INSTRUCTIONS FOR SELECTED PUBLIC ACTIVITIES/WORK SETTINGS FOR THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF COVID-19

The instruction notes are given for a range of public activities and work settings. Some sectors such as tourism, large shopping malls, event management, etc. would require reference to several instruction notes.

The Instructions are subject to overall permission given by the Ministry of Health to resume functions (totally/selected).

Each instruction note is issued by the Director General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Indigenous Medical Services and are for the establishment/owner/responsible authority to follow in prevention of transmission of COVID-19.
8. Resumption of General and Family Practice amidst COVID threat

Resumption of General practice/ primary care is an essential need in rational management and risk grading of patients. This will rationalize the visits to OPDs in secondary and tertiary hospitals.

General rules and regulations

- Only SLMC registered practitioners will be allowed to practice allopathic medicine.
- Medical Practitioners will be provided with updated instructions and guidelines to protect themselves and how best to modify their practice in order to ensure the safety of patients as well as doctors and other staff.
- Those without SLMC registration who illegally practice allopathic medicine will be punished under the quarantine act according to the powers vested with the DGHS.
- The SLMC registration certificate should be displayed prominently at the entrance of the practice.
- Patients who fall into case definition of “COVID suspected case” should be referred to the nearest COVID management centre according to the circular issued by the DGHS.
- An appointment system should be arranged to minimize the queue (Electronic Medical Record (EMR) will reduce consultation time.) Video conferencing is encouraged
- During the provision of appointments, encourage the patients with chronic illnesses to have appointments at the beginning of each sessions.
- Encourage the patients to come on time for the appointments and maintain the allocated time for each consultation
- The GP should wear a mask during the consultation. Hand washing or sanitizing should be done after seeing each patient
- The doctor should wear face mask and face shield /goggles with full PPE in high risk procedures. Assistants too should wear similar protective equipment
- The institution should have proper cleaning, disinfection and disposal methods.
- You are required to fill the provided Assurance form, indicating compliance with the instructions given. The original of the Assurance form should submitted to the area Medical Officer of Health. A copy of the same should be kept with you.

Patients attending the consultation

- All patients and those accompanying should wear masks
- Patients should be seated one meter apart.
- Hand washing or hand sanitizer should be available for patients.
- The patient should be screened for COVID (by asking relevant questions) before entering waiting area and consultation room, ideally at the time of appointment or later using an audio-visual system or mobile phone.

Method/s of instruction

- Instructions to be displayed in the waiting area

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Director General of Health Services

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