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 area
  - 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

\[1\] Pre-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 healthcare workers apply standard precautions and wear surgical mask consistently with all patients – regardless of their diagnosis in all work practices all the time.