

**GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA  
HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT**

No. Health.74/2020/130

Dated Shillong the 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2021.

**GUIDANCE WITH REGARD TO RE- TESTING OF PATIENTS WHO HAVE RECOVERED/  
BEEN CURED OF COVID 19.**

Persons who have been infected with COVID-19 are identified to be PCR-positive over prolonged periods of time after infection and clinical recovery as viral RNA shedding has been observed for as long as 104 days from symptom onset in upper respiratory tract specimens. There are also patients who become PCR negative. This is due to low concentration of virus in the sampled material or the virus concentration is around the detection limit of a test. The detection of COVID-19 RNA through PCR (i.e. viral RNA shedding) does not equate to the presence of viable, infectious virus within a patient.

In view thereof, the following guidance is issued in respect of re-testing of COVID-19 cured patients:

1. For persons previously declared cured of COVID-19 who remain asymptomatic after recovery, retesting is not recommended within 3 months of recovery.
2. Retesting may be done in asymptomatic patients within 3 (three) months of recovery prior to surgery, prior to dialysis, etc..
3. No surgical procedures should be deferred based on a positive result in an asymptomatic patient who has recovered from COVID-19.
4. For persons who develop new symptoms consistent with COVID-19 within 3 (three) months of recovery, then the person may require retesting especially if the symptoms develop within 14 days after close contact with another infected person.
5. Persons being evaluated for re-infection with COVID-19 should be isolated under recommended precautions while undergoing evaluation. In such situations, the clinical profile and epidemiological link should be carefully assessed while interpreting as positive result.
6. Serologic Testing should not be used to establish the presence or absence of COVID-19 infection or re-infection.

Sd/-

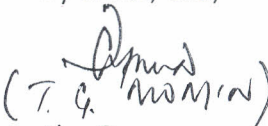
(Sampath Kumar, IAS)

Principal Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya,  
Health & Family Welfare Department.

Copy to:

1. The Secretary to the Governor of Meghalaya, Shillong for kind information of the Governor.
2. The Private Secretary to Chief Minister, Meghalaya, Shillong for kind information of Chief Minister.
3. The Private Secretary to Deputy Chief Minister, Meghalaya, Shillong for kind information of Deputy Chief Minister.
4. The Private Secretary to the Speaker, Meghalaya Legislative Assembly for kind information of the Speaker.
5. The Private Secretary to the Leader of Opposition, Meghalaya Legislative Assembly for kind information of the Leader of Opposition.
6. The Private Secretary to Health Minister, Meghalaya, Shillong for kind information of Minister.
7. Private Secretaries to all Ministers, Meghalaya, Shillong for kind of Minister.
8. Private Secretary to Chief Secretary for kind information of the Chief Secretary.
9. The Additional Chief Secretaries/ Principal Secretaries/ Commissioners & Secretaries/ Secretaries of all the Department, Government of Meghalaya.
10. Director of Health Services (MI)/(MCH & FW)/(Research), Meghalaya, Shillong.
11. Director of Information & Public Relation for wide circulation in the Print/Electronic media of the State.
12. The Director General of Police, Meghalaya, Shillong
13. The Deputy Commissioners, East Khasi Hills, Shillong/ West Khasi Hills, Nongstoin/Ri Bhoi District, Nongpoh / West Jaintia Hills District, Jowai / West Garo Hills District, Tura / East Garo Hills District, Williamnagar / South Garo Hills District, Baghmara/North Garo Hills, Resubelpara/South West Garo Hills, Ampati/East Jaintia Hills, Khliehriat/ South West Khasi Hills, Mawkyrwat.
14. The Joint DHS(MCH&FW) and I/c IDSP, Meghalaya, Shillong.
15. District Medical & Health Officer- East Khasi Hills, Shillong/ West Khasi Hills, Nongstoin/Ri Bhoi District, Nongpoh / West Jaintia Hills District, Jowai / West Garo Hills District, Tura / East Garo Hills District, Williamnagar / South Garo Hills District, Baghmara/North Garo Hills, Resubelpara/South West Garo Hills, Ampati/East Jaintia Hills, Khliehriat/ South West Khasi Hills, Mawkyrwat.
16. All Administrative Department/Heads of Department.

By order, etc.,

  
(T. G. Anon)

Joint Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya,  
Health & Family Welfare Department

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