

Travel related quarantine (furabandhu) guideline for groups of 10 or more people staying in shared accommodations

1. Introduction

In order to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 among people traveling together in groups for 'furabandhu quarantine', If a group of 10 people or more travel from abroad or any island where there is community spread of COVID-19 to any island where there is no community spread of COVID-19, it is important to take preventive measures. Hence, this guideline highlights the measure to observe if group of 10 people or more stays in a shared accommodation (room or barracks or dormitory) during travel related quarantine

2. Scope

Travel related (furabandhu) quarantine for group of 10 people or more

3. Travel related (furabandhu) quarantine for group of 10 people or more

People sponsored by a company or organization for work or training or any other purposes, arriving from abroad or in Male' or any island where there is community spread of COVID-19 and travelling to an island where there is no community spread, if they travel as a group of 10 people or more and plan to stay in a shared accommodation (room, dormitory or barracks) during travel related quarantine should follow the following.

3.1 Measures to be taken by those traveling to the islands

- Except for Maldivians and expatriate workers, the others travelling from abroad must have a negative PCR test result. The sample for this PCR test must be taken not more than 96 hours prior to the scheduled time of departure from the first port of embarkation en route to Maldives.
- If the passenger makes a transit during the journey, the initial PCR test will be valid if the transit does not exceed 24 hours.
- If a passenger makes a transit exceeding 24 hours the passenger must take a repeat PCR test within 96 hours prior to embarkation at the port of transit.

- For those arriving from abroad, it is advised to travel directly to their quarantine destination. If for any reason wait is anticipated in any island where there is community spread of COVID-19 the person (s) should remain in quarantine till travel arrangements are made.
- Maldivians and expatriates who are arriving from abroad have a negative PCR test result, do not have to repeat PCR test, to travel for ‘furabandhu quarantine’ if their stay does not exceed 72 hours in an island where there is community spread of COVID-19. However, if their stay exceeds 72 hours PCR prior to travel for ‘furabandhu quarantine’. The person must follow the quarantine procedures during their stay.
- If Maldivians and expatriates living in an island where there is community spread of COVID-19 travels to an island where there is no community spread of COVID-19, PCR test must be done not more than 72 hours prior to the scheduled time of departure to the island and should have a negative PCR test result prior to travel.
- People who have COVID-19 like symptoms such as fever, cough, respiratory symptoms etc., must not travel until 48 hours after resolution of symptoms even if their PCR test results are negative.

3.2 Travel application procedure

- In order to get group travel approval, for ‘furabandhu quarantine’ request with detailed information should be emailed to eoclegal@health.gov.mv along with the PCR test results of all the people included in the group. This should be emailed by the requesting organization/agency or authority.
- The people travelling must be registered in “haalubelun” portal <https://haalubelun.hpa.gov.mv> and must obtain prior approval from all relevant authorities to go for ‘furabandhu quarantine’.
- The employer or the person responsible for the group must explain the measures to be observed in quarantine and the need for strict adherence to these measures.
- The employer or the person responsible for the group must ensure the people undergoing quarantine follow the quarantine measures and also must ensure the place where the people are kept in quarantine adheres with the guideline.

3.3 Duration of quarantine

- Even if the result of the PCR test done before leaving for ‘furabandhu quarantine’ is negative, the people will undergo 10 days of ‘furabandhu quarantine’ period after arrival to the island as per existing guidelines. PCR test will be done upon completion of quarantine period and will be released from quarantine if the PCR result is negative.
- If the PCR test result is positive, the person(s) will be managed as per existing measures for handling COVID-19 positives.

3.4 Accommodation during quarantine

- There should be an identified supervisor or person responsible for the people undergoing quarantine. They must ensure the place where people quarantined adheres with the HPA guidelines.
- Importance should be given to accommodate in smaller groups, to prevent a large outbreak among the quarantined people and to avoid extension of quarantine period for a large number of contacts in the event that a person tests positive at the end of quarantine.
- People who are quarantined in a group should not meet any person from outside the group.
- With safety measures delivery of meals and other necessities should be arranged. It is not advised to eat in groups at a common dining area.
- Bed distancing must be at least 3 feet apart.
- There should be at least one toilet/bathroom for the smaller groups staying together (minimum one toilet for 10 persons).
- Detergents and bleach must be made available for cleaning and disinfection. Living room and toilet/bathroom must be cleaned and disinfected at least once daily. It is the responsibility of the employer to share the HPA guidelines on cleaning with the group.
- Hand washing (soap and water) facility must be available in the accommodation.
- Lidded, double lined dustbins must be available for waste disposal.
- Arrangements must be in place to discard the waste generated at least once daily.
- Information posters and messages should be made available and displayed at the venue by the employer or the person responsible for the group.
- Arrangements for communication (phone/landline) must be in place.

3.5 Persons who become symptomatic during the quarantine period

- Any person who develops COVID-19 like symptoms such as fever, cough, sore throat, running nose or shortness of breath, etc, must undergo PCR testing for COVID-19.
- Temporary arrangements should be made to keep the symptomatic person(s) separately until the PCR result is available. If it is not possible to separate the symptomatic individual, he/she should wear surgical mask and maintain 6 feet physical distance of from others. Everyone who is sharing the accommodation with the symptomatic individual also must wear surgical masks.
- If a symptomatic person tests negative, the duration of ‘furanbandhu quarantine’ will remain as 10 days from the beginning of the quarantine period.

3.6 Extension of quarantine period

- If any of the PCR test done for the group of people upon completion of quarantine period tests positive, the duration of quarantine will be extended for the group staying together with the positive person/people.

ANNEX-1 Checklist for maintaining measures for group accommodation when going for “Furabandhu” quarantine

This form should be filled by the supervisor as a checklist if a group of 10 people or more who are sponsored by a company or an institution are going for “Furabandhu” quarantine.

1. Name of the company or institution who take guardianship of the quarantined people:

2. Name of responsible person from company or institution who will monitor and ensure that quarantine measures are followed by the group:

3. Purpose of travel of the group:

4. Number of people going for group quarantine: _____

5. Indicate the type of accommodation arranged for quarantine (tick where appropriate):

I. Accommodation in rooms

II. Dormitories (halls)

If accommodation is arranged in rooms:

6. Number of rooms where people are going to be quarantined: _____

7. Number of people who are going to be accommodated in a room: _____

8. Distance between beds: _____ feet.

9. Toilet/bathroom arrangements for occupants of each room:

I. Separate toilet/bathroom for each room

II. Toilets or bathrooms will be shared by rooms

If accommodation is arranged at a dormitories (halls):

10. Number of dormitories (halls): _____

11. Number of people accommodated in each dormitory (hall): _____

12. Distance between beds: _____ feet.

13. Number of toilets for each dormitory (hall): _____

14. Arrangement made to ensure separate dining of quarantined groups:

15. Arrangement for waste collection and disposal from the quarantine site:

16. Arrangement for providing access to communication for the quarantined people:

17. Are the following materials available or measures in place at the rooms or dormitories for quarantine?

S.no	Details	Yes	No
I.	Availability of medical masks for symptomatic persons and people who share a room with a symptomatic person		
II.	Availability of a separate room or area for isolation of a symptomatic person		
III.	Availability of hand washing facility OR hand sanitizer in the living area		
IV.	Availability of detergent and bleach for cleaning of living areas and toilet		
V.	Availability of lidded and lined dustbins:		
VI.	Availability of information materials on prevention of COVID-19 such as signage and posters		

18. Any further remarks:

Details of the supervisor:

Name: _____

Contact number: _____

Date: _____