



KERALA GOVT.MEDICAL OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

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No. 26/2020/KGMOA

Date 26.03.2020

To

Shri. Pinarayi Vijayan,
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Kerala

Respected Sir,

Sub: - Our suggestions regarding Corona control activities – reg:-

Though the global pandemic outbreak of corona is causing much devastating effects in many parts of the world and in many other states of our country, our state is effectively controlling the situation through appropriate interventions including a complete lockdown. We would like to appreciate the dedicated involvement of the State Government in the early containment of the disease and thus delaying the community spread. We, the Kerala Government Medical Officers' Association (KGMOA) has always stood by the side of the Government supporting all such positive interventions and promoting and strengthening all such activities. Under these circumstances, we would like to put forward the following suggestions to be carried out at the earliest for prevention of community spread.

- There is severe shortage for the supply of personal protective equipments like three layer masks in all institutions. Three layer masks are prescribed for use in all routine patient care facilities. As all health care professionals including doctors are always at a high risk of getting infected, it is not possible to deliver patient care without them. If a health care provider contracts the infection, it can not only lead to complete shutdown of his institution but also cause wide community spread through all patients attended by that health care provider. Thus, it is essential to keep the health care providers safe by ensuring uninterrupted supply of three layer masks. Total PPEs and N95 masks are essential in corona isolation/ treatment centres which also should be supplied uninterruptedly.

- At present, all the doctors and healthcare providers working in one healthcare institution work together with close interaction with each other and with the potential cases in the community. Thus, all health care professionals are at high risk for contracting the disease and for transmitting it to the entire health care pool of the institution leading to its complete shutdown. Thus a reserve pool is essential for health care professionals in major hospitals to maintain the uninterrupted functioning of the institution. The reserve group should be kept under reverse quarantine. They may be given online training sessions in corona management guidelines and protocols. They may also be utilized for answering medical queries and for managing minor ailments through telephone calls. As all health care professionals and health care institutions are at a greater risk of getting and spreading the infection, minimizing exposure to the healthcare system is essential. Thus the outpatient services should be restricted.
- As there are signs of community spread as evident from the rapid increase in cases and more positive cases in category A cases in Kasaragod with a large number of primary and uncountable number of secondary contacts, additional support should be provided to the medical team working in the district. GH Kasargod may be designated as Covid 19 treatment centre and duly empowered. Enough human resources including medical specialists, critical care specialists, material resources including PPEs, equipments including ventilators and infrastructure facilities including intensive care units should be arranged. Lab testing facilities should be enhanced, a Covid 19 testing center should be developed within the district and testing of cat A cases and random testing in community should be carried out to rule out community spread.
- The district level centres should be strengthened by filling up any existing vacancies in the administrative posts for effective coordination of all activities. In Wayanad, the unfilled administrative posts in the district headquarters and the major institutions is affecting the routine functioning. Even Physicians directly involved in patient care are given additional administrative responsibilities. Same person is overburdened with multiple additional charges at district headquarters and major institutions. This needs immediate attention and filling up of posts.
- A complete lockdown is the essential for controlling disease spread. The police should take necessary steps to ensure the same. At the same time, there are a few instances where the police had overacted to doctors and health care professionals which is highly unacceptable. Strict instructions should be given to the police force to take due care to avoid such incidents.

Dr Joseph Chacko
State President




Dr G S Vijayakrishnan
Gen secretary