



Protocol for Screening and Quarantine of Cross Country Truck Drivers and Other Crews

Background

Quarantine under this circumstance is the restriction of activities or separation of persons who are not ill, but who may be exposed to virus or disease from other persons, with the objective of monitoring the diseases manifestation and enhance early detection. Quarantine is included within the legal framework of the International Health Regulations (2005).

Following the directives passed from the office of Prime Minister on 20th March 2020, it was declared that a person coming into Ethiopia from other country must be subjected to the 14 days quarantine at the designated quarantine centers. Despite the fact that the directive applies to all the passenger coming from abroad regardless of the reason for travel and citizenship, considering the economic implication for the country and its paramount importance, quarantine has never been reinforced for the long truck drivers and their assistants transporting good and items from/to different neighbouring countries.

Recently, an increasing number of cases being reported from the neighbouring countries has appalled the government to amend the quarantine and laboratory testing approaches for long truck drivers and their assistants in a way that does not compromise the transport of goods and the public health either.

The under mentioned measures must be applied to mitigate an increased risk of COVID-19 outbreak presumed to be introduced by the long truck drivers and other crews and must be reinforced by the respective responsible stakeholders starting from 8th May 2020.

1. All drivers and other crews crossings Ethiopian border must undergo thermal and clinical health screening at Point of Entry (PoE). This will help to ensure smooth movement of essential goods as per the World Health Organization (WHO) recommended measures and Ministry of Health (MOH) guidelines. Temperature checking must be performed to detect persons with fever (38°C and above). In instances where such people exhibit symptoms, they should be immediately isolated and referred to designated isolation/treatment centre. The detail information must be shared to the regional and national health authorities for necessary measures.
2. A driver and other crews found to be showing symptoms of COVID-19, must be immediately referred to nearby isolation/treatment centre. The Rapid Response Team (RRT) should be





contacted to facilitate the transfer to the isolation/treatment centre. The truck should be decontaminated before it is allowed to continue to its final destination.

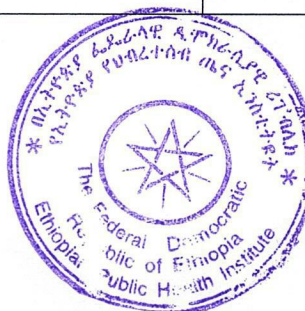
3. In the event that a driver and other crews are quarantined/isolated while in transit, truck owners/operators shall make necessary arrangements for a backup crew to ensure that the goods are delivered to the intended destination. Besides, the local police where the vehicle parked must be responsible to safe guard the properties.
4. Where drivers and other crews do not show any symptoms after screening, they should perform the necessary precautionary measures including hand hygiene and advised be allowed to proceed to their final destination.
5. Every driver and other crews must wear medical mask. The face mask and hand sanitizer shall be provided by the Ministry of transport as an out of pocket payment at PoEs, Container Depots, Road Side Stations/ Truck Stops and point of loading.
6. In order to maintain the physical distancing, vehicles must not carry more than two (2) persons. The driver should not carry another passenger apart from those working on the truck.
7. Continuous and tailored health education and awareness creation on the use of the face mask, the need to limit the unnecessary movement, home quarantine during non-working times and others must be provided at the PoE by region.
8. Considering the 12 days a single full trip average duration for the truck, and its agreement with two weeks interval testing for drivers/assistants, drivers and their assistants will be tested each time they arrive at final destination. .
9. Each truck will be asked about information on the final destination at PoE and the PoE team will record the destination site and inform the driver and other crews to do testing at the final destination site. Besides, the PoE provide pieces of paper with official stamp bearing the serial ID and the allocated site of the sample collection.
10. The samples will be collected at the under mentioned final destination and sample collectors shall be assigned from the Ethiopian Public health institute (EPHI) reference laboratory or the respective regional laboratory. Once the vehicle reach at the indicated collection site/final destination, Driver and other crews must deliver the pieces of stamped paper they received at PoEs to the sample collector.





Table 1: Site for the sample collection for the long truck driver and other crews, Ethiopia, May, 2020

S.No	Region	Final Destination	Specific Site/town	Remark
1.	Amhara	Merhawi	Merhawi Town	Fertilizer destination site
2.	Amhara	Bahirdar	Bahirdar Town	Fertilizer destination site
3.	Amhara	Debre Markos	Debre Markos	Fertilizer destination site
4.	Amhara	Bure	Bure Town	Fertilizer destination site
5.	Amhara	Denbecha	Denbecha Town	Fertilizer destination site
6.	Amhara	Dejen	Dejen Town	Fertilizer destination site
7.	Amhara	Gondar	Gondar Town	Fertilizer destination site
8.	Amhara	Debre Tabor	Debre Tabor Town	Fertilizer destination site
9.	Amhara	Debre Berhan	Debre Berhan Town	Fertilizer destination site
10.	Amhara	Dessie	Dessie Town	Fertilizer destination site
11.	Amhara	Nifas Mawucha	Nifas Mawucha	Fertilizer destination site
12.	Amhara	Kombolcha	Kombolcha Town	Fertilizer destination site
13.	Amhara	Woreta	Woreta Town	Fertilizer destination site
14.	Oromia	Adama	Adama Town	Fertilizer destination site
15.	Oromia	Ambo Union	Ambo Town	Fertilizer destination site
16.	Oromia	Shashamane	Shashamane Town	Fertilizer destination site
17.	Oromia	Dodolla	Dodolla Town	Fertilizer destination site
18.	Oromia	Robe	Robe Town	Fertilizer destination site
19.	Oromia	Melka Awash	Sebeta Town	Fertilizer destination site
20.	Oromia	Becho Woliso	Woliso Town	Fertilizer destination site
21.	Oromia	Selale Union	Fitche Town	Fertilizer destination site
22.	Oromia	Erer	Bishoftu Town	Fertilizer destination site
23.	Oromia	Nekemte	Nekemte Town	Fertilizer destination site
24.	Dire Dawa	Dire Dawa	Dire Dawa CA	NDRMC Depots
25.	Somali	Shinile	Shinile Town	NDRMC Depots
26.	SNNPR	Wolayita	Wolayita Sodo Town	NDRMC Depots
27.	Tigray	Mekelle	Mekelle Town	NDRMC Depots





11. After the sample collection, the collectors should give another stamped paper bearing the site and date of the specimen collection to drivers/other crews. Sample must be shipped to the proximal regional/reference laboratory in a way that considered the testing capacity. .
12. Every result issued from the regional reference laboratory must be sent to the EPHI data base and the should be linked to the driver/other crews from central level only.
13. The drivers/assistants should be informed of their lab results before they start the next trip. The laboratory result must be delivered to the drivers and other crews by using the text message from the designated phone number. The phone number to be used for delivering the lab result shall be communicated to all PoEs and the text sent by using that number shall be considered as an official.
14. The detail information of the drivers and other crews during the specimen collection and/or PoEs must be clearly documented and the basic/unique variables including but not limited to serial ID and driving license number should be registered for smooth result linkage.
15. The truck should be cleaned and disinfected at PoEs and final destination before unloading and it should be reinforced by the Ministry of Transport.
 - All frequently touched parts of the truck should be disinfected by wiping using a 0.5% chlorine solution wet damped cloth or through flooding with 0.5% chlorine solution and rinsing using detergent and water.
 - Sensitive parts of the long truck should be disinfected using 70% alcohol.
 - Other parts of the truck should be washed using detergent and water.
16. The common designated loading and unloading sites for vehicles must be prepared at final destination or departure sites.



