

Protocol for identification and management of Nipah suspect cases at SCTIMST

At OPD reception (Block-1/Block-3)

Patients or visitors with fever, coming from Nipah-reported areas* (currently Ayancheri, Maruthonkara, Kuttiady and Nadapuram Grama panchayats of Kozhikode district, Kerala) are to be directed to the medical social worker (MSW). Patients and accompanying bystanders to wait in pre-identified isolated area wearing triple-layer surgical masks.

Nipah suspect: Case definition

Person coming from or have visited in the past 2 weeks, a community affected by Nipah virus outbreak* (currently Ayancheri, Maruthonkara, Kuttiady and Nadapuram Grama panchayats of Kozhikode district, Kerala), presenting or referred with,

- Fever with headache, myalgia OR
- Fever with cough or shortness of breath (Acute pneumonia/ARDS) OR
- Fever with new acute onset of altered mental status or seizures (Acute encephalitis)

Preliminary suspect case identification by Medical Social Worker (Case definition)
At information counters (Block 1 and Block-3 of Hospital wing)
or Main reception (during holidays)



If patient fulfils case definition, inform duty staff nurse and resident.
Patient and his/her bystanders to remain in the pre-identified isolation area.



All HCW (Doctors/Nursing officers/Unit helpers/Cleaning attendants) should wear a triple-layer surgical mask or N95 respirator with gloves while interacting, examining and caring the patient.



If body fluid spillages occur, complete PPE should be donned by the attendant prior to cleaning/disinfection of the environment with freshly prepared 1% sodium hypochlorite solution. Dispose the waste and used PPE in yellow-coded waste bag (except gloves in red-coded bag)



If case definition fulfilled by history and examination by resident doctors, inform consultant-in-charge and infection control nurse (ICN)



Refer the patient and the bystander to emergency department of Thiruvananthapuram Medical College Hospital for further management

“Universal masking” recommended by the infection control team (ICT) for all doctors, nursing officers, medical social workers, security staffs, unit helpers and cleaning attendants directly interacting with patients/patient bystanders in view of Nipah protocol as well as increased incidence of Influenza & other respiratory viral infections in the community.

* As per updations of Nipah-reported areas by the Directorate of Health Services (DHS), Kerala.