

## **ADVISORY REGARDING COVID-19**

National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers (NABH) has no greater responsibility than the safety and security of its staff & assessors, including providing information to assessors to make informed decisions about traveling domestic/international. The ongoing outbreak of COVID-19 (also known as the Novel Coronavirus) has impacted countries differently and prompted some governments to implement new travel restrictions and policies. The World Health Organization declared COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic & efforts to manage and contain the spread have led to travel restrictions and interruptions overseas. As a preventives measure to limit the spread of the virus, Assessor Management Committee proposes to follow these measures:

An outbreak of a new strain of coronavirus, 2019-nCoV, presents an ongoing health threat across the globe. NABH stands for the quality, safety & wellness of its stakeholders. Though the threat has been labelled a pandemic, currently, the travel advisories are largely against international travel. Even the government suggests not to panic. Domestic travel is safe with use of appropriate precautions. In that light, NABH assessors are advised to continue with the prescheduled assignments.

However, if Assessors or Healthcare organizations have any concerns, please feel free to contact the respective program officers at NABH Secretariat over the mail. We recommend assessors to follow all elements of standard precautions as outlined in the CDC Core Practices.

For the Healthcare Organizations, NABH suggests to implement a system for evaluation and management of exposed or ill health care workers and support staff that could further transmit the infection to the patients, visitors or other staff. Our standards require health care organizations to have a plan for dealing with a surge of infectious patients

Assessments are being managed on a case-to-case basis & NABH is continuing to closely monitor the situation.