

Minutes of the meeting of the Expert Committee to review and further strengthen the public health related protocols of air travel held on 4th June, 2020

The Hon'ble High Court while hearing the petition (WP-LD-VC-3 OF 2020) has sought a clarification from the committee of experts regarding the transmission of covid-19 virus through inadvertent touch.

"We seek clarification from the Expert Committee as to whether by a mere touch of a person carrying COVID-19 virus, the virus can be transmitted to the person so touched".

The Committee of experts deliberated upon the issue and clarified as follows:

COVID-19 virus can be transmitted by touch only under certain circumstances. For example, If a surface, like clothes, is infected with Covid-19 virus (such infection will take place when the droplets from the mouth or nose -sneezing or coughing- of an infected person sit on such a surface) and a non-infected person touches it and then touches his mouth or nose, then there are chances that the second person may get infected. This is the reason why it is recommended that a person should disinfect his hands regularly.

If an infected person merely touches a non-infected person the virus will not be transmitted unless the conditions mentioned above are fulfilled, that is the transmission has to take place through the droplets carrying the virus sitting on clothes and ultimately these reaching the mouth, nose or eyes of the other person.

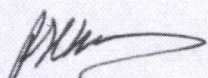
If an infected person is wearing a protective gown and a non-infected person is sitting next to him/her, even if the infected person's clothes have the virus sitting on it, the protective gown would insulate this person and if the neighbouring person inadvertently touches the gown, this person will not be infected as the gown would provide the necessary shield. Similarly, if a non-infected person is wearing a protective gown and an infected person is sitting next to him/her and the infected person inadvertently touches the unaffected person through his clothes which have the virus residing on the clothes, the virus will sit on the gown but will not infect the other person. However it is necessary that both persons are wearing a mask and a protective face shield in both cases. It is mandatory that the prescribed protocol for putting on the gown and removing it is strictly followed.

Sd/-
(Rajesh Bhushan)

Sd/-
(Dr. Balram Bhargava)

Sd/-
(Dr. Randeep Guleria)

Sd/-
(Dr. Naresh Trehan)


(Pradeep Singh Kharola)