



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

Health & Family Welfare Department - Collection, Transportation & Testing of blood samples for Nipah virus for diagnosis and research purposes - Regulations approved - Orders issued.

HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (F) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Rt)No.2650/2023/H&FWD Dated,Thiruvananthapuram, 12-10-2023

Read:- Letter No. DHS/18356/2023-DHS-C dated 20.09.2023 from the Director of Health Services, Thiruvananthapuram.

ORDER

Nipah Virus (NiV) is a highly sensitive and dangerous pathogen belonging to the Bio-safety level 4 (BSL-4) category, which is the highest level of containment. It is a pathogen with high rates of mortality ranging from 40-90% and a pathogen with high bio-terrorism potential. The research activities related to Nipah outbreak need to be guided and regulated to suit the needs of the State.

2. In the above circumstances, the Director of Health Services as per the letter read as above,furnished a proposal regarding the protocol/regulation to be put in force to ensure strict control and close monitoring of the collection, transportation and testing of specimens for diagnosis and research purposes.

3. Government have examined the matter in detail, and are pleased to approve the proposal of the Director of Health Services and to issue the regulations as follows;

A.Regulation of Collection, transportation and testing of specimen and samples for Diagnosis

- i. Details of any patient requiring testing for Nipah virus (whether from Govt. or Private hospital) should be informed to the District Surveillance Officer and the District Public Health authority.
- ii. The request for testing to be send to designated laboratory shall be

generated by the District Surveillance Officer.

- iii. The results of the test should be informed by the designated laboratory to the District Surveillance Officer who shall inform the treating physician and initiate public health measures, if needed.
- iv. The samples collected for such propose shall be need for research purposes only with the permission of the Government of Kerala.

B. Regulation of Collection and use of samples for research purposes

- i. Data and samples collected as part of outbreak management shall be used for research proposes only with the permission of the Government of Kerala.
- ii. Collection, transportation and analysis of biological samples for research purpose shall be done only with the permission of the Government of Kerala.
- iii. Due credit shall be given to the person/persons who generated /collected the data in publications, even when the data was collected for surveillance/ administrative purposes.
- iv. All agencies undertaking any research in the State of Kerala shall do so in collaboration with the Government of Kerala.
- v. Findings of all Such research shall be communicated to the Government of Kerala in a timely manner. Interim results and final results shall be communicated immediately without waiting for a formal publication, since Nipah virus is a public health emergency.
- vi. In return to the provision of clinical/virological/environmental sample collected from the State, it shall be the responsibility of the agency conducting the research in various domains to collaborate with and support the Government of Kerala in its research priorities.
- vii. Any initiative to develop diagnostic/therapeutic modalities using biological/clinical samples/data from the State shall be informed to the Government of Kerala and experts from the state as suggested by the Government shall be included in the project team.
- viii. The above regulations shall apply in totality to the collection of samples from persons who have recovered from the Nipah virus disease and their contacts.

- ix. All research proposals shall undergo all legal and ethical review mandated by the government and regulatory bodies. The Government of Kerala shall expedite the process in the context of the public health emergency.

(By order of the Governor)

SUBHASH R

ADDITIONAL SECRETARY

The State Mission Director, National Health Mission,
Thiruvananthapuram.

The Director of Health Services, Thiruvananthapuram.

The Director of Medical Education, Thiruvananthapuram.

The Chairperson, State Medical Board (NiVD).

All District Collectors.

All District Medical Officers.

Principals of all Government Medical Colleges .

Superintendents of all Government Medical College Hospitals.

Principal Accountant General (A&E/Audit), Kerala.

Information and Public Relations (Web & New Media) Department.

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Forwarded /By order

Section Officer