



No. NHMHP-IDSP/1/2020-IDSP-Section-Part(1)- 10418  
National Health Mission  
SDA Complex, Kasumpti, Shimla-9  
Himachal Pradesh  
Dated: Shimla-171009, the

To,

All the Deputy Commissioners  
Himachal Pradesh

All the Chief Medical Officers  
Himachal Pradesh

All the District Surveillance Officers  
Himachal Pradesh

Dated Shimla-9 the



**Subject: Regarding distinct Phylogenetic cluster of SARs-CoV-2 variant detected in United Kingdom**

Madam/Sir,

This is in reference to letter received from Government of India, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare vide their D.O No. Z-21020/16/2020-PH dated 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2020 (Copy enclosed) and Standard Operating Procedure for epidemiological surveillance and response (Copy enclosed) with regard to distinct Phylogenetic cluster of SARs-CoV-2 variant detected in United Kingdom. In this regard, the following actions pertaining to enhancement of epidemiological surveillance, containment and other measures to effectively tackle the challenge are solicited at your end:

**Declaration of passengers:**

As per the SOP attached, the all passengers travelling from or transiting through airports in UK and disembarking in India from 25th November to 21st December 2020 are required to be identified. For this purpose, the following actions shall be undertaken:

- a. The list shared from the Bureau of Immigration shall be shared with the respective districts by the State Surveillance Officer as and when it is received from the Central Government.
- b. The details of such travelers may be collected from Hotels, Home stays and

other relevant authorities as well.

- c. Such passengers may be encouraged to self notify through 104 toll free number, which shall further transmit the information to concerned District Surveillance Officer. Widespread IEC needs to be done in this regard.

**Testing of such passengers:**

- a. They shall all be tested for COVID 19 by RT-PCR (except for those international travelers from UK who arrived in India from 25th November to 8th December 2020 who will be contacted by District Surveillance Officers and advised to self-monitor their health. If anyone amongst them develops symptoms, they will be tested by RT PCR as detailed in Clause 1 of Part A of the SOP)
- b. If found positive they shall be managed as per clause 2 of Part A of the SOPs enclosed, including sending the samples to NIV Pune for genomic sequencing.
- c. Those who are found negative in RT-PCR tests should be advised to isolate themselves at home for seven days and to be medically monitored by the Health Teams formed for the purpose. The teams should ensure their proper isolation, monitoring of parameters.

The surveillance SOPs as detailed in the attached document for management of contacts should be followed by the surveillance teams without fail.

By order

-sd-

Secretary (Health) to the  
Government of Himachal Pradesh

**Endst. No. As above Dated Shimla-9 the**

**Copy for information and necessary action to:**

1. The Chief Secretary, Government of Himachal Pradesh
2. The Secretary Tourism and Civil Aviation, Government of Himachal Pradesh
3. The Director Health Services, Himachal Pradesh. He is requested to identify separate facilities as detailed in the SOPs for the quarantine/isolation of such passengers.
4. The Director Medical Education, Himachal Pradesh.
5. SPO IEC for wide dissemination regarding self notification of such passengers through 104 Toll free number.
6. Project Head 104 comprehensive Call Centre, Solan for necessary

I/34325/2020

transmission of details of such persons to State Surveillance Officer and concerned District Surveillance Officer.

  
24/12/20.  
Mission Director, NHM  
Himachal Pradesh





राजेश भूषण, आईएएस  
सचिव

**RAJESH BHUSHAN, IAS**  
SECRETARY



भारत सरकार

स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग  
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय

Government of India

Department of Health and Family Welfare  
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

D.O No. Z-21020/16/2020-PH  
21<sup>st</sup> December 2020

*Dear Colleague,*

It has been reported that a distinct Phylogenetic cluster of SARs-CoV-2 variant has been detected. This SARS-CoV-2 variant is spreading & growing rapidly in United Kingdom. It has also been reported that this variant has an unusually large number of genetic changes particularly in the spike protein. This development calls for enhanced epidemiological surveillance, enhanced containment & other measures to effectively tackle the challenge.

2. As you are aware, India has been seeing a sustained decline in the number of fresh Covid-19 cases for over 2 ½ months now, accompanied by a decline in the number of deaths. In this scenario, any interjection of a SARS-CoV-2 variant virus through passengers with air travel history could pose critical risks for pandemic management in India.

