



GMOA

THE GOVERNMENT MEDICAL OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

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GMOA/DGHS/2020/0049

16/03/2020

Dr. Anil Jasinghe,
Director General of Health Services,
Ministry of Healthcare and Indigenous Medical Services,
Colombo 10.

Dear Sir,

Ensuring safety of Health Care Workers and optimum service delivery during the COVID19 outbreak.

This is further to our previous communications addressed to Hon. Minister of Health with copies to your good offices' in January 2020.

There, we as the GMOA, has made comprehensive proposals to encounter any possible COVID 19 outbreak situation within the country.

Since, the community spread has now started within the country, we would like to bring following key issues for your urgent attention;

1. Safety of Health care workers including doctors.

We have received many complaints that, even the basic minimum safety equipment such as face masks, gloves are not adequately supplied to health care providers, especially at primary care setup.

Eg: For health staff working in OPDs' of Basic Hospitals, Divisional Hospitals and PMCUs'.

2. Proper National Guidelines for following areas.

- Quarantine measures
- Transfer of patients
- Care for suspected patients at each and every health care level.

3. Periodical update of case definition

4. Convening of Task Force and Technical Committees in daily basis, at least for limited period of time.

GMOA firmly believe that, every decision should be made at these committees after assessing the health risk.


Unilateral decisions by each and every authority should not be entertained.

5. Immediate solutions to existing drug shortage and ensure adequate supply of at least essential resources to government hospitals.
Eg: PPEs to ensure universal precautions
6. Restriction of routine services at Specialized Regional Centers island wide.
7. Suspected patients to present themselves only to Specialized Regional Centers, in order to prevent further spread in crowded OPDs of the other government hospitals.
8. Expand following services of government hospitals.
 - Expansion of ICU Facilities
 - Upgrading of laboratory facilities
9. Restriction and stepwise closure of port of entries to the country.
10. Possibility of locking down selected high-risk districts and cities.

We would appreciate if you could coordinate the implementation of above suggestions with relevant stakeholders.

GMOA wishes to pledge our fullest cooperation for attempts by authorities to prevent further spread of the disease within the country.

Thanking you,
Yours faithfully,


Dr. Haritha Aluthge,
Secretary

Cc: Hon. Minister of Health, Mrs. Pavithra Devi Wanniarachchi
Secretary to HE the President
Secretary to Hon. Prime Minister
Secretary, Ministry of Healthcare and Indigenous Medical Services
To All DDGs of Ministry of Healthcare and Indigenous Medical Services
To all Heads of Health Institutions
To All Secretaries of GMOA Branch Unions