOH.

G.9 At the end of the quarantine period of Seven Days, the area MOH should be informed.

G.10 If the COVID-19 PCR test results are negative on Day one and Day seven, the area MOH should take measures to release from mandatory home quarantine considering the adherence to bio secure travel bubble during the travel.

G.11 If the **PCR test result is positive**, should immediately inform the area MOH and email the details to Epidemiology Unit (chepid@sltnet.lk and samithag@hotmail.com). Should follow the treatment protocol of the Ministry of Health for COVID-19 patients.

Immediate close contacts of the positive person will be further quarantined after assessing the risk by area MOH / Regional Epidemiologist / Consultant Community Physician of the RDHS office.

H Procedures to be followed by the area Medical Officer of Health

- H.1 On request of the officials currently residing in Sri Lanka who are undertaking an important State visit or Official visit by Sri Lankan government officials for government purposes (meetings, discussions, programs) under bio secure travel bubble, the area MOH or the area Public Health Inspector (PHI) should visit the residence and assess whether the condition of the proposed home is suitable for home quarantine safely. In order to be eligible under this pathway, maximum duration between the date of departure from Sri Lanka and date of arrival to Sri Lanka should be seven days. The minimum criteria for eligibility are that there should be a separate bed room with wash room facility exclusively to be used by the returned official.
- H.2 The area MOH needs to submit the observations regarding the residence in writing to the applicant. In addition, **email** a copy of the observations regarding the suitability of the residence to Director General of Health Services (dghs@health.gov.lk) and to the Director/ Quarantine (approvalquarantinemoh@gmail.com) and applicant.
- H.3 During the mandatory home quarantine period, the area MOH through the area PHI should monitor the quarantining by the official.
- H.4 Fully vaccinated officials with negative on arrival (Day One) PCR report should not be further quarantined after verifying the vaccination certificate/ card.
- H.5 At the end of the quarantine period the area MOH should issue the Certificate of Completion of the quarantine period, if the PCR test results are negative.

Violation of stipulated conditions will result in immediate transfer to a quarantine centre/hotel and rejection of future requests for mandatory home quarantine by the applicant.

This guideline will be reviewed depending on the COVID-19 case situation of the country and the global situation


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Additional Secretary (Public Health Services/ Medical Services)
Head, National Operation Centre for Prevention of COVID - 19 Outbreak
Controller General, Department of Immigration and Emigration
Director General of Customs
Director General/Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka
Chairman/Airport Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited

Guidelines on visit under bio secure travel bubble

1. All participants should stay in a designated hotel during the stay at overseas adhering to COVID-19 preventive measures including use of face masks, physical distancing, hand sanitation and use non-contact greeting methods throughout the travel.
2. Use of common areas in the hotel is not permitted and in room dining should be arranged.
3. Persons adhering to the bio secure travel bubble are not permitted go to public places other than to meeting/discussion/program venues.
4. No person will be allowed to leave the bio secure travel bubble. They will have to stay together and travel together in a designated vehicle provided by the organizers.
5. Dedicated vehicles and drivers should be used to transport all individuals. These vehicles should not be used for transport of persons outside the bio secure travel bubble.
6. No person in a bio secure travel bubble shall have any physical contact with anyone outside his/her bubble at any time. (during accommodation, travelling, meetings, in the venue etc.)
7. In case if meeting / discussions / program are conducted,
 - a. Everyone attending the meeting / discussion / program shall wear face masks
 - b. Sanitize hands before entering the meeting / discussion / program venue
 - c. Shall keep the distance of one meter with each other all the time
8. The passengers should arrive with a negative COVID-19 PCR test done within 96 hours of departure from overseas.
9. If there are COVID-19 positive persons detected in the bio secure travel bubble, returning travellers should undergo 14 days of mandatory quarantine even if the passenger has a negative PCR test result done within 96 hours of departure.
10. Quarantine measures of such travellers will be decided by Ministry of Health upon return.