



**COVID-19 (nCorona) Virus Outbreak Control and Prevention State Cell**

**Health & Family Welfare Department**

**Government of Kerala**

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**GUIDELINES FOR TRAVELLERS COMING TO KERALA IN THE CONTEXT OF  
SARS-CoV-2 VARIANTOMICRON**

**NO-43/31/F2/H&FWD- 27<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021.**

In the wake of outbreak of SARS-CoV-2 variant Omicron infections in many countries in the world, travellers coming to Kerala shall comply with the following guidelines.

The travellers shall follow all the directions issued by Ministry of H&FW Govt of India and Department of Disaster Management Govt of Kerala from time to time.

**INTERNATIONAL TRAVELLERS** On arrival

1. De-boarding should be done ensuring physical distancing.
2. Symptom check and thermal screening would be carried out for all passengers by the health officials present at the airport. The self-declaration form filled online should be shown to the airport health staff.
3. The passengers found to be symptomatic during screening shall be immediately isolated and taken to medical facility as per health protocol. If tested positive, their contacts shall be identified and managed as per protocol.
4. Travellers from specified Countries at risk should follow the protocol as detailed below: Submission of sample for post-arrival COVID-19 test at the point of arrival (self-paid).

Such travellers will be required to wait for their test results at the arrival airport before leaving or taking a connecting flight. If tested negative they will follow, home quarantine for 7 days. Re-test on the 8th day of arrival in India and if negative, further self-monitor of their health for next 7 days. However, if such travellers are tested positive, their samples should be sent for genomic testing at INSACOG laboratory network . They shall be managed at separate isolation facility and treated as per laid down standard protocol including contact tracing . The contacts of such positive case should be kept under institutional quarantine or at home quarantine monitored strictly as per laid down protocol.

5. Travellers from Countries excluding those Countries at risk-

Will be allowed to leave the airport and shall self-monitor their health for 14 days' post arrival. A sub-section (20% of the total flight passengers) shall undergo post-arrival testing at random at the airport on arrival.

a. The 20% of such travellers in each flight shall be identified by the concerned airlines (preferably from different countries).

b. Such travellers shall be escorted by the concerned airlines/MoCA to testing area on arrival.

c. The cost of testing of such travellers shall be borne by the Department of Health and Family Welfare identified for random testing themselves.

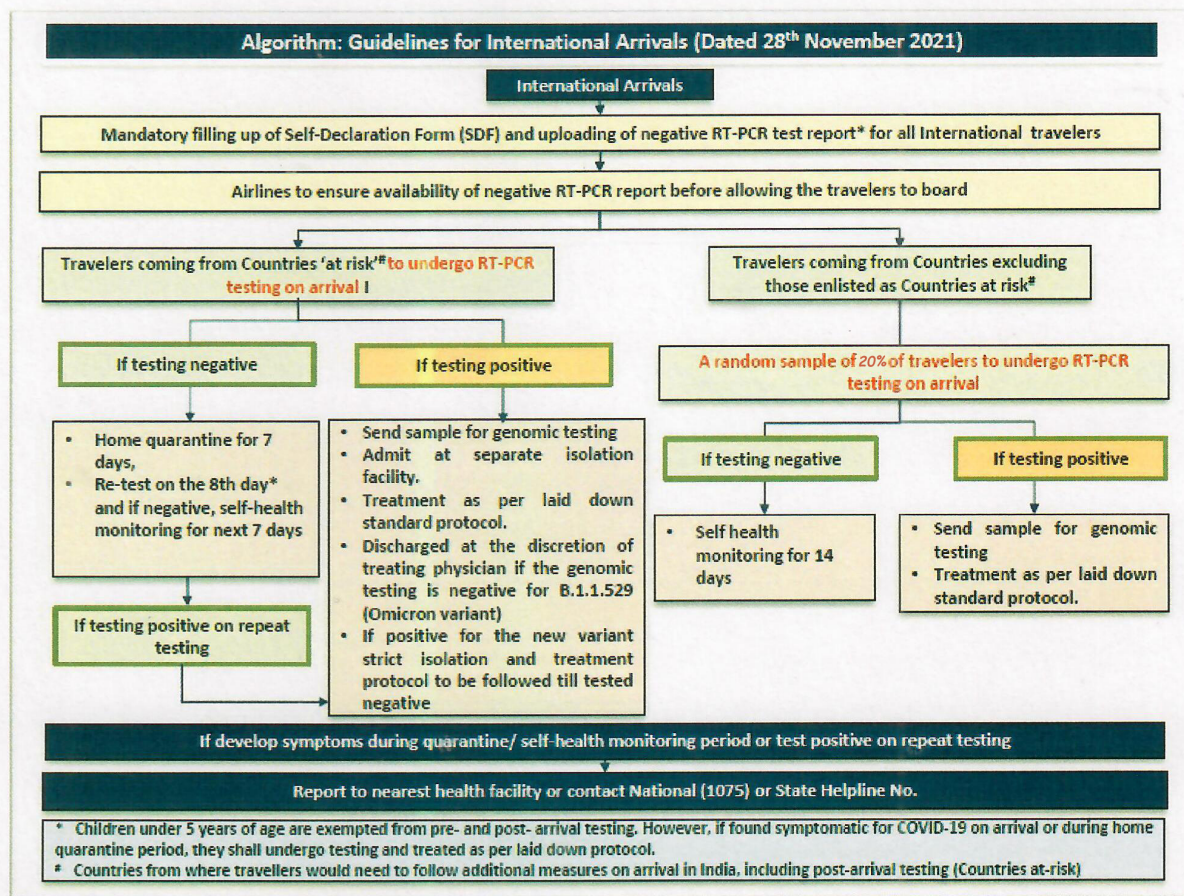
d. Laboratories shall prioritize testing of samples from such travellers.

