

## Guideline for re-opening of tourist guest houses and hotels in Greater Male' area

### Introduction

COVID-19 epidemic trends in Greater Male area has improved. Sample positivity rate has consistently remained low at a level of less than 5 percent since mid of September 2020. Hence, guesthouses and hotels in Greater Male' area are allowed to open for general operations if they fulfil the public health requirements and after obtaining approval from Ministry of Tourism (MOT).

### Purposes for which tourist guest houses and hotels in Greater Male' area could accommodate guests

- Tourists, for transit stay and regular stay.
- Maldivians, for travel related quarantine ("Furabandhu" quarantine) for those who are unable to arrange quarantine at a house.
- Expatriate work visa holders, for travel related quarantine ("Furabandhu" quarantine) and regular stay.
- Expatriates holding diplomatic visa, business visa or special visa.
- Maldivians including those who travel from islands for obtaining services in Greater Male' area.

### Pre requisite for re-opening tourist guest houses and hotels in Greater Male' area

Ministry of Tourism must make the following arrangements:

- There must be a designated place for isolation of confirmed cases of COVID-19 among tourists at these establishments. Isolation could be done at a designated guest house

---

/hotel or a designated facility at an island. The place which is designated for isolation must be approved by Health Protection Agency (HPA).

- There must be a designated place for quarantine of close contacts among tourists at these establishments. Quarantine of close contacts could be done at a designated guest house/hotel or a designated facility at an island.
- Medical care must be available at the designated place for isolation with access to a doctor and nurse. There must be a mechanism for daily monitoring of the medical condition of the isolated patients.
- There must be designated vehicles to transport COVID-19 cases and their contacts to the designated places for isolation and quarantine. PPE must be available for crew involved in the transport. There must be a mechanism to decontaminate the vehicle after movement of a COVID-19 patient or close contacts.

