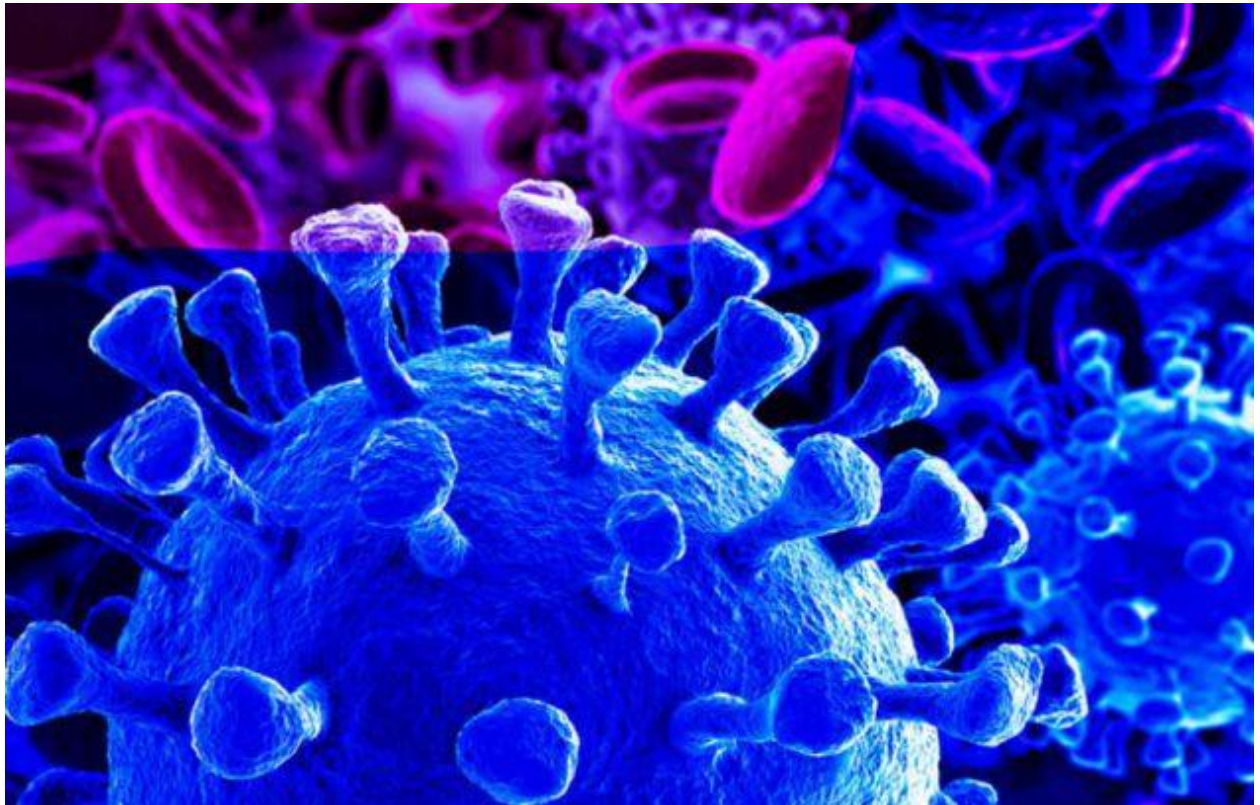


COVID-19 – Indian Dental Association (IDA)



Response and Containment Measures for COVID Dental Warriors fighting COVID-19 WAR

This Indian Dental Association guide for utilization by dental professionals.

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EMPOWERING DENTAL PROFESSIONALS

1. ROLE OF COVID Dental Warrior

Indian Dental Association (IDA) we appeal to our dental professionals to turn themselves into COVID Dental Warriors for this pandemic by carrying out the following:-

1) House-to-house surveillance (in person/remotely via IDA mobile app) including

- Identification of HRGs, probable cases and early reporting.
- Provide psychosocial care, stigma and discrimination.

2) Community awareness through inter-personal communication

- Promote preventive and control measures including social distancing, home care & home quarantine.
- Addressing myths and misconceptions;

3) Reporting & feedback

4) Personal Safety and Precautions

2. KNOW COVID-19 BETTER

SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, is thought to be spread primarily through respiratory droplets.

Symptoms of COVID-19 are Fever, Cough and Difficulty in breathing

Airborne transmission from person-to-person over long distances is unlikely.

The virus has been shown to survive in aerosols for hours and on surfaces for days.

There are also indications that patients may be able to spread the virus while being pre-symptomatic or asymptomatic.

Surgical masks protect mucous membranes of the mouth and nose from droplet spatter, but they do not provide complete protection against inhalation of airborne infectious agents.

