

**Protocol for handling COVID-19 suspect and infected cases**  
**Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Meghalaya**

The following procedure elaborates a detailed protocol for handling COVID-19 suspect and infected cases

Situation	Procedure	Additional Remarks
<p>1. On Identifying the suspect case. (those identified by case definition requiring testing)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If any Suspect with symptoms of COVID-19 has been identified, he/she should be brought to the nearest facility.</li> <li>2. Transportation has to be arranged by the Government Medical facility or the District Administration to transport the suspect.</li> <li>3. The ambulance driver and handler should be given Personal Protection Equipment before transporting the patient.</li> <li>4. The vehicle transporting the patient should be cleaned thoroughly with prescribed sprayer or bleaching agents meant for cleaning after the suspected patient has been transported.</li> <li>5. The family members of the Patient who has tested positive have to be immediately quarantined at home. Counselling to be given on how to home-quarantine and handouts to be given to relatives containing detailed instructions on</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Facility here refers to all the District hospitals and private hospitals <b>as per the list enclosed</b>. The identified hospital which has been designated with isolation ward are equipped with VTM for collecting samples for testing.</li> <li>2. For urban areas additional facilities have been set up as <b>Corona Care Centres (CCC)</b> to meet surge capacity.</li> </ol> <p><b>Corona Care Centres</b> are currently set up at MATI and IIM, Shillong with facilities for taking the samples of suspect cases and to keep the needy patients under quarantine at the same facility.</p> <p>These CCCs will also refer the patients with severe symptoms to designated hospitals based on the severity of symptoms. In the event of any surge of cases, only CCCs will refer patients to designated hospitals.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b>VTM</b> – The Viral Transport Medium (VTM) kit usage should be notified to the District Surveillance Officer.</li> <li>b) Private hospitals to contact the District Surveillance Officer on VTMs and follow the procedure.</li> <li>c) The trained medical professional to collect the sample from the patient in the isolation ward using Personal Protection Equipment as</li> </ol>

	<p>home quarantine in the relevant language.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Necessary instructions should be passed to ASHA worker or the community volunteer in absence of ASHA worker to ensure the home quarantine of the family members.</li> <li>7. The details of such members have to be forwarded to District Surveillance Officer for constant monitoring of their health symptoms.</li> <li>8. <i>The mobile medical units will also take samples from people who are under home quarantine.</i></li> </ol>	<p>per protocol.</p> <p>d)The sample should be sent through a specialised personnel designated for the purpose to NEIGRIHMS, Shillong and other designated testing centres as identified by the Government</p>
<p><b>2: On Testing Positive</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Contact Tracing has to be done immediately for the confirmed positive patient.</li> <li>2. The Surveillance Officer should depute a team with the Medical Officer of the concerned locality/PHC and trace out the possible suspects.</li> <li>3. <b>CATEGORY A: If Asymptomatic but Positive –</b> The patient to be kept under home-quarantine or within the Corona Care Centres for those patients who do not have an isolation room at home.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b><i>The cases tested as positive will be categorised into four categories A,B,C and D as listed below:</i></b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>A) Asymptomatic but Positive(preferably treated under Home Quarantine)</b></li> <li><b>B) Mild Symptomatic (treated under Home quarantine or at designated Corona Care Centre facility. Symptomatic treatment will be provided by the attending medical doctor)</b></li> <li><b>C) Severe Symptoms with respiratory distress who need oxygen support (They will be treated at designated hospitals notified for this purpose)</b></li> <li><b>D) Critical Patients who need Intensive Care and</b></li> </ol> </li> </ol>

	<p>4. <b>CATEGORY B:</b>  <b>If Mild/Moderate Symptomatic and Positive</b> - The patient to be kept in the designated room within the isolation ward meant for symptomatic patients in the Corona Care Centres wherever applicable or at the Civil Hospital/other designated facility.  In case of breathing difficulties, they will be shifted to nearby designated hospitals with oxygen support available.</p> <p>5. <b>CATEGORY C:</b>  <b>If Severe and Positive</b>— These cases require hospitalization is required for these patients and they will be shifted to designated hospitals with oxygen support available.</p> <p>6. <b>CATEGORY D:</b>  <b>If Critical and Positive</b>— ICU support is required for these cases. They need to be sent to designated hospitals that have invasive - ventilator support system as per the list given separately. NEIGRIHMS shall function as the final referral centre for the State.</p>	<p><b>ventilator support (They will be treated at designated hospitals notified for this purpose)</b></p> <p>2. <i>These patients tested positive will be treated at as following.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>If there is a surge in the cases, then the asymptomatic patients may be advised to be quarantined at home. In case of insufficient space at home, the infected members may be advised to stay at village public buildings like Schools, community centres or any identified as Corona Care Centre (CCC) facility. DCs are entrusted to identify and set up these facilities as and when the need arises.</i></li> <li>- <i>An online patient management system will be put in place in ensuring optimum utilisation of facilities available in the state</i></li> </ul>
--	--	--

<b>3: On Full Recovery of the Patient</b>	<p>A. To be advised for home quarantine for 14 days to see relapse of any symptoms.</p> <p>B. Family members also to be advised to be in quarantine for 14 days.</p> <p>C. Surveillance Officers should have constant follow up on the patient who has recovered fully.</p>	<p><i>The patient will be declared cured only after 2 consecutive samples, 24 hours apart, are negative</i></p>
<b>4: On Death of the Patient</b>	<p>A. The body has to be disposed of as per the MoH&amp;FW guidelines.</p> <p>B. Any measure that might lead to infection of others should be avoided like touching, post-mortem etc.,</p>	

Date: 25.03.2020

Place: Shillong

(Sampath Kumar)  
 Commissioner & Secretary  
 Department of Health & Family Welfare  
 Government of Meghalaya