#### The following requirements must be fulfilled by tourist guest houses and hotels

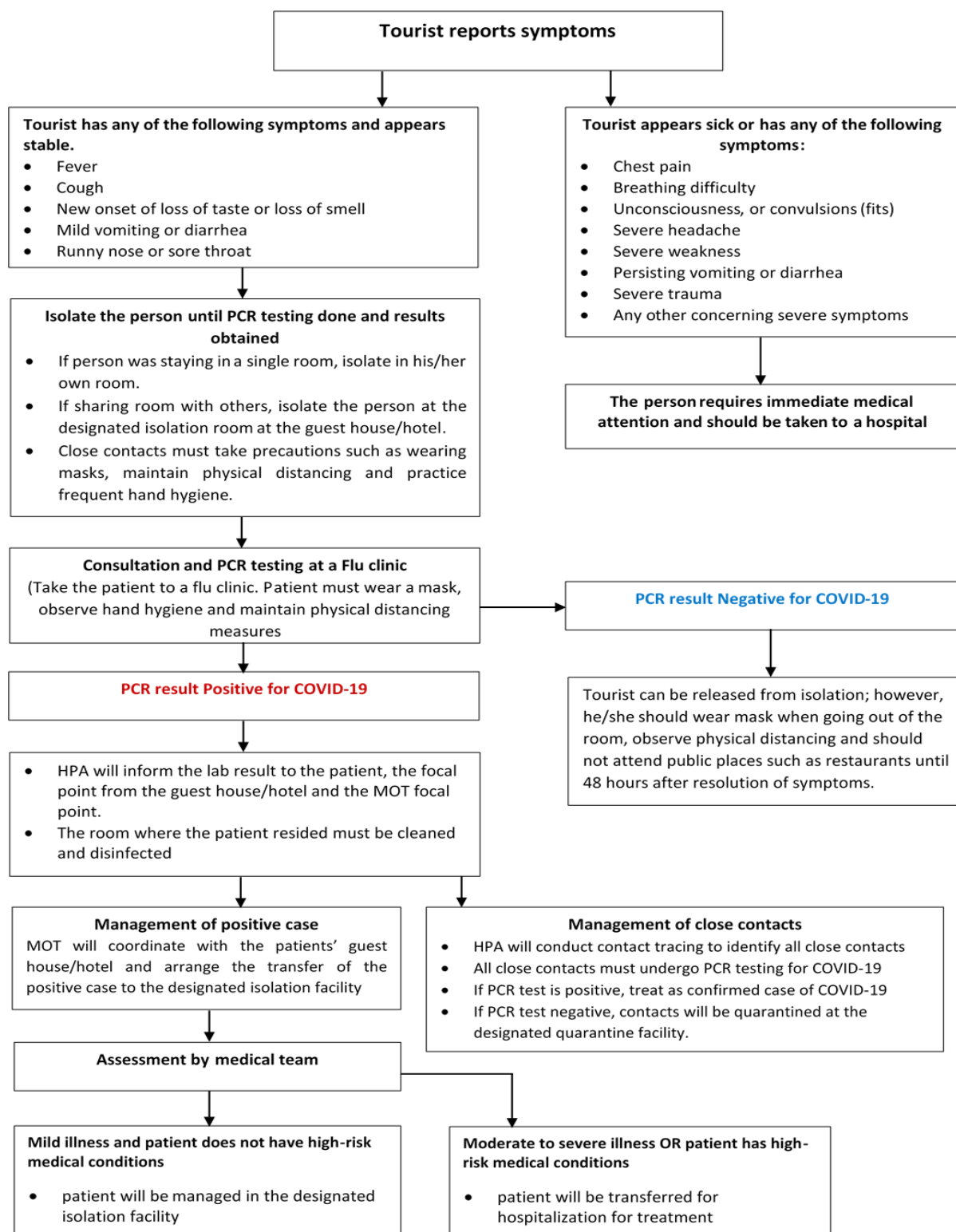
- A COVID-19 safe plan must be formulated by the tourist guest house or hotel and submitted to MOT. MOT will assess the COVID-19 safe plan of the tourist guest house before giving permit to operate. The COVID-19 safe plan of the tourist guest house must address the following:
  - Infection prevention measures established in the tourist guest house or hotel according to this guideline.
  - Identify and share the contact number of a focal point from the guest house or hotel (MOT or HPA will communicate with this focal point about any COVID-19 related issue)
  - Allocation of designated isolation rooms for temporary isolation of a symptomatic guest until PCR testing for COVID-19 can be done and the test results obtained.
  - Procedure for managing a symptomatic case identified at the guest house or hotel.
  - Availability of basic PPE to attend to a symptomatic guest (medical masks, face shield, gloves, disposable aprons or washable gowns).

- 
- Tourist guest houses and hotels must explain to guests at the time of making bookings, the public health measures that should be observed, the requirements for PCR testing of tourists under the conditions mentioned in this guideline and the requirements for testing, isolation and quarantine in the event that a tourist may become a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 or a close contact of COVID-19 case.
  - When staff attend for work, temperature should be checked and they should be asked whether they have symptoms such as fever, cough, runny nose, sore throat or shortness of breath.
  - Staff who develop fever or respiratory symptoms should not be allowed to attend work. They must test for COVID-19 and if negative, they must not join work until 48 hours after resolution of symptoms.
  - Staff must have a work cloth/uniform. At the end of the duty, they must wash hands properly, change their mask and work clothes prior to leaving from work.
  - Tourist guest houses and hotels must have a changing room for staff.
  - Staff must wear masks (medical masks or cloth masks) at all times inside the guest house or hotel premises.
  - Staff are recommended to use the contact tracing app “TraceEkee”.
  - Hand washing facilities or hand sanitizers should be available at the reception and in other public areas such as restaurants.
  - Sign boards/ posters to remind guests about physical distancing, wearing masks and maintaining hand hygiene should be displayed at guest reception and other public areas.
  - Guests must wear masks when in public spaces in the guest house or hotel.
  - Guests are recommended to use the contact tracing app “TraceEkee” to facilitate contact tracing.
  - Wearing of masks is mandatory for everyone including tourists at all public spaces in Greater Male’ area (refer to [HPA guideline on wearing masks](#)). They should also adhere to other measures at public places including physical distancing measures.

