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சுகாதார அமைச்சு
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

මගේ අංකය
எனது இல
My No. DGHS/COVID-19/347/2021
ඔබේ අංකය
உமது இல
Your No.
දිනය
திகதி
Date 11.08.2021

All Deputy Director Generals
Director, Quarantine
Chief Epidemiologist
Coordinator In Charge COVID-19 Operations of Ministry of Health
Provincial Directors of Health Services
Regional Directors of Health Services
Provincial/District Consultant Community Physicians
Regional Epidemiologists
Medical Officers of Health
Medical Officer, Airport / Port Health Offices

**Quarantine measures for travellers arriving
from overseas during the pandemic of COVID-19**

Due to the current COVID-19 situation in Sri Lanka and globally, following quarantine measures are imposed for travellers arriving in Sri Lanka.

My letter No. **DGHS/COVID-19/347/2021 dated 15.07.2021** on Quarantine measures for travellers arriving from overseas during the pandemic of COVID-19 is hereby cancelled.

Following sections are **amendments** to my letter No. **DGHS/COVID-19/347/2021 dated 07-07-2021** on Quarantine measures for travellers arriving from overseas during the pandemic of COVID-19.

1. Amendment to "Section C" in the letter No. DGHS/COVID-19/347/2021 dated 07-07-2021 on Pre departure negative COVID-19 PCR test report

All travellers of **two years and above** arriving in Sri Lanka should mandatorily carry a negative **COVID-19 PCR test report** in English language done **within 72 hours prior to embarkation**.

Note: Pre departure COVID-19 Rapid Antigen test report is not accepted

2. Amendment to "Section H.4.6" in the letter No. DGHS/COVID-19/347/2021 dated 07-07-2021 on Day Seven PCR test for Fully Vaccinated* travellers with negative On Arrival PCR reports

H.4.6.1 Fully vaccinated travellers who have **NOT** arrived from/ transited at **India or a travel restricted country** (mentioned below in **Section J.2**) and released from quarantine with an **On Arrival (Day One) negative COVID-19 PCR report**, do **not have to undergo COVID-19 PCR test on Day Seven**.

Unvaccinated children of **two years to eighteen years** who have been released with the fully vaccinated parents **should undergo a COVID-19 PCR test on Day Seven** after arriving in Sri Lanka from a Ministry of Health approved Private Sector or State Sector Laboratory. Day Seven PCR test results should be immediately informed to the area Medical Officer of Health (MOH) by telephone or email

3. Inclusion of "Section H.5" to the letter No. DGHS/COVID-19/347/2021 dated 07-07-2021

H.5 Quarantine Measures for Travellers with a past history of COVID-19

H.5.1 Travellers with a past history of COVID-19 should fulfill the following criteria

H.5.1.1 Travellers with a past history of COVID-19 infection should have a valid document certifying COVID-19 illness (in English). The traveler should depart between the 28th to the 90th day from the date of positive COVID-19 Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT) **.

This certificate should contain the name of the person, Dates and Names of the positive NAAT **.

Such travellers should arrive after getting at least a single dose of Astra Zeneca/ Pfizer BioNTech/ Moderna/ Johnson & Johnson vaccine or any other single dose COVID-19 vaccine recommended for the general population to fully vaccinate them. This vaccine should be given during the period between two weeks after the positive NAAT** test and up to 14 days before departure.

H.5.2 If fulfilled the criteria mentioned in Section H.5.1.1, they should be quarantined until **On Arrival (Day One) PCR test report is negative** report is available and NO further quarantine is necessary if the On Arrival (Day One) PCR test report is negative.

H.5.3 In charge officer of the Quarantine Hotel / Centre or Hotel Doctor at Safe & Secure Certified Level 1 Hotel should discharge the traveller after verifying the status of vaccination and document certifying COVID-19 illness and issuing a "Discharge Document".

H.5.4 When discharging travellers who fulfilled the criteria in Section H.5.1.1 after On Arrival (Day One) negative PCR report, In charge officer of the Quarantine Hotel / Quarantine Centre or Hotel Doctor at Safe & Secure Certified Level 1 Hotel should issue a "Discharge Document" and email the details to the Epidemiology Unit (chepid@slt.net.lk and samithag@hotmail.com) of the Ministry of Health.

