



Office Tel : +91 80 23354039

+91 80 23354085

E-mail: com-hfws@karnataka.gov.in

## COMMISSIONERATE Health & Family Welfare Services

No:NVBDCP/ EST 7E/Covid 19/2023-24

Date: 28.12.2023

### Circular

Subject: Covid 19 - Further Precautionary steps to be followed in light of JN.1 sub variant detection in State.

- Reference: 1. Covid instructions circular No:NVBDCP/ EST 7E/Covid 19/2023-24 , Dated:18.12.2023.
2. Proceedings of 203<sup>rd</sup> meeting of Covid 19 State Technical Advisory Committee, Dated: 24th Dec 2023.
  3. Proceedings of 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of Cabinet Subcommittee on Covid 19, Dated: 26th Dec 2023.


In view of the current Covid 19 situation and with Omicron subvariant JN.1 being reported in Karnataka State, directions were earlier issued (Ref 1). Now the following further steps needs to be complied with at appropriate levels.

1. Testing forms the basis for early detection of Covid-19 and initiation of early treatment to the patient. As a matter of precaution, it is advised that along with the targetted testing norms issued earlier, all symptomatic close contacts shall also be tested for Covid 19.
2. Almost 400 Covid 19 patients are in Home Isolation presently and few are admitted in general isolation wards in hospitals. Henceforth, Covid 19 patients under home isolation and general ward admissions shall be visited by doctors / paramedical staff from PHCs / UPHCs / Namma Clinics etc atleast once to assess medical condition & symptoms of patient and suggest further steps for treatment. THOs of taluks shall monitor this. In BBMP area, this shall be monitored by the Zonal Health Officers.
3. All those covid patients admitted in ICUs shall be monitored through Tele ICU from State HQ, as done during the earlier Covid waves.
4. District Death Audit committees shall meet as and when required and audit the covid deaths upto date. Similarly the State Death Audit Committee shall audit the covid deaths and submit reports with recommendations, from time to time, to the Health Commissionerate.

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5. In view of the New year festive season ahead, and as a step towards hospital preparedness, all Public Hospitals in districts shall gear themselves to establish dedicated covid isolation wards including some ICU beds to admit and treat covid-19 patients.
6. As unnecessary exposure to CT is not desirable, the CT thorax scan shall NOT be used as screening test for Covid 19 anymore. Strict instructions and compliance in this regard is expected from Govt and Private Healthcare facilities and diagnostic centres.
7. Separate directions would be issued to provide flu vaccination to all Doctors and essential paramedical and support staff in public hospitals.

The State/District Health Authorities and BBMP Health Authorities should therefore, ensure that the above mentioned directions are complied with and monitored in the larger interest of Public Health.

  
(Randeep D.) 28.12.23  
Commissioner

Health & Family Welfare Services

**To,**

1. The Special Commissioner Health & IT, BBMP, Bengaluru
2. The Deputy Commissioners of all districts
3. CEO, ZP of all districts
4. The District Health and Family Welfare officers of all districts
5. The District Surveillance Officers of all districts
6. The Mission Director-National Health Mission
7. The Director, Health & Family Welfare Services

**Copy for kind information to:**

1. Chief Secretary, GoK
2. The Chief Commissioner BBMP, Bengaluru
3. The Principal Secretary to Govt, Department of Health & F Welfare Services, Vikasa Soudha, Bengaluru.
4. PS to Honble Minister for HFW and Medical Education.

