



FROM: Public Health Physician

Margret Marquart Catholic Hospital,
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**TO: All prescribers, in-charges and
all clinical staff**

DATE: 25/01/2024

Subject: Rising incidence of Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI)

This is to bring to your attention the rising incidence of Severe Acute Respiratory Infection in the hospital. From 15/01/24 to date, there has been a sharp rise in the number of students presenting with signs of respiratory tract infection with a corresponding rise in the number of admissions. All admitted cases that were screened for COVID-19 tested negative and are currently doing well. Additional samples have been taken to be sent to the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research for further analysis.

The Municipal Health Directorate has since been notified.

Consequently, Prescribers, clinic and ward In-charges and all clinical staff are to take note of the following:

1. All patients with signs of and symptoms of respiratory tract infection should be screened for COVID-19 and tuberculosis per the GHS recommendations on bidirectional testing.
2. Prescribers are also reminded of the availability of the antiviral medications, Nirmatrelvir/Lopinavir and Molnupiravir which are recommended for treating mild and moderate cases of COVID-19 who are at risk of progressing to severe disease.
3. Clinical staff are encouraged to strictly adhere to IPC measures to protect themselves and their clients.

Please find attached the guidelines for managing mild to moderate cases of COVID-19 with the above antiviral medications.

PLEASE NOTE: THIS INFORMATION IS NOT MEANT FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC. IT IS STRICTLY MEANT FOR CLINICAL STAFF AND THE MANAGEMENT OF MARGRET MARQUART CATHOLIC HOSPITAL.