

Government of West Bengal
Health & Family Welfare Department
Swasthya Bhavan, 3rd Floor
GN-29, Sector-V, Bidhannagar
Kolkata – 700 091

No. H&FW/139/20

April 10, 2020

ORDER

The safety and well being of our medical personnel, who are in the forefront of our battle against COVID-19 is paramount.

The State Government is taking multiple steps to ensure the supply of PPEs, Gloves, Masks, Sanitizers, etc. to prevent any risk of exposure to COVID-19 infection for our healthcare providers and others.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) vide Advisory Memo No. VIR/4/2020/ECD-I dated 22nd March, 2020 has approved the usage of Hydroxy-chloroquine prophylaxis for COVID-19 and has also prescribed a dosage of the same for frontline health workers. The relevant portion of which is extracted below:

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

Eligible Individuals:

- Asymptomatic healthcare workers involved in the care of suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19
- Asymptomatic household contacts of laboratory confirmed cases


Dose:

- Asymptomatic healthcare workers involved in the care of suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19: *400 mg twice a day on Day 1, followed by 400 mg once weekly for next 7 weeks; to be taken with meals*
- Asymptomatic household contacts of laboratory confirmed cases: *400 mg twice a day on Day 1, followed by 400 mg once weekly for next 3 weeks; to be taken with meals*

Exclusion/contraindications:

- The drug is not recommended for prophylaxis in children under 15 years of age
- The drug is contraindicated in persons with known cases of retinopathy, known hypersensitivity to hydroxyl-chloroquine, 4-aminoquinoline compounds”

Accordingly, necessary action may please be taken on ICMR's Advisory for administering Hydroxy-chloroquine prophylaxis for frontline health workers, especially those engaged in designated COVID-19 hospitals.


10/4/2020

Director of Medication Education
West Bengal


10/4/20

Director of Health Services
West Bengal