CONSIDERATIONS FOR HEALTH CARE SETTINGS

HAND HYGIENE PRACTICES
- Clean hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub before putting on PPE and after removing it, when changing gloves, with a patient with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection or their waste, after contact with any respiratory secretions, before eating, and after using the toilet
- Ensure functional hand hygiene facilities are available for all health care workers at all points of care and in areas where PPE is put on or taken off
- Ensure functional hand hygiene facilities are available for all patients, family members, and visitors, near toilets as well as in other public areas

HANDLING OF FAECES
- Conduct hand hygiene after contact with faeces (i.e. soap and water rather than alcohol-based hand rub)
- Use PPE when handling faeces, i.e. long-sleeved gowns, gloves, boots, masks, and goggles/face shield

EMPTYING LATRINES AND TRANSPORTING EXCRETA OFF-SITE
- If there is a high groundwater table or a lack of space to dig pits, excreta should be retained in impermeable storage containers before moving it off-site for treatment/safe disposal
- Do not empty latrines/holding tanks of excreta from suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases unless pits/holding tanks are at capacity
- PPE should be worn at all times when handling or transporting excreta off-site
- Where there is no off-site treatment, in-situ treatment can be done using lime (1 part lime slurry per 10 parts of waste)

CLEANING PRACTICES
- Clean and disinfect all surfaces at least once a day using sodium hypochlorite at 0.5% concentration
- Machine washing with warm water and laundry detergent is recommended. Or soak linens in hot water and soap in a large drum with 0.05% chlorine for approximately 30 minutes. Laundry should be rinsed and allowed to dry fully in sunlight
- Wear PPE if dealing with soiled bedding, towels, and clothes from patients with COVID-19
- Follow cleaning and disinfection procedures for spilled body fluids
- Dispose of greywater in drains connected to a septic system, sewer or soakaway pit

SAFE MANAGEMENT OF HEALTH CARE WASTE
- Collect health care waste from COVID-19 patients in designated containers and bags, treat, and safely disposed of on-site if possible
- Wear PPE when handling health care waste and perform hand hygiene after removing it

KEEPING WATER SUPPLIES SAFE
- Currently, there is no evidence that COVID-19 virus survives in drinking-water
- Improve water safety by protecting the source water; treating water at the point of distribution, collection, or consumption; and ensuring that treated water is safely stored in clean and covered containers

CONSIDERATIONS FOR HOMES AND COMMUNITIES

KEEPING WATER SUPPLIES SAFE
- Currently, there is no evidence that COVID-19 virus survives in drinking-water
- Improve water safety by protecting the source water; treating water at the point of distribution, collection, or consumption; and ensuring that treated water is safely stored in clean and covered containers

HAND HYGIENE
- Practice handwashing before preparing food, before and after eating, after using the toilet or changing a child’s diaper, and after touching animals

TREATMENT AND HANDLING OF EXCRETA
- Clean and disinfect toilets and bathrooms at least once a day
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces regularly
- Wear PPE while handling excreta, including mask, goggles, a fluid-resistant apron, and gloves; hand hygiene should be performed after removing PPE

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FOR FURTHER DETAILS: ROSA, WASH (idoolely@unicef.org)