H.5.5 If there are **children below eighteen years**, they can be discharged with the parents **who fulfilled the criteria in Section H.5.1.1** by adhering to following measures:

- Children of **two to eighteen years** should be subjected to an on arrival (Day One) PCR testing and they should have negative results.
- Children **below two years** will not be subjected to PCR testing after arrival to Sri Lanka and they will be discharged with the parents. However, if the on arrival (Day One) PCR testing of an accompanying traveller of the child is positive for COVID-19, child below two years will also be subjected to PCR testing subsequently.

H.5.6 Should arrange their own transport to travel to residence / home and should not use public transport for this purpose.

Throughout the travelling, they should strictly adhere to COVID-19 preventive measures imposed by Government of Sri Lanka.

Driver and the passengers of the vehicle should properly wear a facemask throughout.

Should travel directly to the destination without any stopovers.

H.5.7 Unvaccinated children of **two years to eighteen years** who have been released with the **parents should undergo a COVID-19 PCR test on Day Seven** after arriving in Sri Lanka from a Ministry of Health approved Private Sector or State Sector Laboratory. Day Seven PCR test results should be immediately informed to the area Medical Officer of Health (MOH) by telephone or email

4. Amendment to "Section J" in the letter No. DGHS/COVID-19/347/2021 dated 07-07-2021

J. 1 Travellers arriving from India

J.1.1 Approval to arrive from India

J.1.1.1 All Sri Lankans and their **accompanying** foreign National Spouse, children, Dual Citizens (if using the Sri Lankan passport to arrive) with a **travel history (including transit) in the past 14 days** to India, do not need to get the prior approval from the Foreign Ministry and Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka to disembark in Sri Lanka. They have to liaise with the airline and arrive in Sri Lanka.

J.1.1.2 All Foreign Nationals (including valid resident visa holders) and Dual Citizens (If using the foreign passport to arrive) with a **travel history (including transit) in the past 14 days to India will be permitted to disembark in Sri Lanka after getting the permission of Foreign Ministry (entry.permission@mfa.gov.lk) followed by Civil Aviation Authority (caaslpax@caa.lk) of Sri Lanka.**

J.1.2 Quarantine Measures after arriving in Sri Lanka from India

No.	Category	Quarantine Measure
J.1.2.1	<p>a) Fully Vaccinated* Sri Lankan Citizens (and their accompanying Fully vaccinated Foreign National Spouse, fully vaccinated children).</p> <p>b) Fully vaccinated* Dual Citizens (and their accompanying Fully vaccinated Foreign National Spouse, fully vaccinated children).</p> <p>c) Sri Lankans / Dual Citizens having a valid document certifying COVID-19 illness (in English). The traveler should depart between the 28th to the 90th day from the date of positive COVID-19 Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT) **. This certificate should contain the name of the person, Dates and Names of the positive NAAT **. Such travellers should arrive after getting at least a single dose of Astra Zeneca/ Pfizer BioNTech/ Moderna/ Johnson & Johnson vaccine or any other single dose COVID-19 vaccine recommended for the general population to fully vaccinate them. This vaccine should be given during the period between two weeks after the positive NAAT** test and up to 14 days prior to departure.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quarantine at a Government managed Quarantine Hotel/ Quarantine Centre until On Arrival (Day One) COVID-19 negative PCR report is available. 2. If they have a residence/ home in Sri Lanka they could be released to further quarantine at residence/ home. 3. COVID-19 PCR test should be done on Day Ten from the date of arrival in Sri Lanka. 4. Should be released from Quarantine with a negative PCR test report done on Day Ten
J.1.2.2	Unvaccinated children below 18 years who are accompanied by the parents mentioned in Section J.1.2.1.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unvaccinated children up to 18 years can be released for further home quarantine with parents mentioned in Section J.1.2.1. 2. Children of 2 years and up to 18 years are subjected to On Arrival (Day One) COVID-19 PCR test.

