



**State Advisory on the use of Hydroxy Chloroquine as prophylaxis for COVID-19
SARS COV-2 INFECTION**

SUB: Recommendation for empiric use of Hydroxy - Chloroquine for prophylaxis of SARS-COV-2 infection.

Ref: D.O.No.VIR/4/2020/ECD-1 22nd March-2020.

Background:

Hydroxy-Chloroquine is found to be effective against Coronavirus in laboratory studies and in-vivo studies. Its use in prophylaxis is derived from available evidence of benefit as treatment and supported by pre-clinical data. The following recommendation for the use of hydroxyl-chloroquine as a prophylactic agent against SARS-CoV-2 infection is based on these considerations, under exceptional circumstances that call for the protection of high-risk individuals. as well as risk benefit consideration

The National Taskforce for COVID-19 recommends the use of hydroxyl-chloroquine for prophylaxis of SARS-CoV-2 infection for selected individuals as follows:

ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS	DOSAGE	EXCLUSION / CONTRA INDICATIONS	KEY CONSIDERATIONS
Asymptomatic Healthcare Workers who are actively involved in the care of the suspected or confirmed cases of COVID -19	Day 1 : 400 mg @ twice a day Next 7 Weeks : 400 mg once a week To be taken along with meals only	NOTE : Drug is not for children under 15years recommended as Prophylaxis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drug to be given based on the prescription of registered Medical practitioner only.• Any adverse events or potential drug interaction before the initiation of medication has to be brought to the notice of the physician.
Asymptomatic household contacts of laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases	DAY 1: 400 mg @ twice a day NEXT 3 WEEKS : 400mg once a week To be taken along with meals only	Drug has contraindications for persons with Retinopathy, known hypersensitivity to HYDROXY CHLOROQUINE, 4 -AMINOQUILINE COMPOUNDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The prophylactic use of Hydroxychloroquine to be coupled with the pharmacovigilance for advance drug reactions through self-reporting using the Pharmacovigilance Programme of India (PvPI) helpline/app.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If anyone becomes symptomatic while on prophylaxis he/she should immediately contact the health facility. get tested as per national guidelines and follow the standard treatment protocol. • All asymptomatic contact of laboratory confirmed cases should remain in home quarantine as per the national guidelines ,even if they are on prophylactic therapy • Simultaneously, proof of concept and pharmacokinetics studies be taken up expeditiously. Findings from these studies and other new evidence will guide any change in the recommendation. • All Asymptomatic contacts of laboratory confirmed cases should remain in Home Quarantine despite being on Prophylactic Therapy as per National Guidelines. • All proof of concepts, and pharmaceutical studies are to be taken expeditiously , findings of these and other evidences will aid in change of recommendations
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The protocol recommended by the National Task force has been approved by the Drug Controller General of India for restricted use in emergency situation.

While following the above recommendations, should take note of the following:

- The placing of healthcare workers under chemoprophylaxis should not instill a sense of false security. They should follow all prescribed public health measures such as frequent washing of hands, respiratory etiquettes, keeping a distance of minimum 1m and use of Personal protective equipment (wherever applicable).
- They should self-monitor their health and report to health authorities immediately in the event of them becoming symptomatic.
- The high risk contacts of a positive case placed under chemo prophylaxis, should remain in home quarantine while on prophylactic therapy.
- As recommended by the said Task Force, the drug should only be given on the prescription of a registered medical practitioner. The contraindications mentioned in the recommendations should strictly be followed.
- Apart from the symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, breathing difficulty), if the person on chemoprophylaxis develops any other symptoms, he should immediately seek medical treatment of the medical practitioner who has prescribed the chemoprophylaxis.

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