

**Republic of Lebanon**  
**Ministry of Public Health**  
**Directorate General**

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**CIRCULAR No. 46**  
**On the measures that should be taken by the health institutions to prevent the spread of coronavirus**

In order to effectively deal with the anxiety of the citizens and the growing need for advice and inspection in the health institutions,

And whereas most of the cases do not meet the definition of the suspect case, but rather require reassurance or hospitalization for illnesses not related to coronavirus,

Therefore, all the health institutions, in particular the hospitalization centers are requested to deal with the anxiety and demands of the citizens in a professional matter, and gather the necessary information on travel history or contact with an infected person. They are also called to duly conduct clinical examinations for the diagnosis of the known diseases.

The patient shall only be referred to Rafik Hariri University Hospital in the absence of clear etiological agents or when the case meets the definition of the suspect case.

**Definition of suspect case:**

- A) Any patient suffering from respiratory illness (fever with symptoms of respiratory disease) without identification of the etiological agents and a history of travel or residence in a country where local cases have been reported, within 14 days prior to symptom onset or
- B) Any patient suffering from acute respiratory illness and who has been in contact with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19, within 14 days prior to symptom onset or
- C) Any patient suffering from acute respiratory infection (fever with acute respiratory symptoms) requiring hospitalization without identification of the etiological agents.

Ministry of Public Health Director General  
Dr. Walid Ammar

**A copy to be submitted to:**

- The syndicate of hospitals
- Governmental hospitals
- Military Medical Services
- Medical Care Directorate
- Prevention medicine Service
- Epidemiological surveillance Program
- Website of the Ministry
- Archives