

COVID-19 (nCorona) Virus Outbreak Control and Prevention State Cell Health & Family Welfare Department Government of Kerala

GUIDELINES FOR TRAVELLERS COMING TO KERALA IN THE CONTEXT OF SARS-CoV-2 VARIANT OMICRON

N0-55/31/F2/H&FWD-4th Feb 2022.

Ref: Expert Group recommendations dated 4th Feb 2022

The Guidelines for travelers coming to Kerala in the context of SARS CoV-2 Variant OMICRON No: 43/31/F2/H&FW- dated 27th Dec 2021 and N0-53/31 /F2/H&FWD- 1st Feb 2022 were issued.

The international travelers have requested to maintain the consistency in the approaches related to vulnerability reduction and spread of COVID, especially due to Omicron by taking into consideration the stipulations applied for all categories of mobile population- local, domestic and international especially in the scenario of omicron becoming dominant infection.

The present pandemic situation and various guidelines issued have been examined by the Expert Group. The guidelines are modified to facilitate safe travel and also emphasize precautions. It is appealed to all International Traveller the guidelines should be strictly followed for their own safety and safety of family and society.

The guidelines are modified to the following extent-

- Any international traveler (irrespective of duration of stay in Kerala)
 coming to Kerala will undergo symptom surveillance, if symptomatic,
 she/he will undertake RTPCR test at cost and take further actions as
 per the test results.
- 2. Random testing of 2% of international travelers in the flight irrespective of country of departure to be done free of cost (The State shall bear the cost of the test) and the selection of the passengers to be done by Airlines officers.

- 3. Home Quarantine is advisable for international travelers. They must continue self health monitoring for seven days from the arrival date and, if symptoms develop, shall undergo testing. They shall follow strict covid appropriate behavior. It is advisable to avoid attending congregation, closed spaces gathering and crowding.
- 4. The samples of all international travelers who are tested RTPCR positive shall be sent for Whole Genomic Sequencing.
- 5. The treatment of COVID positive travelers to be done as per the existing guidelines.
- 6. COVID testing using Rapid Antigen Test on the 8th day of arrival is advisable for safety of the passenger.
- 7. All International Passengers are advised to follow the guidelines to enable them to abide by the stipulations regarding safe international travel by the respective countries they plan to visit.

Principal Secretary