



## **INDIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOSPITAL BOARD OF INDIA**

### **COVID-19 – ROLE OF HOSPITALS & HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS**

World Health Organisation has declared COVID-19 a Pandemic. The Government, Healthcare professionals & researchers are doing their best in delivering the healthcare services. Equal efforts are being poured in for finding out the ways to prevention, remedy & arresting the further spread.

India has received the brunt of dreaded viral infection & has confirmed few cases across the country. Most of the cases have history of recent travel abroad. Indian Medical Association has been doing its professional job guiding the situations.

IMA released the multifaceted guidelines for citizens of the country. IMA team is continuously monitoring the rapidly changing COVID-19 situation in the country. IMA has also started 24x7 Helpline for people.

IMA doctors are the dedicated professionals of the field of medicine & are up-to-date on developments and management guidelines. We, the doctors of the country are united & ready to maintain the safety and well-being of our community, our country.

While people of the country & all across the globe are advised to stay indoors & work from home, doctors are all out on the mission to showcase their professionalism & services for the country, to protect our people.

IMA is proud of our doctors & hospitals across the country.

IMA Hospital Board of India is herewith releasing basic guidelines for the doctors & hospitals of the country. All hospitals and Clinics are open and catering their normal services.

### **Primary Desk of Hospitals/Reception**

- Protect working people in reception areas.
- Use on a facemask while working on Reception.
- Educate them with importance & ways for infection control, Prevention & enquiry techniques.
- All patients should be asked about the following:
  - International travel within the last 14 days to countries with sustained community transmission.
  - Signs or symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as a fever, cough, and sore throat.
  - In the last 14 days, has had contact with someone with or under investigation for COVID19, or are ill with respiratory illness.

### **Out Patient Department (OPD) Guidelines**

- Preferably, one person should be allowed to accompany each patient to OPD.
- Minimise visiting persons to OPD area.
- Minimise Per patient waiting time.
- Any visitor who is coughing or shows other signs of illness will be asked to kindly leave.
- Visitors should take care of hand hygiene and should use Personal Protective Equipment, such as facemasks SOS.
- OPD areas should display informative posters about hygiene & protection.

- Distancing, hand hygiene & Personal Protective measures should be followed in OPDs.
- Assign staff as primary contact to address & channelize the visiting people.

### **In-Patient Department (IPD) & Hospital Staff Guidelines**

- Hospital staff should regularly be given information about the epidemic.
- They should contact doctors immediately if they suspect any patient in OPD or IPD or visiting areas of nursing home has COVID-19 or like symptoms.
- They should contact doctors immediately if they find any of the colleague staff of a nursing home has COVID-19 or like symptoms.
- Prompt detection, isolation of potentially infectious patients is essential to prevent unnecessary exposures to other patients or visitors & healthcare personnel.
- Therefore, Hospital Staff should continue to be vigilant in identifying any possible infected individuals.
- Staff should frequently monitor admitted patients & attendants or visitors for developments of any symptoms.
- Hospitals experiencing an increased number of respiratory illnesses among patients or healthcare personnel should immediately contact their local health department for further guidance.
- Hospital Staff should adhere strict Infection Control Protocols in all areas of the hospital.
- The equipment likely to be contaminated should undergo sterilization or cleaning as per guidelines before reuse in other patients.
- Conduct active screening of staff for fever and respiratory symptoms.

- Distancing between hospital beds should be adequate. If not, kindly adhere to the norms with immediate effect.
- Hand hygiene & Personal Protective measures should be followed in admitted patients & serving staff.
- Assign staff as primary contact to attend relatives over phone with recording facility.
- Nursing homes with patient suspected of having COVID-19 infection should contact their local health department immediately.

### **Visitors' Guidelines**

- Hospitals should restrict visits of non-essential visitors except for certain situations, such as an end-of-life situation.
- Hospitals offer open visiting hours for patients' relatives & acquaintances. The normal uniform system of visiting needs strict channelization & protocol.
- The health of all patients and visitors should be our top priority.
- Visitors must be 18+ years old.
- Visitors will be screened prior to entering patient areas.
- Any visitor who is coughing or shows other signs of illness will be asked to kindly leave.
- The number of visitors per patient will be limited; additional restrictions may be imposed based on the patient's clinical status. See below for details.
- No visitors should be allowed in IPD sections if the suspect or COVID-19 patient is admitted.
- Relatives of other patients should preferably avoid frequent or mass visits unless warranted.

- Visitors for Counselling should have separate access to the counselling rooms/places & strict infection control protocol should be followed.
- Visits by Children should be avoided & should be supervised at all times by an adult if they visit hospitals/wards.
- Visitors should register with Reception or Security and provide photo identification for Record.
- Visitor's badge should be compulsory to identify the visitors.
- visitors should practice good hand hygiene. When visiting, visitors should wash hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer before entering and upon exiting the patient's room.
- Already ill or sick persons should avoid visits to hospitals to avoid cross infections.
- Patients should have one or two visitors at a time.
- Children under the age of 12 should not be allowed preferably.
- Visitors should have limitations when the patient is unstable, is undergoing a procedure or severely unstable.

### **Attendants' Guidelines**

- Preferably a single selected Patient Care Companion should be for admitted patient.
- There should not be change of persons to avoid more persons being exposed to possible hospital borne infection.
- Teach attendants about Distancing, hand hygiene & Personal Protective measures for their protection.

### **Transport Guidelines**

- Transport vehicles, ambulances should have strict infection control guidelines.
- Attendants should adequately protect themselves.
- Ambulance equipment, stretchers, chairs, seats etc. should be cleaned with disinfectants.
- Nasal oxygen probes should be disposed in proper way.
- Disposables should not be reused.
- Maintain register of equipment use.

### **Pharmacy Guidelines**

- The necessary medications, injections & emergency disposables should be ready in adequate quantity.
- Do not replace, substitute & reuse the products.
- Distancing, hand hygiene & Personal Protective measures should be followed in Medical Stores or Pharmacy in Hospitals.

**Let us fight the COVID-19 with our unity, precision, zeal & professionalism.  
We are there for our people. We will make sure that each Indian is safe when  
we are there to protect them.**

**Long Live IMA.**