AND

If you have the symptoms of Fever, Cough or Difficulty in Breathing get yourself tested immediately at a medical facility.

If you test positive then call the State Helpline Number or Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India 24x7 helpline 011-2397 8046, 1075 or your ASHA/ANM.

3. FACTS AND MYTHS

1. Statement: With the summers coming up, the Coronavirus will be killed

FACT: The COVID-19 virus can be transmitted in ALL AREAS, including areas with hot and humid weather. The best way to protect yourself against COVID-19 is by frequently washing your hands with soap and water, covering your coughs and sneezes and avoiding crowded places.

2. Statement: Having a bath with hot water will kill the virus

FACT: The virus lives inside the body where the temperature is maintained at 37°C and is not affected by a hot water bath that you have.

3. Statement: Eating raw garlic, sesame seeds will protect you against the virus

FACT: Garlic is a healthy food that has other benefits but does not protect you against the Coronavirus.

4. Statement: Getting the pneumonia vaccine will protect you against the virus

FACT: While vaccines for Pneumonia will certainly protect you against pneumonia, it has no protective effect against the Novel Coronavirus.

5. Statement: You can get COVID-19 through mosquito bites

FACT: The Coronavirus cannot be spread through the bite of a mosquito. It is spread through droplets when an infected person sneezes or coughs

6. Statement: Spraying alcohol or disinfectant over your body can prevent infection

FACT: Spraying with alcohol or sanitizer on clothes and body, or consuming alcohol will not prevent you from getting infection. Infection spreads when the virus enters the body through nose or mouth. Cleaning and wiping hands with alcohol is to prevent the germ from entering your system through infected hands when you touch your mouth or you eat food with infected hands.

7. Statement: Regularly rinsing the nose with saline will prevent the infection

FACT: Rinsing nose with saline has in few cases helped in containing common cold, but has no evidence to suggest it is effective against the Novel Coronavirus infection.

4.SAFE PRACTICES TO BE PROMOTED

Frequent hand-washing

- a. Regularly and thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water for 20 secs or 70% alcohol based hand rub

Maintain social distancing

- a. Practice at least 1 meter distance between yourself and others.
- b. Avoid going to crowded places
- c. Avoid organizing and attending events, prayers, parties

Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth

- a. Because contaminated hands can transfer the virus to your eyes, nose or mouth

Practice good respiratory hygiene

- a. Cover your mouth and nose with handkerchief or tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- b. Dispose of the used tissue immediately in a closed dustbin.
- c. Wash your hands with soap and water for 20 secs or rub hands with 70% alcohol based hand sanitiser

Stay informed, take care and follow advice

- a. Stay informed on the latest developments about COVID-19

5. ADVICE YOUR PATIENTS\COMMUNITY MEMBERS

A. TO PRACTICE SAFETY AT HOME

Stay away from others

- a. Stay in a specific room and away from other people in your home. Maintain distance of at least 1 meter. Restrict all movement so that others in the house stay safe from infection
- b. If available, use a separate bathroom

Seek health care and notify

- a. If suffering from fever, cough, or having difficulty in breathing, wear a mask to protect others and immediately get in touch with your nearest health facility.

Wear a mask

- a. When you are around other people and before you enter a healthcare provider's clinic
- b. If sick person is unable to wear it, then other family members should wear it when they enter the sick person's room

Avoid going to public areas

- a. Do not go to work, school, or public areas
- b. If you are infected, you could transmit infection to others

Avoid visitors or support staff coming to the house

- a. You may likely pass infection unknowingly
- b. Support staff like maids, drivers, etc should be asked to stay away

B. TO WEAR A MASK

1. Use a mask if:

- a. You develop fever, cough or breathing difficulty
- b. You are visiting a hospital.
- c. You are caring for an ill person and/or entering the room of an infected person.

2. Use a Mask Correctly:

- a. Unfold pleats, facing down, place over nose, mouth and chin.
- b. Fit nose piece over nose-bridge. Tie strings upper string tied - top of head above ears lower string at the back of the neck.
- c. Leave no gaps on either side of the mask, adjust to fit.
- d. Do not pull the mask down or hang it from the neck
- e. Avoid touching the mask while in use.

3. Replace masks with a new clean, dry mask as soon as they become damp/humid. Do not re-use single-use masks.

4. Remove the mask

- a. By using appropriate technique (i.e. do not touch the front but remove the lace from behind)
- b. By first untying the string below and then the string above and handle the mask using the upper strings. Do not touch other surfaces of the mask while removing.

