



GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

No: HFW 42 PRS 2022

Karnataka Government Secretariat,
Vikasa Soudha,
Bengaluru, Dated:23.02.2022.

CIRCULAR

- Subject:** Discontinuation of screening of asymptomatic patients for Covid-19 Before admission, surgeries, procedures, investigations, etc-Regarding.
- Reference:** Proceedings of 155th meeting of State COVID 19 TAC dated: 13.2.2022.

Since March 2019 following the onset of Covid-19 pandemic in the State, the non-Covid patients were affected due to non-availability of efficient services in the hospitals; especially those who had medical emergencies. Following the three waves of the pandemic in the State, the health services are now better equipped and proficient to manage both Covid and non-Covid cases in the same hospital. To facilitate these dual services in the hospitals, the State Government recently issued an order to that effect (No.HFW/21/PRS/2022 dt.8-2-2022).

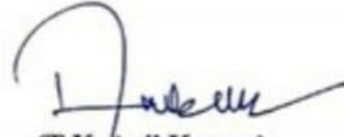
Going a step further it is now important that the recent ICMR advisory on purposive testing strategy for COVID-19 in India (Version VII, dated 10th January 2022) is more scrupulously followed. The two premier hospitals in the country, AllMS, New Delhi and PGIMER, Chandigarh on dates 9th Feb[No.F.79/COVID-19//2022/Estt. (H) and 10th Feb.2022 (Endst. No.MS/22/00016) respectively have issued directions for discontinuation of screening of asymptomatic patients for Covid-19 before - admission, surgeries, procedures, investigations, etc.

Hence, the following instructions for implementation in both government and private hospitals in the state are issued.

- To discontinue the routine Covid-19 testing of clinically asymptomatic persons prior to - hospitalization (regular and day care), minor/major surgical/interventions/procedures/imaging/ miscellaneous investigations including in OPD/emergency rooms.

- This shall also include those patients who were earlier Covid-19 positive and have since recovered and transferred to the earlier non-Covid ward for continued treatment.
- The hospital infection control committee (HICC) to be proactive in this regard.

However, symptomatic patients would continue to be tested, isolated, and treated as per current guidelines.



(T.K. Anil Kumar)
Principal Secretary to Government
Health & Family Welfare Department
Government of Karnataka.

To:

1. The Special Commissioner – Health, BBMP, Bengaluru
2. The Deputy Commissioners of all districts
3. CEO, ZP of all districts
4. The Dean & Director of All Medical College Hospitals.
5. The District Health and Family Welfare officers of all districts
6. The District Surveillance Officers of all districts
7. The District Surgeons of all districts
8. The President, PHANA, Bengaluru.
9. The President, IMA & IAP, Bengaluru.
10. The Commissioner, Health & F W Services, Bengaluru.
11. The Mission Director-National Health Mission
12. The Director, Health & Family Welfare Services
13. The Director, Medical Education.

Copy for kind information:

1. Chief Secretary, GoK
2. Additional Chief Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister
3. The Chief Commissioner – BBMP, Bengaluru
4. The Secretary, Dept. of Medical Education, GoK.
5. PS to Hon'ble Minister for HFW and Medical Education.