

දුරකථන) 0112669192 , 0112675011
தொலைபேசி) 0112698507 , 0112694033
Telephone) 0112675449 , 0112675280

ෆැක්ස්) 0112693866
பெக்ஸ்) 0112693869
Fax) 0112692913

විද්‍යුත් තැපෑල,) postmaster@health.gov.lk
மின்னஞ்சல் முகவரி)
e-mail)

වෙබ් අඩවිය) www.health.gov.lk
இணையத்தளம்)
website)



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சுவசிரிபாய
SUWASIRIPAYA

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சுகாதார மற்றும் சுதேசவைத்தியச் சேவைகள் அமைச்சு
Ministry of Health and Indigenous Medical Services

DDG NHSL/ National Hospital Kandy,
All Provincial Directors of Health Services,
All Directors of Teaching, Provincial General, District General and Specialized Hospitals,
All Regional Directors of Health Services,
All Medical Superintendents of Base Hospitals,
All Medical Officers in Charge of Divisional Hospitals,

Management of psychiatric patients during COVID-19 outbreak

Ministry of Health is keen that the routine services should be maintained for psychiatry patients during the COVID-19 outbreak and their routine care should not be compromised at any point.

However, standard protocols for COVID-19 should always be maintained from the initial assessment up to admission and follow-up.

Psychiatry patients who need quarantine should be admitted to the local quarantine units to which the Consultant Psychiatrists should provide liaison support as necessary. However, if the patient is difficult to manage in the quarantine unit, and putting himself and/or others at risk, a team including a Consultant Psychiatrist should decide on whether to transfer the patient to the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) for psychiatrically supervised quarantine.

As a good practice, prior to transferring the patient, please inform the Director (NIMH) and relevant Consultant Psychiatrist of NIMH who look after the patients from particular district, regarding the transfer.

Please ensure the continuity of emergency procedures including Electro Convulsive Therapy (ECT) during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Psychiatric units need to be provided Personal Protective Equipments as necessary to carryout their duties in the context of COVID-19.

Please encourage the Consultant Psychiatrist and the team to provide psychological support for frontline health workers who engage in management of COVID-19.


Dr. Anil Jasinghe

Director General of Health Services

Ministry of Health and Indigenous Medical Services

Dr. Anil Jasinghe
Director General of Health Services
Ministry of Health & Indigenous Medicine Services
"Suwasiripaya"
385, Rev. Baddegama Wimalawansa Thero Mawatha,
Colombo 10.

Copy: President, Sri Lanka College of Psychiatrists