5. Disposing of Mask

After removal or whenever you inadvertently touch a used mask, clean hands by washing with soap and water 20 secs or using a 70% alcohol-based hand rub. Discard single-use masks after each use and dispose of them immediately upon removal by soaking in household bleach solution and then throwing in a closed dustbin

6. WHO IS A SUSPECT?

1. A person with acute respiratory illness (fever and at least one sign/symptom of respiratory disease (e.g., cough, shortness of breath))

AND

2. A history of travel to or residence in a country/area or territory reporting local transmission of COVID-19 disease during the 14 days prior to symptom onset

AND

3. A person with acute respiratory illness and having being in contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case in the last 14 days prior to onset of symptoms

AND

4. A person with severe acute respiratory infection {fever and at least one sign/symptom of respiratory disease (e.g., cough, shortness breath)} and requiring hospitalisation and with no other etiology that fully explains the clinical presentation

AND

5. A case for whom testing for COVID-19 is inconclusive.

7.WHO IS A CONTACT CASE?

1. Staying in the same house without proper protection with COVID-19 patient

2. Staying in the same close environment as a COVID-19 patient (including workplace, classroom, household, gatherings)

3. Traveling together in close proximity (less than 1 m) with a symptomatic person who later tested positive for COVID-19

4. Person providing direct care to a COVID-19 patient

5. The infection may have been transferred within a 14-day period before the onset of illness in the case under consideration

GUIDELINES FOR PATIENT INTERACTION

PATIENT SURVEILLANCE NORMS

1. Visiting Contact:

Community Surveillance done by visiting the local residence of the contact(s) by Health Personnel. Telephone may be used in certain circumstances or for follow-up. Follow precautions.

2. Introducing purpose:

Introduce yourself, explain purpose of contact tracing, collect data in prescribed format.

3. Use Formats:

Community Surveillance to include identification of extended social networks and travel history of cases during the 28 days after onset of illness. together in close proximity (less than 1 m) with a symptomatic person who later tested positive for COVID-19

4. Monitoring:

Contacts of confirmed cases traced and monitored for at least 28 days after the last exposure to the case patient for evidence of COVID - 19 symptoms as per case definition.

5. Follow-up:

Information about contacts can be obtained from:

- a. A patient, his/her family members, persons at patient's workplace or school associates, or
- b. others with knowledge about the patient's recent activities and travels

COMMUNITY COMMUNICATION ETHICS

1. Always be polite.

Anyone can get affected by COVID-19. Do not discriminate, shout, or use rude language. Tell people about the purpose of your visit and what you will do with the answers you are seeking. Say that this is the support that the government is giving to all citizens.

2. Keep distance of 1 meter:

When you meet people, avoid touching or close physical contact. This is true for passing on infection either way. It is better to sit in the open and speak with the family members if space and situation allows.

3. Interview:

Ask questions and get very specific answers. When you are writing, make sure your writing is clear and complete information (addresses, names, contact numbers) is written legibly.

4. Feedback:

Check if people have understood your messages correctly by taking feedback and asking them to repeat what you have advised or shared

5. Clarifications:

If there are questions and you have the answers, you must share this with the community member. However, if you do not have the answer, do not hesitate to say so. A lot is still unknown about COVID-19

Be Prepared when you go to the field:

- Carry a Sanitizer/soap for cleaning your hand
- Carry your formats
- Carry your own writing materials like pen, writing pad
- Carry your masks and extra masks if required

CREATE A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

1. Talk to and involve Influencers

- a. Make a list of local influencers (Gram Pradhan, Religious Leaders, Teachers, any other)
- b. Explain & discuss the situation and protocols to be followed and seek their support in awareness campaign

2. Plan community support for high risk groups

- a. Make a list of high risk people in the village as per contact tracing protocols
- b. Identify people they meet or talk to; share preventive measures with these people and request them to keep communicating these measures to the high risk people
- c. Take care of children whose parents may be in quarantine for issues of education and/or care

3. Develop community networks for support

- a. Divide village into smaller groups for emergency planning, keep contact details of group coordinators
- b. Share contact details of ANM, ASHA, AWW Ambulance, and other medical support with them
- c. Share coordinating details of child protection committees for addressing issues of trauma with children.

5. Raise your voice against Stigma and Discrimination

- a. Identify stigma and discrimination situations in the community
- b. Talk to the affected households to support them in time of need.

INTERACTION WITH COVID FAMILIES

Greet with local salutation and state purpose of your visit. Be respectful, polite and empathetic. Do not discriminate or be rude.

Be aware that suspected and confirmed cases, and their family members may be stressed or afraid. So, the most important thing you can do is to listen carefully to questions and concerns.

