

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Transmission of pathogens responsible for acute respiratory disease such as COVID-19 is through droplets and contact with contaminated materials and surfaces. Infection prevent and control (IPC) practices in communities and health facilities should be reviewed and enhanced to prepare for treatment of patients with COVID-19 and to prevent transmission to staff, patients, visitors and community members.

Priority activities include:

- i. Review and update national IPC guidelines, protocols and SOPs. These should include patient referral pathways, identification of IPC focal points, guidance for IPC measures and referral systems from public places such as schools, markets, public transportation as well as from communities, households and family practices.
- ii. Assessment of IPC capacity at all levels of healthcare system including public, private and traditional practices and pharmacies.
- iii. Assess IPC capacity in public places and community spaces where risk of communication is considered high
- iv. Develop and implement plan for monitoring of health care personnel exposed to suspect and confirmed COVID-19 for respiratory illness
- v. Develop a plan to manage PPE supply (stockpile, distribution) and to identify IPC surge capacity
- vi. Engage trained staff to implement IPC activities with priorities identified based on risk assessment and local care seeking behavior
- vii. Record, investigate and report all cases of healthcare-associated infections
- viii. Review, update and disseminate IPC guidelines for home and community-level care providers
- ix. Implement triage, early detection and infectious source controls, administrative controls and engineering controls
- x. Support access to Water and Sanitation for Hygiene (WASH) services in public places and community spaces most at risk
- xi. Monitor IPC and WASH implementation in selected healthcare facilities and public spaces using Infection Prevention and Control assessment framework, hand hygiene compliance observation tools and WASH Facilities improvement Tool
- xii. Provide prioritized tailored support to health facilities based on IPC risk assessment and local-care seeking patterns, including for supplies, human resources and training.
- xiii. Conduct training to address any skills and performance deficits.