		<p>3. If negative, could be released for home quarantine with parents.</p> <p>4. Should be released from Home Quarantine with a negative PCR test report done on Day Ten.</p>
J.1.2.3	<p>a) Fully vaccinated* Valid Resident Visa Holders and their accompanying unvaccinated children below 18 years</p> <p>b) Valid Resident Visa Holders having a valid document certifying COVID-19 illness (in English) and their accompanying unvaccinated children below 18 years.</p> <p>Valid Resident Visa Holders with a past history of COVID-19 infection should have a valid document certifying COVID-19 illness (in English). The traveller should depart between the 28th to the 90th day from the date of positive COVID-19 Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT) **. This certificate should contain the name of the person, Dates and Names of the positive NAAT **.</p> <p>Such travellers should arrive after getting at least a single dose of Astra Zeneca/ Pfizer BioNTech/ Moderna/ Johnson & Johnson vaccine or any other single dose COVID-19 vaccine recommended for the general population to fully vaccinate them. This vaccine should be given during the period between two weeks after the positive NAAT** test and up to 14 days prior to departure.</p>	<p>1. Quarantine at a Government managed Quarantine Hotel until On Arrival (Day One) COVID-19 negative PCR report is available.</p> <p>2. If they have a residence/ home in Sri Lanka they could be released to further quarantine at residence/ home</p> <p>3. COVID-19 PCR test should be done on Day Ten from the date of arrival in Sri Lanka.</p> <p>4. Children of 2 years and up to 18 years are subjected to On Arrival (Day One) and Day Ten COVID-19 PCR tests.</p> <p>5. Should be released from Quarantine with a negative PCR test report done on Day Ten</p>
J.1.2.4	<p>a) Fully Vaccinated Foreign Nationals (other than Fully Vaccinated valid resident visa holders mentioned in Section J.1.2.3.) and their accompanying unvaccinated children below 18 years</p> <p>b) Foreign Nationals (other than valid resident visa holders mentioned in Section J.1.2.3.) having a valid document certifying COVID-19 illness (in English) and their accompanying unvaccinated children below 18 years.</p> <p>Traveller with a past history of COVID-19 infection should have a valid document certifying COVID-19 illness (in English). The traveller should depart between the 28th to the 90th day from the date of positive COVID-19 Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT) **.</p> <p>This certificate should contain the name of the person, Dates and Names of the positive NAAT **.</p> <p>Such travellers should arrive after getting at least a single dose of Astra Zeneca/</p>	<p>1. Institutional Quarantine at a Government Quarantine Hotel and will be released from institutional quarantine only after obtaining a negative reports of COVID-19 PCR testing done on Day One and Day Ten of arrival in Sri Lanka.</p> <p>2. Children of 2 years and up to 18 years are subjected to On arrival (Day One) and Day Ten COVID-19 PCR tests.</p>

	Pfizer BioNTech/ Moderna/ Johnson & Johnson vaccine or any other single dose COVID-19 vaccine recommended for the general population to fully vaccinate. This vaccine should be given during the period between two weeks after the positive NAAT** test and up to 14 days prior to departure.	
J.1.2.5	Sri Lankan Citizens (and their accompanying Foreign National Spouse, children) and Dual Citizens (and their accompanying Foreign National Spouse, children) who have NOT received COVID-19 vaccination/ NOT completed the recommended doses of vaccination / departed from abroad within less than two weeks of completion of recommended doses of vaccination	1. Institutional Quarantine at a Government managed Quarantine Hotel / Quarantine Centre and will be released from institutional quarantine only after obtaining a negative reports of COVID-19 PCR testing done on Day One and Day Fourteen of arrival in Sri Lanka.
J.1.2.6	Foreign Nationals (including valid resident visa holders) who have NOT received COVID-19 vaccination/ NOT completed the recommended doses of vaccination / departed from abroad within less than two weeks of completion of recommended doses of vaccination	1. Institutional Quarantine at a Quarantine Hotel and will be released from institutional quarantine only after obtaining a negative reports of COVID-19 PCR testing done on Day One and Day Fourteen of arrival in Sri Lanka.
J.1.2.7	Foreign national staff members of the diplomatic missions or UN organizations / UN Specialized agencies / International Organizations with permanent offices in Sri Lanka (mentioned in Annex 01 of my Letter No. DGHS/COVID-19/347/2021 dated 07.07.2021 on Quarantine measures for travellers arriving from overseas during the pandemic of COVID-19) and their accompanying spouse/ parents/children arriving from India	<p>1. Quarantined at an area Medical Officer of Health approved quarantine residence or government managed quarantine hotel</p> <p>2. If Fully Vaccinated, they should be quarantined and will be released from quarantine only after obtaining a negative reports of COVID-19 PCR tests done on Day One and Day Ten of arrival in Sri Lanka.</p> <p>3. If having a past history of COVID-19 infection with a valid document certifying COVID-19 illness (in English) and departed between the 28th to the 90th day from the date of positive COVID-19 Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT) ** with at least a single dose of Astra Zeneca/ Pfizer BioNTech/ Moderna/ Johnson & Johnson vaccine or any other single dose COVID-19 vaccine recommended for the general population to fully vaccinate and given during the period between two weeks after the positive</p>