3. In this connection, based on the inputs received from the Joint Monitoring Group (JMG) headed by the Director General of Health Services (DGHS) and the Vaccine Task Force headed by the Principal Scientific Advisor and Member (Health), NITI, the following is proposed:-

**1. Immediate steps**

- (i) As a measure of abundant caution, passengers arriving from U.K in all international flights (flights in transit) should be subjected to mandatory RT PCR tests on arrival at the airports concerned.
  - a. Those who are found positive on arrival must be sent for institutional quarantine/isolation set up by the State/UT Governments, in collaboration with the States/UTs concerned.
  - b. Those who are found negative in RT-PCR tests should be advised to isolate themselves at home for seven days, to be medically monitored by the States/UTs concerned.
  - c. Relevant information in this regard may be prominently displayed in arrival area, waiting area of the airports.

contd.2/-



-:2:-

- (ii) Kindly coordinate with the airport authorities in your jurisdiction to urgently set up adequate number of help desks, manned by State/UT personnel at the airports to facilitate this exercise.
- (iii) Adequate arrangements for passengers waiting for their RT PCR test results may also be made at the airports in conjunction with the airport authorities.

2. **Surveillance and follow up measures**

- (i) The surveillance teams should be given a clear mandate and action plan for physical monitoring of all those who have tested negative in the RT-PCR test and are under home isolation. The teams should ensure their proper isolation, monitoring of parameters and ensure follow up RT-PCR test after 7 days of disembarkation.
- (ii) In case any such persons develop symptoms before seven days, they must be tested immediately.

States may, however, take additional steps as per local requirements.

*Regards.*

Yours sincerely,



(Rajesh Bhushan)

**To :Chief Secretaries/Administrators of all States/UTs**

Copy for information to : Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Secretary,  
Health - All States/UTs

22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2020

**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**  
**Standard Operating Procedure for Epidemiological Surveillance and Response in the**  
**context of new variant of SARS-CoV-2 virus detected in United Kingdom**

**Introduction**

A new variant of SARS- CoV 2 virus [Variant Under Investigation (VUI)-20212/01] has been reported by the Government of United Kingdom (UK) to World Health Organization (WHO). This variant is estimated by European Center for Disease Control (ECDC) to be more transmissible and affecting younger population. This variant is defined by a set of 17 changes or mutations. One of the most significant is an N501Y mutation in the spike protein that the virus uses to bind to the human ACE2 receptor. Changes in this part of the spike protein may result in the virus becoming more infectious and spreading more easily between people.

**Scope**

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) describes the activities to be undertaken at the point of entry and in the community for all International passengers who have travelled from or transited through UK in the past 4 weeks (from 25<sup>th</sup> November to 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2020). Any reference to testing in this SOP implies RT-PCR testing only.

**Part A**

**Actions to be taken at International Airports**

All international travelers as described in the scope above will be required to declare as per existing procedure, their travel history (of past 14 days) and fill up the Self Declaration Form to be screened for COVID-19.

The flights from UK stand suspended temporarily from 23<sup>rd</sup> December till 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 or till further orders. All the passengers coming from UK during the intervening period from 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2020 shall be subjected to the following process:

1. Respective State governments shall ensure that all passengers travelling from or transiting through airports in UK and disembarking in India would be subjected to RT-PCR test on arrival. In case of a positive sample, it is recommended that spike gene-based RT-PCR test should also be performed by an appropriate laboratory.
2. Passengers testing positive shall be isolated in an institutional isolation facility in a separate (isolation) unit coordinated by the respective State Health Authorities. They would earmark specific facilities for such isolation and treatment. Necessary action to send the samples to National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune or any other appropriate lab for genomic sequencing will be initiated at the facility level.
  - a. If the report of the sequencing is consistent with the current SARS-CoV-2 virus genome circulating in the country; the ongoing treatment protocol including home isolation/treatment at facility level as per case severity may be followed.
  - b. If the genomic sequencing indicates the presence of new variant of SARS-CoV-2 then the patient will continue to remain in a separate isolation unit. While necessary treatment as per the existing protocol will be given, the patient shall be tested on 14<sup>th</sup> day, after having tested positive in the initial test. In case the sample is found positive on 14<sup>th</sup> day, further sample may be taken until his two consecutive samples taken 24 hours apart are tested negative.
3. Those who are found negative on testing with RT-PCR at the airport would be advised quarantine at home and followed up as detailed in Part-C.
4. The concerned airlines shall ensure that prior to check-in, the traveler is explained about this SOP. In-flight announcements must also be made explaining the relevant information to the passengers. Relevant information in this regard shall be prominently displayed in arrival area and waiting area of the airports.
5. Adequate arrangements for passengers waiting for their RT-PCR test results duly following effective isolation may also be made at the airports in conjunction with the airport authorities.

