

ANNEX 2c : SCREENING AND TRIAGING

1. PRIVATE FACILITIES

Private Clinic

- **Provide good visual signages** in all relevant languages requesting patients to declare symptoms, travel or contact with a confirmed case
- Through verbal and visual cues, identify those with respiratory symptoms and **offer masks and hand sanitizer**
Rapidly assess verbally if the patient has epidemiological criteria that might qualify him/her as a suspected case. **(refer to Annex 1)**
 - If uncertain, discuss with medical / Infectious disease specialist at nearest screening hospital
- If suspected case identified:
 - place patient in a pre-designated waiting area¹
 - Take patients identifiers (name, IC/passport, telephone number, address) for notification to PKD (and arranging transport if necessary)
 - Inform with Physician-on-call / Physician in-charge of screening centre
 - Patient may use his/her own transport to nearest screening hospital (public transport not allowed)
 - If patient does not have private transportation, contact PKD for transport arrangement.
- After patient leaves – disinfect waiting area

¹Pre-designated area

- more than 1m away from other patients and staff
- minimal surrounding items to minimize items requiring disinfecting

Private Hospital

- **Provide good visual signages** in all relevant languages requesting patients to declare symptoms, travel or contact with a confirmed case
- Through verbal and visual cues, identify those with respiratory symptoms and **offer masks and hand sanitizer**
- **Clinically assess the severity** and whether the patient qualifies as a suspected case (in isolation room using appropriate PPE).
- If uncertain, discuss with medical / Infectious disease specialist at nearest screening/admitting hospital
- If severe cases (hypoxic or presence of exertional dyspnea)
 - Contact admitting medical / ID specialist at admitting Hospital to arrange for admission.

- If case accepted, to contact PKD to arrange transportation.
- If mild case (asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic):
 - Take patients identifiers (name, IC/passport, telephone number, address) for notification to PKD (and arranging transport if necessary)
 - Inform with Physician-on-call / Physician in-charge of screening centre
 - Patient may use his/her own transport to nearest screening hospital (public transport not allowed)
 - If patient does not have private transportation, contact PKD for transport arrangement.
- After patient leaves – disinfect isolation room
- If the patient does not fulfill suspected case criteria, but clinical suspicion remains, take samples and send to designated private laboratories (Annex 4a)

2. GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

- Patients who come to the respective health facilities should be screened for suspected COVID-19 at triage.
- A special area should be set up for suspected case of COVID-19, to which he / she can come directly and to be assessed there.
- The suspected case should be managed by a dedicated team where possible.

• **WHEN SHOULD YOU SUSPECT COVID-19?**

COVID-19 is to be suspected when a patient presents to Triage Counter with the following:

Attended an event or areas associated with known COVID-19 cluster or red zones
OR
 Travelled to / resided in foreign country within 14 days before the onset of illness **OR**
 Close contact¹ in 14 days before illness onset with a confirmed case of COVID-19 **OR**

Should a patient fulfill the description, to institute infection prevention and control measures as the following:

- Place patients at least 1 meter away from other patients or health care workers. Clinics and Emergency Departments are to prepare an isolation area / room for patients.
- Ensure strict hand hygiene for all clinic staffs and suspected patient.
- Provide surgical mask to patients if not contraindicated.
- Personal protective equipment as per recommendation should be worn at all times.

- After the encounter, ensure proper disposal of all PPE that have been used
 - Decontamination of the isolation area and equipments used should be done.
- A group of suspected case who come to any healthcare facilities in a specific vehicle (e.g. bus, van) should be contained in that vehicle until being evaluated by a dedicated team to minimize exposure to healthcare workers and other patients.

NOTE:

It is not always possible to identify patients with COVID-19 early because some have mild or nonspecific symptoms. For this reason, it is important that health care workers apply standard precautions and wear surgical mask consistently with all patients – regardless of their diagnosis in all work practices all the time.