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18.05.2020

CIRCULAR

Sub:- Novel Corona Virus Diseases 2019 (COVID-19): Additional guidelines on rational use of Personal Protective Equipments.

Please find enclosed herewith the updated additional guidelines of rational use of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for health workers and other Non-COVID treatment area which has a COVID block, which is self-explanatory.

All are requested to kindly follow the guidelines strictly follow as notified by the DGHS, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for effective management of COVID-19.


Joint Registrar

To,

- Doctors in VCH
- All Nursing & Concerned Staff
- Nodal Officer, COVID-19
- Mr. Jogendra Singh, STA

Copy to:-

- PS to Director - for information to the Director
- Master copy

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
 Directorate General of Health Services
 [Emergency Medical Relief]
(Updated on 15th May 2020)

Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): Additional guidelines on rational use of Personal Protective Equipment (setting approach for Health functionaries working in non-COVID areas)

1. About this guideline

This guideline is for health care workers and others working in Non COVID hospitals and Non-COVID treatment areas of a hospital which has a COVID block. These guidelines are in continuation of guidelines issued previously on 'Rational use of Personal Protective Equipment' (<https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/GuidelinesonrationaluseofPersonalProtectiveEquipment.pdf>). This guideline uses "settings" approach to guide on the type of personal protective equipment to be used in different settings.

2. Rational use of PPE for Non COVID hospitals and Non-COVID treatment areas of a hospital which has a COVID block

The PPEs are to be used based on the risk profile of the health care worker. The document describes the PPEs to be used in different settings.

2.1. Out Patient Department

S.No.	Setting	Activity	Risk	Recommended PPE	Remarks
✓ 1	Help desk/ Registration counter	Provide information to patients	Mild risk	<input type="checkbox"/> Triple layer medical mask <input type="checkbox"/> Latex examination gloves.	Physical distancing to be followed at all times
✓ 2	Doctors chamber	Clinical management	Mild risk	<input type="checkbox"/> Triple layer medical mask <input type="checkbox"/> Latex examination gloves	No aerosol generating procedures should be allowed.
3	Chamber of Dental/ENT doctors/ Ophthalmology doctors	Clinical management	Moderate risk	<input type="checkbox"/> N-95 mask <input type="checkbox"/> Goggles <input type="checkbox"/> Latex examination gloves + face shield	Aerosol generating procedures anticipated. Face shield, when a splash of body fluid is expected
4	Pre- anesthetic check-up clinic	Pre-anesthetic check-up	Moderate risk	<input type="checkbox"/> N-95 mask <input type="checkbox"/> Goggles* <input type="checkbox"/> Latex examination gloves	* Only recommended when close examination of oral cavity/dentures is to be done
✓ 5	Pharmacy counter	Distribution of drugs	Mild risk	<input type="checkbox"/> Triple layer medical mask <input type="checkbox"/> Latex examination gloves	Frequent use of hand sanitizer is advised over gloves.

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6 ✓	Sanitary staff	Cleaning frequently touched surfaces/ Floor	Mild risk	<input type="checkbox"/> Triple layer medical mask <input type="checkbox"/> Latex examination gloves	
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#All hospitals should identify a separate triage and holding area for patients with Influenza like illness so that suspect COVID cases are triaged and managed away from the main out-patient department.

