



**DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES**

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PH1-49738/18/DHS

Date: 28/11/18

To

District Medical Officer (Health)

TVM/KLM/PTA/ALP/KTM/IDK/EKM/TSR/PKD/MPM/KKD/WYD/KNR/KSD.

Sir/Madam,

Subject: Precautions against Nipah virus infection.

Ref: Note from ACS (Health) No.329/ACS/2018/H&FWD. Dated 26-11-18.

As per the reference, you are directed to implement precautionary measures against the occurrence of Nipah Virus Infection in our state with immediate effect. The following actions should be stressed.

1. Community should be sensitized not to eat any bat eaten/bitten fruits or vegetables.
2. All fruits and vegetables should be thoroughly washed before consumption.
3. Care should be taken to avoid venturing into areas infested with fruit bats.
4. Doctors and Health staff should take adequate infection control measures while dealing with persons suffering from ARDS and AES symptoms.
5. Protective 3 layer masks should be provided to all cases having severe respiratory symptoms. To facilitate this, cough corners may be set up in major hospitals where masks are available and there is somebody posted to explain the use and need for masks.
6. Community should be educated to practice cough etiquettes like covering mouth while coughing or sneezing, frequent hand wash, and social distancing while interactions.
7. AES surveillance should be strengthened at all levels, and each case should thoroughly investigate to exclude a Nipah like infection, by sending timely samples to the NIV/MCVR Labs with intimation to the undersigned.

Yours faithfully,

ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR (PH) & SSO IDSP KERALA.