



ABSTRACT

COVID-19 – Health and Family Welfare department – Protocol for Contact Tracing for COVID-19 including Variants of Concern – Orders – Issued.

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (P1) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Ms).No. 351

Dated: 16.08.2021

பிலவ, ஆடி - 31

திருவள்ளூர் ஆண்டு - 2052

Read:

1. G.O.(Ms).No.319, Health and Family Welfare (P1) department dated: 31.08.2020.
2. G.O.(Ms).No.88, Health and Family Welfare (P1) department dated: 24.02.2021.
3. G.O.(Ms)No.264, Health and Family Welfare (P1) Department, dated 03.06.2021.
4. From the Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, letter R. No. 70028/Epi/S2/2021, dated 13.08.2021.

ORDER:

In Government order first read above, the Government have issued comprehensive guidelines for COVID-19. In Government Order second read above, modified comprehensive guidelines have been issued for COVID-19 testing strategy, guidelines for home isolation, demarcation of containment zone, categorization of patients and discharge policy for Covid-19 patients. In Government Order third read above, Government had set up State Task Force Committee on COVID-19.

2. The Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine has now prepared Protocol for Contact Tracing for COVID-19 including Variants of Concern.

3. The Government have accept the draft Protocol for Contact Tracing for COVID-19 including Variants of Concern prepared by the Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine and issue the following Protocol for Contact Tracing for COVID-19 including Variants of Concern with immediate effect :-

Protocol for Contact Tracing for COVID-19 including Variants of Concern

Objectives of Contact Tracing

Identification of contacts at the earliest to identify the infected and organize proper care for the infected and taking measures to prevent further spread of the infection.

P.T.O

Definitions

Anyone exposed to a symptomatic COVID-19 case, from 2 days before the onset of symptoms to date of isolation or 14 days after the onset of symptoms, if not isolated earlier. In the case of an asymptomatic COVID-19 case detected during screening procedures, from two days before testing to date of isolation.

Steps for Contact Tracing

1. The case should be interviewed by a Medical Officer/ Health Inspector/ Sanitary Inspector and all immediate contacts and extended contacts are to be listed. On an average a minimum of 20 contacts per case should be listed.
2. Each contact and place visited should be listed, recorded and given to frontline health staff namely Health Inspector.
3. The contacts can be classified as high risk and low risk. All immediate contacts like family contact or workstation contact, 60 plus, and contacts with comorbidities are categorised as high risk contacts. Extended contacts without comorbidities can be categorised as low risk.

Illustrative List of Contacts

- Lives in the same household as the case or working in same place
 - Anyone in close proximity (within 2 meters) of the confirmed case with or without precautions.
 - Anyone who touched or cleaned the linens, clothes, or dishes of the patient.
 - Anyone who had direct physical contact with the body of the patient including physical examination without PPE.
 - Passengers in close proximity (within 2 meters) of a conveyance with a symptomatic person who later tested positive for COVID-19.
 - Touched body fluids of the case without appropriate PPE.
 - All persons in the office of an infected person.
 - Contacts may be very limited or very large: On an average a minimum of 20 contacts should be traced.
4. Details of contacts from other districts/ other states should be immediately shared with the respective District or State Surveillance Officer.
 5. All the contacts should be tested between day 5 and 10 of coming into contact with a symptomatic/asymptomatic COVID-19 positive patients and followed up for 14 days.

Quarantine

- Quarantine at home or designated facility for 14 days from the date of last exposure.
- During quarantine, contacts should be assessed every day for onset of symptoms, SpO₂ level and in case of clinical indication biochemical markers should be tested and evaluated.

- All contacts should be screened for diabetes, hypertension and any other comorbidity likely to be present.
- All contacts should be explained the symptoms of COVID-19 which include fever, cough, cold, body pain, headache, gastro intestinal symptoms, extreme tiredness and breathlessness.
- Contact should be advised to immediately call concerned area Primary Health Center Medical Officer or Block/Municipal/Corporation or District or State Control Room number if develops any symptoms or any other assistance or clarification is required.

Fever Camps

Fever camps at the residential area and work place of the case will be useful to identify more cases and aid in contact tracing and containment.

Variants of Concern

Samples should be regularly sent for genome sequencing. If any new variant of concern is detected, in addition to the above measures, extended contact tracing of 100 or more contacts are to be traced and intensive containment measures should be put in place. Fever camps should be organised and further samples to be sent for genome sequence for monitoring the impact of new variants of concern.

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

**J.RADHAKRISHNAN
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT**

To

The Principal Secretary / Commissioner, Greater Chennai Corporation, Chennai – 600 003.

The Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Chennai – 600 006.

The Director of Medical Education, Chennai – 600 010.

The Director of Medical and Rural Health Services, Chennai – 600 006.

The Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department, Chennai-600 009.

The Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, Chennai-600 009.

All District Collectors.

Copy to:-

The Senior Personal Assistant to Hon'ble Minister (Medical and Family Welfare),
Chennai – 600 009.

The Principal Private Secretary to Chief Secretary, Chennai – 600 009.

Data Cell / Stock File / Spare Copy.

//FORWARDED BY ORDER//

24/05/21
SECTION OFFICER

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16/8/21

Data cell