## Part B

### SOP for Bureau of Immigration (BOI)

1. The State-wise passenger manifest of the flights from UK landing at various International airports in India for the past 4 weeks (from 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020 to 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2020) shall

be conveyed by the Bureau of Immigration to State Government/Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) so that this data would be provided to the surveillance teams.

2. Bureau of Immigration shall share these manifest at the idsp-npo@nic.in and designated e-mails provided by the respective State Governments.
3. The data of manifests provided by Bureau of Immigration will be supplemented by the online Self-declaration Forms available on 'AIR SUVIDHA' portal.

### **Part C**

#### **SOP for Surveillance by State Governments/ Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP)**

1. All the **contacts\*** (without any exception) of those travelers who arrived at various airports on 21<sup>st</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2020 and tested positive would be subjected to institutional quarantine in separate quarantine centers and would be tested as per ICMR guidelines (or earlier if the passenger develops any symptoms suggestive of COVID-19) as per Clause 1 in Part A. Contacts testing positive shall be subjected to activities mentioned in Clause 2 of Part A.

(\*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)

2. The **list of travelers (travelling between 21<sup>st</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> December) who are found RT-PCR negative at airport testing shall be shared with the respective States by the Central unit of IDSP** (facilitated by APHO/ BOI). They shall be advised for quarantine at home and tested as per ICMR guidelines (or earlier if the passenger develops any symptoms suggestive of COVID-19) as per Clause 1 of Part A. Their monitoring would be ensured by respective State Governments/IDSP. Those found positive shall be subjected to activities mentioned in Clause 2 of Part A.
3. Those international travelers from UK who arrived in India from 25<sup>th</sup> November to 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020 (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> week from 25<sup>th</sup> November) will be contacted by District Surveillance Officers and advised to self-monitor their health. If anyone amongst them develops symptoms, they will be tested by RT PCR as detailed in Clause 1 of Part A.



- If tested positive, genetic sequencing will be done. If the results are consistent with current circulating SARS-CoV2, action as contained in Clause 2(a) of Part A will be followed.
  - If the results of genomic sequencing are consistent with new variant, then action contained in Clause 2(b) of Part A will be followed.
4. The list of international travelers who arrived in India, as described in the scope above, between 9<sup>th</sup> December to 23<sup>rd</sup> December (3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> week) will be shared with respective State / District Surveillance Officers for daily follow up till 14 days after their arrival in India.
  5. Passenger will be provided following advice during first visit / contact by health care provider:
    - a. You will also receive daily calls/visit from State health officials to ask your health status for the day, kindly cooperate with them.
    - b. You are requested to self-monitor for development of symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 i.e. Fever, Cough, Difficulty in breathing for 28 days from the date of arrival from UK.
    - c. In case you develop symptoms (fever, cough, difficulty in breathing), put on a mask immediately, isolate yourself at home, and inform District Surveillance Officer or contact National (1075) or State Helpline.
  6. District Surveillance Officer has to ensure daily follow up of passengers under observation for 28 days starting from date of arrival.
  7. For all travellers, listed in Para 4 above, District Surveillance Officer shall facilitate testing (irrespective of previous testing at the place of origin or at the airport of arrival) with RT-PCR. In case the passengers have moved to locations outside the city of arrival, intimation should be sent to the concerned District/ State for needful as above.
    - a. Those who test positive shall be isolated in an institutional isolation facility in a separate (isolation) unit by the respective State health authorities and necessary action as in Clause 2(a) Part A will be followed.
    - b. If the genomic sequencing indicates the new variant of SARS-CoV-2 then action as in Clause 2 (b) Part A will be followed.

8. All the community contacts (without any exception) of those travelers who have tested positive would be subjected to institutional quarantine in separate Quarantine Centers and would be tested between 5-10<sup>th</sup> day as per current ICMR guidelines using RT-PCR as in Clause 1 of part A (or earlier if the passenger develops any symptoms suggestive of COVID-19). Community contacts testing positive shall be subjected to activities as in Clause 2 of Part A.
9. Information regarding any passenger covered within the scope of this SOP, who travels to another State will be immediately notified to the concerned State Health Authority. If any passenger is not traceable initially or during any duration while being followed up should be immediately notified to Central Surveillance Unit of IDSP by the District Surveillance Officer.