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**COMMISSIONERATE**

Department of Health & Family Welfare Services  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor-West Wing, Arogya Soudha, Bengaluru

No: DD/SSU/COVID-19/11/2025-26; E-1788402

Date: 31-05-2025

**Advisory for managing Health Care Workers (HCWs) working in COVID and Non- COVID areas of the Health Care Facilities**

As Karnataka experiences a rise in COVID-19 cases, the Department of Health Family Welfare requests citizens to stay calm, remain vigilant, and work with health authorities to prevent further spread and ensure public safety.

The state continues to monitor and manage COVID-19 through on-going efforts to prevent transmission, detect cases, and provide care. Given the dynamic nature of the disease, sustained vigilance and adherence to public health guidelines are crucial. The focus will be on **early detection, containment of outbreaks, and monitoring of variants** through integrated clinical, laboratory, and community surveillance.

Healthcare personnel, as the primary workforce, are at high risk of acquiring COVID-19 if they don't follow proper personal protection protocols while managing patients. As frontline workers, they play a vital role in protecting communities through early detection and timely response.

**Essential Action Points for Health Staff:**

**1. ILI/SARI Surveillance:**

- i. Routinely screen and report ILI and SARI cases and any such cases with co-morbidities in the P-Form of **IDSP-IHIP** platform.
- ii. Ensure referral of **all SARI cases & 5% of ILI cases** for RT-PCR testing for COVID-19 at designated facilities as per the time-to-time testing guidelines issued by MD-NHM. Samples should be shipped on the same day for timely testing.
- iii. If found symptomatic, compulsory testing for **high-risk groups**, including Children, Pregnant women and Elderly people.

**2. Laboratory Reporting:**

- i. Ensure timely uploading of testing data on the **IHIP portal**.
- ii. Track positivity rates and Ct value trends.

**3. Genomic and Environmental Surveillance:**

- i. Facilitate sample from COVID-19 positive SARI cases should be referred to designated regional VRDLs for **Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS)** in line with INSACOG protocols.
- ii. Coordinate with authorities for **sewage surveillance** where applicable.

**4. Data and Reporting:**

As all health care workers are already trained, they are able to sense the signs and symptoms and hence should ensure immediate reporting of such symptoms.

- i. Submit **daily reports** on cases, recoveries, hospitalizations (with oxygen/ICU/ventilator status).
- ii. Contribute to **weekly reports** on epidemiological trends and WGS submissions.

**5. IEC:**

- i. IEC activity should be undertaken to promote community observance of hand and respiratory hygiene, hygienic behaviour such as cough etiquette (covering mouth or nose during cough/ sneezing), no spitting in public places etc. Special consideration groups like elderly, people with immuno-deficiency status maybe advised to avoid poorly ventilated or crowded places or use face mask in such places.

**6. Infection Control:**

- i. A Nodal officer (**Infection Control Officer**) shall be identified by each health facility to address all matters related to healthcare associated infections.
- ii. To ensure the immediate activation of **Hospital Infection Control Committee (HICC)**.
- iii. Follow updated **infection prevention** protocols. Healthcare workers in different settings of hospitals shall use appropriate PPE as per their risk profile. Any breach in PPE or exposure should immediately bring to the notice of Nodal Officer.

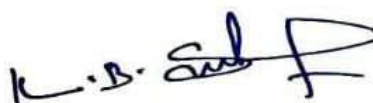
**7. General precautions:**

- i. Ensure that **all preventive measures** like regular thermal screening, frequent washing of hands/use of alcohol based hand sanitizer, respiratory etiquettes (using tissue/handkerchief while coughing or sneezing), etc. are followed at all times.

Everyone is advised to remain vigilant and adhere to the guidelines periodically released by the health authorities. Staying informed and following the guidelines will help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and ensure public safety.

For updates, visit:

<https://hfwcom.karnataka.gov.in>



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**Health and Family Welfare Services**

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2. Chief Executive Officers of all District Panchayats
3. Health and Family Welfare Officers of all districts
4. District Surgeons of all District hospitals

Copy for information,

1. Hon'ble Principal Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Vikas Soudha, Bangalore
2. Mission Director- , National Health Mission, Arogya Soudha, Bangalore
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4. Director, State Institute for Health & Family Welfare, Bangalore