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PRESS RELEASE

Impending COVID-19 Crisis

Recent escalation of positive COVID-19 cases and their geographical distribution in the country compel us to suspect that there is imminent or established community transmission in Sri Lanka.

We strongly feel that it would be quite prudent to assume as established community transmission even as low grade in order to minimise further spread and it's dreadful eventualities.

We should never ignore the fact that our existing health care capacity with its limitations will not be able to meet national treatment requirements. It will be far worse when it comes to intensive care.

In order to mitigate such circumstances, we urge the government to enforce stern restrictions to contain COVID-19 spread before it is too late. Banning public gatherings including political rallies, tuition classes, review and re-adjust the time table of school reopening and re-imposing restrictions for public transport etc. will be very vital.

Expanding PCR testing of at risk groups and random community testing would be crucial. Active contact tracing and if necessary even limited lock downs should also be done without any hesitation.

While appreciating all successful measures taken and hard work done so far by health authorities and the military with the correct leadership, we earnestly request the government to take a serious note on the current status to act fast, not pretending that there is no crisis.

Thank you.

Dr L.A. Ranasinghe
President

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