- 
- The following areas should fulfil the public health requirements provided in the relevant sections of the guideline **“Public Health Interventions to Prevent COVID-19 Transmission in the Tourism Sector Version 4 (updated)**

(<https://covid19.health.gov.mv/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Public-health-interventions-to-reduce-the-risk-of-transmission-of-COVID-19-in-the-tourismsector-V-4-updated.pdf>):

- Reception area- (refer to section 8.4)
- Luggage handling- (refer to section 8.5)
- Housekeeping- (refer to section 8.14)
- Laundry - refer to section 8.15.
- Restaurant- (see section 8.8)
- Gym and sports complex- (refer to section 8.11)
- Excursions and fishing trips-(refer to section 8.13)
- Beach and sea sports- (refer to section 8.17)
- Passenger boats, ferries and vehicles which transport tourists (refer to section 7.5 and 7.6)
- Waste disposal- (refer to section 8.21)
- Cleaning and disinfection- (refer to Annex 4)



---

### Split stay between a tourist guest house or hotel in Greater Male' area and a tourist resort, safari or tourist guest house island.

- All split stays must be according to the split stay procedure set forth by the MoT
- Tourists who initially stay at a tourist guest house or hotel in Greater Male' area as part of a split stay, must do PCR testing for COVID-19 (despite a pre arrival PCR test done prior to entry into the country) if the duration of stay in Greater Male' area is more than 48 hours. He/she may travel to the resort, safari or tourist guest house island if the result of this PCR test is negative.
- Tourists who initially stay at a tourist resort or safari or a tourist guest house island are not required to do a PCR test for COVID-19 prior to travelling to a guest house or Hotel in Greater Male' area

### Transit stays at guest houses or hotels in Greater Male' area

- Departure tourists who require pre-departure PCR testing as an immigration requirement of their destination country or airline, **must obtain a negative PCR result prior to their exit from the resort or safari or tourist guest house island.** If they require to transit at a guest house or hotel in Greater Male' area prior to departure from Maldives, they must produce the negative PCR result during check-in to the guest house or hotel.
- Tourists from guest house islands who transit at a guest house or hotel in Greater Male' area prior to departure from Maldives, must produce a negative PCR result during check-in to the guest house or hotel.
- Arrival tourists who require to transit in Greater Male' area prior to travel to resorts, safaris or tourist guest house islands will not require PCR testing if their duration of transit in Greater Male' area is less than 48 hours.
- Tourists who are in transit stay may exit the guest house or hotel during the stay. They may take part in outdoor activities, visit shops or dine at restaurants however, they must wear masks, maintain physical distancing and observe other recommended public health measures to reduce transmission of COVID-19.

---

### Tourists who stay in Greater Male' area during their entire duration of stay in Maldives.

These tourists must do a PCR test for COVID-19 prior to departure from Maldives if their duration of stay in Greater Male' area is more than 48 hours. The sample for testing must be obtained not more than 72 hours prior to departure from Maldives. The result of this PCR test must be negative to allow them to travel. The guest house or hotel must ensure that the tourist has obtained the PCR results prior to check out.

### Short visits to safaris, resorts and tourist guest house islands from tourist guest houses and hotels in Greater Male' area.

- Tourists who stay in hotels and guest houses in Greater Male' area may visit safaris for short visits such as dinners. These safaris must obtain day visits approval from MoT. These safaris are only allowed to operate within the day visits procedure and are not allowed to host tourists for regular stay and accommodation. These safaris must ensure that COVID-19 prevention measures such as wearing masks, physical distancing and hand hygiene are followed by tourists as well as crew.
- Visits to resorts and tourist guest house islands are not allowed except within the arrangements of split stay.

### PCR testing for COVID-19 surveillance of staff of tourist guest houses and hotels in Greater Male' area

As staff of tourist guest houses and hotels in Greater Male' area are at increased risk of exposure to COVID-19, these staff are required to do PCR testing for COVID-19 once every month.