		<p>NAAT** test and up to 14 days before departure, will be released from quarantine only after obtaining a negative reports of COVID-19 PCR tests done on Day One and Day Ten of arrival in Sri Lanka.</p>
		<p>4. Depending on the work need at the diplomatic missions/ UN organizations / UN Specialized agencies / International Organizations in Sri Lanka, only the Foreign national staff member who has been "Fully Vaccinated" / past history of COVID 19 illness with at least a single dose vaccine mentioned above in Section H.5.1.1, could be released from Quarantine, after obtaining the negative COVID-19 PCR Day One (On Arrival) result. They shall inform area Medical Officer of Health if need to get released from Quarantine to attend for work and they shall conduct PCR testing on Day Ten.</p>
		<p>5. If not received COVID-19 vaccination/ not completed the recommended doses of vaccination / departed from abroad within less than two weeks of completion of recommended doses of vaccination, they shall be Quarantined and will be released from quarantine only after obtaining a negative PCR report done on Day One and Day Fourteen of arrival in Sri Lanka</p>

- J.1.3** If travellers arriving from India complete the two weeks period of recommended doses of vaccination **within first ten days** during their stay at Quarantine Hotel / Quarantine Centre/ approved quarantine residence, could be released from quarantine only after obtaining the negative Day One and Day Ten PCR reports.

If they complete the two weeks period after ten days of arrival in Sri Lanka, exit PCR should be done after completing two weeks from the last date of vaccination.
 Their unvaccinated children below 18 years can be released with the parents.
 Children of 2 years up to 18 years should be subjected to exit PCR tests on similar dates as their parents' and should have negative reports.
 They shall not be quarantined further after releasing from quarantine.

- J.1.4** In charge officer of the Government managed Quarantine Hotel / Centre should issue a "Discharge Document" and email the details to the Epidemiology Unit (chepid@slt.net.lk and samithag@hotmail.com) if releasing Sri Lankan Citizens/ Dual

quarantine only after obtaining a negative PCR report done on Day 14 of arrival in Sri Lanka.

They shall **NOT** be quarantined at a Safe & Secure Certified Level One Hotel.

- 1.2.3 All Foreign Nationals who have been granted approval to arrive from travel restricted countries have to undergo **mandatory Institutional Quarantine (irrespective of their vaccination status) at a Quarantine Hotel** and will be released from institutional quarantine only after obtaining a negative PCR report done on Day 14 of arrival in Sri Lanka.

They shall **NOT be quarantined at a Safe & Secure Certified Level One Hotel, Quarantine Centre or at a Residence.**

*If the recommended doses of the COVID-19 vaccination are completed and departs from abroad two weeks after completion of vaccination, they will be considered as "Fully Vaccinated".

****A Nucleic Acid Amplification Test, or NAAT,** is a type of viral diagnostic test for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. NAATs detect genetic material (nucleic acids). NAATs for SARS-CoV-2 specifically identify the RNA (ribonucleic acid) sequences that comprise the genetic material of the virus. NAATs can use many different methods to amplify nucleic acids and detect the virus, including:

- Reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (**RT-PCR**)
- Isothermal amplification including:
 - Nicking endonuclease amplification reaction (**NEAR**)
 - Transcription mediated amplification (**TMA**)
 - Loop-mediated isothermal amplification (**LAMP**)
 - Helicase-dependent amplification (**HDA**)
 - Clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats (**CRISPR**)
 - Strand displacement amplification (**SDA**)

This guideline will be revised depending on the COVID-19 situation in the country or the global situation.

The above **amendments** to my letter No. DGHS/COVID-19/347/2021 dated 07-07-2021 on Quarantine measures for travellers arriving from overseas during the pandemic of COVID-19 are **effective for the travellers arriving in Sri Lanka from 00:00 on 12th of August 2021 and travellers who have already arrived in Sri Lanka.**


Dr Asela Gunawardena
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