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COMMISSIONERATE

Health & Family Welfare Services

No. DHS/DD/SSU/17/2019-20

Date: 29.04.2020

CIRCULAR

Sub: COVID-19 (RT-PCR) testing for front line Government Employees other than Police Department in KCG Hospital reg.

1. The pandemic COVID-19 which affected the state from March-2020 has infected 518 patients and caused mortality of 20 patients. The state through its well thought out dynamic strategic approach has been able to limit the spread of the epidemic to 20 districts including BBMP so far. This was possible due to the proactive participation of many departments under the leadership of the Commissioner, BBMP and respective Deputy Commissioners of the district.
2. Isolation, contact tracing, enforcing of quarantine, lockdown, sealing of certain potentially infective areas, surveillance and follow up are some of the community-based strategies utilized to name a few. In this endeavour many officers and staff of other departments have been working hand in hand with the health department and might be at a risk of exposure to the Corona-2 infection while discharging their COVID-19 duties. Therefore, it has been decided to go for one-time linear screening of all those front-line officers and workers of Bengaluru City to begin with, from 29.04.2020 onwards.
3. The exercise should be conducted under the direct supervision and guidance of the BBMP Commissioner, Bengaluru and along with the active assistance of the Joint Director, Medical, DH & FWS and Chief Health Officer of Public Health and clinical of BBMP,
4. **Venue:** K.C. General Hospital, located in Malleshwarum, Bengaluru.
5. **Time:** 10.00 am to 4.00 p.m. with a lunch break of 30 minutes.

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6. **Responsibility:** Dr. Venkateshaiah (Mobile No: 9844163041) Medical Superintendent, K.C. General Hospital and his team including the DNB faculty and students. Staff and students of the Paramedical courses shall also be utilized.
7. **Methodology:** Since it is a linear screening of officers and staff who are apparently healthy the “*pooled sample*” method is suggested. In this method every tested person name should be meticulously recorded with the detail of the designation and phone number for future contact. However, the final decision of going either for individual or pooled testing lies with the local physician depending on the medical condition if any, of the personnel at the time of screening.
8. **Logistics:** Arrangement should be made for sufficient number of testing gears, PPEs for the testing staff and other consumables. The labs should be strengthened in terms of manpower and supplies to meet the additional work load of this screening activity. The list of officers and staff to be screened shall be obtained from different departments by the Joint Director, Medical, DH& FWS and communicated to the Superintendent after disaggregation.
9. **Standard fixtures:** Provision of drinking water, toilets, seating arrangements, necessary sign boards shall be made without giving room for any complaint. The standard protocol of physical/social distancing, hand cleaning etiquette, wearing of masks shall be enforced meticulously.
10. **Output:** Every day tests of around 100 to 200 officers and staffs should be done without causing inconvenience to the regular OPD and COVID-19 work.
11. **Caution:** While testing it may be informed to the officers and staff that it is only a linear one time testing and gives the results whether COVID-19 affected or not on the day of testing only and it does not eliminate any future infection either in the course of their COVID-19 duty or otherwise. In spite of the results the officers and staff should mandatorily practice the standard physical distancing, hand and respiratory etiquettes.

12. **Feedback:** A daily report of the process and output with photographs shall be submitted to the Commissioner BBMP, Bengaluru and the undersigned.


Commissioner

Health & Family Welfare Services.

To,

1. The Commissioner, BBMP.
2. Medical Superintendents of the K.C. General Hospital, Bengaluru.
3. Joint Director, Medical, DH & FWS.
4. District Health and Family Welfare Officer of Bengaluru Urban District, Bengaluru.
5. Chief Health Officer, Public Health and Clinical, BBMP, Bengaluru.

Copies for information:

1. Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department.
2. Secretary, DPAR.
3. Mission Director, NHM.
4. Director, Health and Family Welfare Services.
5. OSD, SSU COVID.
6. Joint Director, IEC, HFW.