2.2. In-patient Department (Non-COVID Hospital & Non-COVID treatment areas of a hospital which has a COVID block)

S.No.	Setting	Activity	Risk	Recommended PPE	Remarks
✓ 1	Ward/individual rooms	Clinical management	Mild risk	<input type="checkbox"/> Triple layer medical mask <input type="checkbox"/> Latex examination gloves	Patients stable. No aerosol generating activity.
✓ 2	ICU/ Critical care	Critical care management	Moderate risk	<input type="checkbox"/> N-95 mask <input type="checkbox"/> Goggles <input type="checkbox"/> Nitrile examination gloves +Face shield	Aerosol generating activities performed. Face shield, when a splash of body fluid is expected
✓ 3	Ward/ICU /critical care	Dead body packing	Low Risk	<input type="checkbox"/> Triple Layer medical mask <input type="checkbox"/> Latex examination gloves	
4	Ward/ICU/ Critical care (Non-COVID)	Dead body transport to mortuary	Low Risk	<input type="checkbox"/> Triple Layer medical mask <input type="checkbox"/> Latex examination gloves	
5	Labor room	Intra-partum care	Moderate Risk	<input type="checkbox"/> Triple Layer medical mask <input type="checkbox"/> Face shield <input type="checkbox"/> Sterile latex gloves <input type="checkbox"/> Coverall N-95 mask*	Patient to be masked in the Labor room, if possible. *If the pregnant woman is a resident
6	Operation Theater	Performing surgery, administering general anaesthesia	Moderate Risk	<input type="checkbox"/> Triple Layer medical mask <input type="checkbox"/> Face shield (- wherever feasible) <input type="checkbox"/> Sterile latex gloves + Goggles	Already OT staff shall be wearing For personnel involved in aerosol generating procedures

				N-95 mask*	*If the person being operated upon is a resident of containment zone
7	Sanitation	Cleaning frequently touched surfaces/ floor/ changing linen	Low Risk	<input type="checkbox"/> Triple Layer medical mask <input type="checkbox"/> Latex examination gloves	

2.3. Emergency Department (Non-COVID)

S.No.	Setting	Activity	Risk	Recommended PPE	Remarks
1	Emergency	Attending emergency cases	Mild risk	<input type="checkbox"/> Triple Layer medical mask <input type="checkbox"/> Latex examination gloves	No aerosol generating procedures are allowed
2		Attending to severely ill patients while performing aerosol generating procedure	High risk	<input type="checkbox"/> Full complement of PPE (N-95 mask, coverall, goggle, Nitrile examination gloves, shoe cover)	

2.4. Other Supportive/ Ancillary Services

S.No.	Setting	Activity	Risk	Recommended PPE	Remarks
1.	Routine Laboratory	Sample collection and transportation and testing of routine (non-respiratory) samples	Mild risk	<input type="checkbox"/> Triple layer medical mask <input type="checkbox"/> Latex examination gloves	
		Respiratory samples	Moderate risk	<input type="checkbox"/> N-95 mask <input type="checkbox"/> Latex examination gloves	
2	Radio-diagnosis, Blood bank, etc.	Imaging services, blood bank services etc.	Mild risk	<input type="checkbox"/> Triple layer medical mask <input type="checkbox"/> Latex examination gloves	
3	CSSD/Laundry	Handling linen	Mild risk	<input type="checkbox"/> Triple layer medical mask <input type="checkbox"/> Latex examination	

				gloves	
4	Other supportive services incl. Kitchen	Administrative Financial Engineering** and dietary** services, etc.	Low risk	<input type="checkbox"/> Face cover	** Engineering and dietary service personnel visiting treatment areas will wear personal protective gears appropriate to that area

2.5.Pre-hospital (Ambulance) Services

S.No.	Setting	Activity	Risk	Recommended PPE	Remarks
1	Ambulance Transfer to designated hospital	Transporting patients not on any assisted ventilation	Low risk	<input type="checkbox"/> Triple layer medical mask <input type="checkbox"/> Latex examination gloves	
		Management of SARI patient	High risk	<input type="checkbox"/> Full complement of PPE (N-95 mask, coverall, goggle, latex examination gloves, shoe cover)	While performing aerosol generating procedure
		Driving the ambulance	Low risk	<input type="checkbox"/> Triple layer medical mask <input type="checkbox"/> Latex examination gloves	Driver helps in shifting patients to the emergency

Points to remember while using PPE

1. Standard precaution to be followed at all times
2. PPEs are not alternative to basic preventive public health measures such as hand hygiene, respiratory etiquettes which must be followed at all times.
3. Always follow the laid down protocol for disposing off PPEs as detailed in infection prevention and control guideline available on website of MoHFW.

In addition, patients and their attendants to be encouraged to put on face cover.

In case a COVID-19 patient is detected in such Non-COVID Health facility, the MoHFW guidelines for the same has to be followed (Available at: <https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/GuidelinestobefollowedondetectionofsuspectorconfirmedCOVID19case.pdf>)