



How to Safe in Workplace

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Coronaviruses

a group of viruses belonging to the family of *Coronaviridae*, which infect both animals and humans.

Human Coronaviruses

can cause mild disease similar to a common cold, while others cause more severe disease such as:

MERS - Middle East Respiratory Syndrome

SARS – Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome

A **new coronavirus** that previously has not been identified in humans emerged in Wuhan, China in December 2019.

Signs and symptoms:

- Include respiratory symptoms
- Include fever, cough and shortness of breath

In more severe cases, infection can cause :
pneumonia,

- ✓ severe acute respiratory syndrome
- ✓ sometimes death.

Standard Recommendations to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19:

- frequent cleaning of hands using alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water;
- covering the nose and mouth with a flexed elbow or disposable tissue when coughing and sneezing;
- avoiding close contact with anyone that has a fever and cough.

Rights, Roles and Responsibilities of Health Workers including Occupational Health and Safety

Health workers are at the front line of any outbreak response and are exposed to hazards that put them at risk of infection with an outbreak pathogen (in this case COVID-19).

Hazards include :

- pathogen exposure,
- long working hours,
- psychological distress,
- fatigue,
- occupational burnout,
- stigma,
- physical and psychological violence.

Rights of health worker including employers and managers in health facilities

- Assume overall responsibility to ensure that all necessary preventive and protective measures are taken to minimize occupational safety and health risks;
- Provide information, instruction and training on occupational safety and health such as;
 - Refresher training on infection prevention and control (**IPC**)
 - Use, putting on, taking off and disposal of personal protective equipment (**PPE**)

- provide adequate IPC and PPE supplies (masks, gloves, goggles, gowns, hand sanitizer, soap and water, cleaning supplies) in sufficient quantity to healthcare or other staff caring for suspected or confirmed;
- do not incur expenses for occupational safety and health requirements;

- familiarize personnel with technical updates on COVID-19 and provide appropriate tools
 - ✓ to assess, triage, test and treat patients;
 - ✓ to share infection prevention and control information with patients and the public as needed;
- provide with appropriate security measures for personal safety;

- provide a blame-free environment for workers;
- to report on incidents, such as exposures to blood or bodily fluids from the respiratory system or to cases of violence
- to adopt measures for immediate follow-up, including support to victims
- advise workers on self-assessment, symptom reporting and staying home when ill ;
- maintain appropriate working hours with breaks;

- consult with health workers on :
 - ✓ occupational safety and health aspects of their work
 - ✓ notify the labour inspectorate of cases of occupational diseases
- not be required to return to a work situation where there is continuing or serious danger to life or health, until the employer has taken any necessary remedial action ;

- honour the right to compensation, rehabilitation and curative services if infected with COVID-19 following exposure in the workplace.
- This would be considered **occupational exposure** and resulting illness would be considered an **occupational disease**;
- provide access to **mental health** and counselling resources;
- enable co-operation between management and workers and/or their representatives;

Health workers should:

- follow established occupational safety and health procedures,
- avoid exposing others to health and safety risks and participate in employer-provided occupational safety and health training;
- use provided protocols to assess, triage and treat patients ;
- treat patients with respect, compassion and dignity;
- maintain patient confidentiality;
- swiftly follow established public health reporting procedures of suspect and confirmed cases;

- provide or reinforce accurate infection prevention and control and public health information, including to concerned people who have neither symptoms nor risk;
- put on, use, take off and dispose of PPE properly;
- self-monitor for signs of illness and self-isolate or report illness to managers, if it occurs;

- advise management if they are experiencing signs of undue stress or mental health challenges that require support interventions; and
- report to their immediate supervisor any situation which they have reasonable justification to believe presents an imminent and serious danger to life or health;

- Assisting with assessment of risk, monitoring, and work restriction decisions for HCP with potential exposure to COVID-19 is needed.
- Because of their often extensive and close contact with vulnerable individuals in healthcare settings, a conservative approach to HCP monitoring and restriction from work was taken to quickly identify early symptoms and prevent transmission from potentially contagious HCP to patients, HCP, and visitors.

Reference

- <https://www.who.int> > diseases > tec...



THANK YOU