

Government of West Bengal
Department of Health & Family Welfare
Swasthya Bhavan, Salt Lake
GN-29, Sector-V, Kolkata-700091

Memo. No.- HPH/9M-21/2020/Part-III/76

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Circular

With the Covid-19 incidence and test positivity rate declining significantly in the State, it has been relevant to re-visit the indications of Covid-19 testing and the protocol of personal protection. ICMR has already revised its Advisory on Covid-19 Testing Strategy (vide: Version VII dated 10.01.2022). Now, a balance need to be struck between the safety of the care providers and other health care seekers on one hand and the issue of providing hassle-free treatment to the ailing people on the other hand.

The State Expert Committee on Covid (vide: GO No. 03-Secy (HFW)/2022 dated 03.01.2022) have thoroughly deliberated on the matter and has made some recommendations in regard to the testing protocol, admission of covid cases with co-morbidities and personal protection for the health care providers.

Based on the suggestions of the said committee, the following guidelines are hereby issued. These are in supersession of guidelines circulated earlier in this regard. The same may be followed in all health care facilities operating in the State.

Covid-19 test for patients:

- Needed only if the patient is symptomatic for Covid-19.
- Pre-procedure screening is needed only for procedures involving oral/nasal cavity or pharynx where the surgeon is in close contact for long duration.
- No Covid test is needed for routine hospital admission (day care or regular), prior to any surgery (major or minor) or interventional/non-interventional procedure, unless the patient is symptomatically suggestive of Covid-19.
- No patient should be referred to another institution for lack of the facility for testing. Arrangement should be made to collect and transfer his/her sample to the testing unit tied up to the health facility.

Personal protection:

- N95 mask, gloves, face shield & plastic apron along with hand hygiene are sufficient for personal protection for surgery or procedures on asymptomatic patient. There is no need for use of PPE in such cases.

Admission of co-morbid patients with Covid positive status:

- Patients who have comorbidity(s) and are positive on Covid test on being incidentally done, will be admitted under the primary care giver in their

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