Dear Doctors, Nurses, other medical and paramedical staff,

The world is in a critical phase of COVID-19 pandemic which is straining health systems globally and our country is no different. The medical fraternity and their associates are the real warriors who are fighting at the forefront to confine the spread of this viral infection and striving for the management of severe cases. The government functionaries are jointly putting efforts for combating this grave situation and to stop further spread of this deadly infection. Health and Medical Education Department, Administrators, Police and others are supporting each other to save the community from this life-threatening pandemic.

As private sector healthcare providers are important partners in serving the health needs of community as first line of defence, we want you and your staff to stay safe while handling these suspected cases. As a key partner of the government, we would urge you to kindly follow all the standard WHO and Govt of India guidelines regarding COVID-19 while dealing with suspected cases for next few months. At the same time, we would request you to identify the suspected cases of COVID-19 at the earliest and refer to the designated facilities for timely management.

There can be three categories of cases:

**Category 1**

Maximum patients may belong to this category where initial symptoms are cough, cold and fever. You would be the best judge whether the patient is a suspected case of COVID-19 or is it any other respiratory illness which can be managed at your end. If in your clinical opinion, a patient needs lab testing, refer the patient to the designated govt. testing centres. If the suspect has comorbidities, you have to be cautious and manage accordingly.

**Category 2**

Patient with very high-grade fever with or without more profound respiratory signs and symptoms like High fever, Respiratory Rate >20% of normal age, Tachycardia for the age, weakness, vomiting, dehydration and occasionally loss of taste and smell.

These are the patients who will be requiring urgent lab testing for COVID-19 hence, immediately refer these suspects to designated government centres for further management. You are expected to maintain demographic details of the patients and his/her family members in your record preferably with two phone numbers and share with Chief medical and Health officer of your district. If comorbidities exist, take a note of their history properly and specifically mention it while referring the patient.

Family members should be counselled and alerted for warning symptoms as the disease is contagious.
Category 3 –

Very sick patient with or without fever, with or without underlying any chronic disease and having Low SPO2, Respiratory distress (difficulty in breathing) and instable vitals. These patients should be urgently hospitalized in ICU at dedicated COVID-19 treatment facilities for critical care and management.

While state govt is maximising its efforts in preventive measures and strengthening dedicated critical care facilities for moribund COVID 19 cases , I seek your active involvement in providing your clinical expertise for saving precious lives.

Our Mission is to endeavour jointly in breaking the chain of transmission of COVID 19 and intensify our efforts in containment of this pandemic.

(Faiz Ahmed Kidwai)
Commissioner Health
Dept of Public health and family welfare
Govt. of Madhya Pradesh
Date : 06-04-2020

For referral Govt vehicles 108 or 104 are readily available, in case of emergencies, please contact State Corona Control Room at 0755-2527177