Gather accurate information from the person: their name, date of birth, travel history, list of symptoms, record and communicate as per the surveillance format. Write the information clearly

You may not have an answer for every question: a lot is still unknown about COVID-19 and it is okay to admit that.

If available, share information pamphlets or handouts with family members. Discuss their questions using IEC like pamphlets etc to enable better understanding and motivate them to share the CORRECT information with others.

ADDRESS STIGMA

People are suffering from anxieties, stigma and/or discrimination if they get infected with COVID 19, you can help people overcome their anxieties and build a supportive environment

Publicly, use terms like people who have COVID-19 instead of "COVID-19 cases" or "victims". Similarly, use terms like people who may have COVID-19 instead of "suspected cases".

Advise people to minimize watching, reading or listening to news that causes them to feel anxious or distressed.

Advise people to engage in relaxing activities like indoor games, reading, gardening, home-cleaning, etc.

Engage community influencers to build community support by talking to people within their circle of influence.

- a. Identify influencers
- b. Share correct information on COVID-19 with them
- c. Brief them on specific support required by you.

Create positivity by emphasizing that most people do recover from COVID-19, amplify the good news about local people

- a. Who have recovered from COVID-19
- b. Who have supported a loved one through recovery

SUPPORT HOME QUARANTINE

Support:

Assigned family member to take care of bed ridden person helping them follow doctor's instructions for medication(s) and care.

Monitor Symptoms:

Fever and breathing must be monitored regularly and reported immediately in case there is breathing difficulty or very high fever.

Protective Hygiene:

- Avoid sharing household items like dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, bedding with the person. Throw used tissues in a lined closed trash can.
- Wash and disinfect linen in warm water and soap, dry in sun
- Washing machine: use disinfectant, soap, warm water, dry in sun
- Linen can be soaked in hot water and soap in a large drum, using a stick to stir, avoiding splashing (soak linen in 0.05% chlorine for approximately 30 minutes. Finally, rinse with clean water and let linen dry fully in the sunlight.
- Place all used tissues, disposable gloves, facemasks, and other contaminated items in a lined container before disposing them of with other household waste.

Clean and disinfect:

All "high-touch" surfaces, such as counters, table tops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, tablets, and bedside tables, every day. Also, clean any surfaces that may have blood, stool, or body fluids on them.

ADVISE: QUARANTINE FOR FAMILY MEMBERS

Wash hands: with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or, if soap and water are not available, clean your hands with a 70% alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Keep away from elderly. Household members should stay in another room or be separated from the person as much as possible. Household members should use a separate bedroom and bathroom, if available.

Avoid sharing household items e.g. dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, bedding, or other items with other people at home.

Wear a triple layered mask at all the time when in contact with infected person. Disposable masks are never to be reused. (Used mask should be considered as potentially infected). Mask to be disposed safely.

If symptoms appear (fever/cough /difficulty in breathing) he/she should immediately inform the nearest health centre or call your local phone number

CHILDREN REQUIRE SPECIAL ATTENTION

Children are the most vulnerable of the populations. They have unique needs and these often get overlooked in emergencies

Inform parents that children may express anxiety and sadness. This may be expressed as stubbornness or tantrums. Parents need to be patient and not resort to violent disciplining.

Be informed that during emergencies children can be put in situations where they experience violence, abuse and deprivation. Be aware of these possibilities, take action and report

To be vigilant and watch out for unaccompanied minors

Call CHILDLINE 1098 for any support for children.

Monitor that Child Protection workers of Child Care Institutions (CCIs) are following all safety norms

GUIDELINES FOR YOUR SAFETY

PRECAUTIONS DURING COMMUNITY VISITS

Maintain distance of atleast 1 meter from people and avoid close physical contact when you are communicating

Use a three layered mask to cover your face. Make sure it is properly worn

Avoid touching your face (eyes, nose, mouth) at all times.

Wash your hands with soap and water for 20 secs or use a 70% alcohol based hand rub.

Avoid touching high touch points like door bells, door knobs , support rails and handles, hand rails etc.

PRECAUTIONS & SAFETY MEASURES ON REACHING HOME

Carefully remove your face mask and gloves using the correct method, avoid touching front of your mask at all time, untie lace from behind and do not let the mask hang low around your neck.

Dispose off used mask and gloves by throwing them in a covered dustbin. (See: MASK MANAGEMENT).

If you have carried your bag/register, wipe them down with the disinfectant solution. Add four teaspoons of any home bleach to four cups of water to prepare disinfectant solution.

Wash your hands with soap and water for 20 secs or 70% alcohol based hand-sanitizer before you touch anything else.

If you get any symptoms like cold, cough, fever, contact the nearest Government Facility or District Surveillance Officer immediately.

WE VALUE YOUR SAFETY