e. If such travellers are tested positive, they shall be managed as per laid down standard protocol and samples would further send for genomic testing.

6. If travellers under home quarantine or self-health monitoring, develop signs and symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 or test positive for COVID-19 on re-testing, they will immediately self isolate and report to their nearest health facility.

A. Children under 5 years of age are exempted from both pre- and post-arrival testing. However, if found symptomatic for COVID-19 on arrival or during home quarantine period, they shall undergo testing and treated as per laid down protocol.

B. Contacts of the suspect case are the co-passengers seated in the same row, 3 rows in front and 3 rows behind along with identified Cabin Crew. Also, all the community contacts of those travellers who have tested positive (during home quarantine period) would be subjected to quarantine for 14 days.



### Generic advisory to be followed by international travellers who are not on quarantine

The following advisory is issued in public interest to protect health of the individual, family and society. It is appealed to all to strictly follow these guidelines and assist the administration to fight OMICRON next wave effectively in the State and the country.

All international travellers who are not on home quarantine, should ensure that for 14 days from the day of arrival in Kerala they will do daily health monitoring and in case of symptoms will inform nearest health facility or DISHA [1056]. This applies to travellers from high risk countries also who test negative on day 8 after 7 days of quarantine. They also should do daily health monitoring for next 7 days [ie till day 14 of arrival in Kerala]

COVID 19 transmission dynamics is closely related to 3 C's

1. Closed spaces
2. Crowded places
3. Close contact settings.

Closed spaces with poor ventilation and crowded spaces enhance the risk of transmission of COVID-19 as documented by various studies and agencies. Close contact that facilitates face to face positioning also enhance the risk of transmission. The major settings that facilitate such transmission are party/marriage halls, dining halls and restaurants, shopping malls and centres/ public transports, closed office/business spaces with poor ventilation, market places and recreational facilities.

All travellers for 14 days from arrival in Kerala should avoid being in closed spaces [like lifts], crowded places [like markets, malls, get togethers etc] and close contact settings where the distance between two persons is less than 2 m. They should ensure that they stick to SMS and back to basics campaign so as to avoid superspreading events. They should try to be in places with very good ventilation. All travelers should wear N95/FFP2 mask or at least a double mask [surgical mask + cloth mask] while visiting public places. They should not dine in open places with others for 14 days from day of arrival in Kerala.

Travellers should try to avoid attending public functions as far as possible. If it is unavaoidable, they should ensure that compliance with mask etiquette is 100% and all other precautions such as distancing , hand hygiene followed while attending the function.

### **Generic advisory to be followed by inter-state and intra-state travellers and general public**

Community transmission of SARS-CoV-2 variant Omicron has not been established in India till date. But considering the transmission dynamics of Omicron and the sharp upward trajectory of epidemic in South Africa, Europe, USA etc, it becomes clear that its only a matter of time for community transmission to establish in India. Considering the rapid doubling time of Omicron in comparison to delta, it is advisable for the general public to practice Social distancing, good quality mask and hand sanitization at all points of time .In order to avoid superspreading events like the Christmas party in Oslo, Norway where 70% of just over 100 guests where diagnosed to have Omicron infection, it is prudent for the general public to stick to the basics of 3 C's at all point of times and ensure adequate ventilation .

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transmission. The major settings that facilitate such transmission are party/marriage halls, dining halls and restaurants, shopping malls and centres/ public transports, closed office/business spaces with poor ventilation, market places and recreational facilities.

- Preferably avoid being in closed spaces [like lifts], crowded places [like markets, malls, get togethers etc] and close contact settings where the distance between two persons is less than 2 m. If attending such places is necessary, please use N95/FFP2 mask or atleast double mask [surgical mask+cloth mask].
- Ensure adherence to SMS and 3 C's to avoid superspreading events.
- Ensure cross ventilation at all spaces.

  
**Principal Secretary**

#### Reference

1.Guidelines for International Arrivals –Government of India, Ministry of Health and family welfare, Nov 30 2021