



Circular No: PS/GPA/Circular/35/2020
25.11.2020

Secretaries to Ministries
Secretaries to State Ministries
Chief Secretaries of Provinces
Health Secretaries of Provinces
District Secretaries
Divisional Secretaries

Mechanism for Observing Home Quarantine

The government has taken a number of steps to control the current global COVID-19 pandemic on the technical advice of the Ministry of Health, and home quarantine for the contacts of infected persons is a very important step that has been taken to minimize the spread of the disease. In order to achieve this objective, a team of field officers is entrusted with the responsibility to monitor this mechanism at ground level to ensure that the residents who are under home quarantine carry out the process as expected.

Composition of the Observation Team and Coordination

This responsibility has been assigned to the Village Committee comprising Grama Niladharis, Economic Development Officers, Samurdhi Development Officers, Agricultural Research and Production Assistants and Family Health Service Officers as well as Police Officers. The Observation Mechanism is required to be implemented by these officers under the overall technical supervision of Medical Officers of Health and in coordination with the Public Health Inspectors.

Persons under home quarantine should be observed to fulfill home quarantine conditions in a due manner for a period of 14 days. Officers will be assigned particular days of the week for this purpose in the following manner:

Day	Observing Officer
Monday	Economic Development Officer
Tuesday	Police Officer
Wednesday	Agriculture Research and Production Assistant
Thursday	Grama Niladhari
Friday	Samurdhi Development Officer
Saturday	Family Health Services Officer
Sunday	Public Health Inspector

Accordingly, a single officer is required to inspect houses only on two days during the 14 day period of quarantine. If a member of a quarantined family becomes infected during the quarantine period, the other members too will have to be quarantined for a further 14 days henceforth.

Whenever a home quarantine commences, the Public Health Inspector of the area should immediately notify the relevant Grama Niladhari as well as the officer who is assigned for observation duties on the day after when the quarantine has commenced. Other officers who are to perform their duties during the quarantine period should be notified by the Grama Niladhari.

Observation Functions

Officers of the observation team should visit quarantined homes on the days assigned to them and ensure that the residents are present in the house. Also, any complaints from any party should be investigated. The attached Form should be used for observation, and each officer must use one Form per house separately. This should be done in addition to regular monitoring carried out by the Police Officers. All officers are obliged to protect the privacy and confidentiality of the infected persons and their contacts.

Regulation and Supervision

This process should be supervised by the Divisional Committee and regulated by the District Committee as per Circular No: 21/2020 of the State Ministry of Internal Security, Home Affairs and Disaster Management. Facilities required by the officers engaged in observation activities should be provided in accordance with the said circular. Officers engaged in the observation activities must strictly follow all health precautions to prevent the spread of the pandemic, such as distancing, cleaning hands and wearing masks to cover mouth and nose. In addition, Divisional Secretaries should pay attention from time to time to ascertain whether quarantine activities are being duly carried out in these places, access to food and health facilities by quarantined persons, cleanliness of residences, and the presence of persons suffering from other illnesses, elderly and differently-abled persons.

This circular is issued subsequent to discussions held with relevant Ministries. Since observing whether home quarantine is conducted in a proper manner is of great national need, His Excellency the President has instructed to consider this as a special responsibility assigned to the relevant Ministries, Departments, Heads of Institutions and zonal and divisional supervising officers in order to ensure that it is properly implemented at the ground level, and to conduct direct supervisions from time to time.

Sgd/P B Jayasundera

Secretary to the President

Copies:

- 1 Director General of Health Services
- 2 Provincial Directors of Health Services
- 3 Regional Directors of Health Services
- 4 Medical Officers of Health

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