

To see & propose
for remarks
6/4/20

DME to see
2/4/2020



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Health & Family Welfare (P) Department

No. P2/53/2020 - Health

31/03/2020, Thiruvananthapuram

From

Principal Secretary to Government

To

The Director of Medical Education
Thiruvananthapuram.

The Director of Health services Department,
Thiruvananthapuram.

Madam,

Sub: H&FWD - Covid 19 Pandemic - Protocols for hygiene and
protection in hospitals - Dress code of hospital staff - reg.

Ref: Note from Dr. Asha Thomas I.A.S., Additional Chief Secretary,
Department of Forest & Wild life.

I am to invite your attention to the reference cited and to inform you that, Dr. Asha Thomas I.A.S., Additional Chief Secretary has flagged an issue with regard to dress code of hospital staff in the specific situation of Covid 19 pandemic. The formal dress code exists for the Government & Private hospitals was set many decades ago. The saree is even more dangerous garment in the time of highly infectious pandemic as it has always been an unhygienic and impractical garment for women in a hospital set up. There are also chances for getting impurities and germs which would be dangerous to the wearer and also to the patients. The PPE supplied for Covid-19 protection includes a zip-up overall that is almost impossible to wear over a saree and difficult to manage the leg protection sleeves of the PPE kit. she has suggested the following dress code for hospital staff:-

i) **Mandate by order that all women on the health care front -** Doctors, nurses, attendants, paramedics- are to be dressed in either pants or straight leg kurta suits. This dress code order should cover private and government institutions and should cover Covid and non-covid areas as long as the pandemic continues.

ii) **For those in government institutions, procure and issue uniforms** or scrubs to all women healthcare workers who request for them (Presumably those who do not have prescribed uniforms already). These should be of a material that permits daily washing at high heat and disinfection with chemicals.

iii) **Issue clear written instructions to all healthcare workers** (men and women) regarding the proper donning and doffing and subsequent disinfection of their clothes (not just the PPE) every day.

In the above circumstances, you are requested to furnish your remarks in the matter urgently.

Yours Faithfully,
N R SREELEKHA
ADDITIONAL SECRETARY
For Principal Secretary to Government.

Approved for Issue,

Hari
Section Officer.