

COVID-19

GN5

WASH and Infection Prevention and Control Measures in Health Care Facilities (HCF)

FIRST STEPS

- Undertake a quick assessment (using WASH-FIT or national tools) to determine WASH services and patient population
 - Assess priority COVID-19 related key Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) parameters
 - Work with UNICEF's Health Systems Strengthening teams to identify communities with multiple deprivations
 - Assess capacity and train health care workers and non-medical staff (cleaners, waste handlers, and sanitation staff) on WHO procedures for donning/doffing PPEs, decontamination practices, and IPC measures
- Develop a simple system to monitor the functionality of services

WATER

- Ensure that safe and adequate running water is available in HCFs, especially at points of care, and for environmental cleaning, laundry, personal hygiene and decontamination of equipment and surfaces
- If there is no running water, transport water or increase on-site water storage capacity
- Ensure the water is safely treated. In areas where trucking water is opted for test water for free residual chlorine (>0.5 mg/l)
- When possible, provide water stations with pedal-operated taps to minimize hand contact; where standard taps are in use, ensure taps are regularly disinfected

SANITATION

- Ensure toilets are regularly serviced and disinfected
- Provide dedicated toilets for patients with suspected and confirmed cases of COVID-19
- Treat faecal materials with lime for 30 minutes in order to inactivate viruses
- Ensure the safe collection, treatment and final disposal of patient faeces

PERSONAL HYGIENE

- Make hand hygiene facilities and products available at the entrance and exit of the healthcare facility, near the bathroom or toilet, and at all points of care
- Avoid close contact with other people - no hugging, kissing/ pecking cheeks, shaking hands
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth if hands have not been disinfected
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the bin
- Wash hands with water and soap after coughing or sneezing
- Frequently remind healthcare workers, patients and caretakers on why, when and how to wash hands

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANING

- Ensure the continuous availability of disinfection supplies (chlorine, lime, detergents) and cleaning equipment (backpack and hand sprayers, mops and buckets), as well as personal protective equipment (aprons, boots and goggles)
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray
- Clean floors with warm water and detergent or soapy water, followed by proper disinfection
- Use chlorine solution to pre-treat wastewater from washing hands, cleaning, laundry, bathing and teeth brushing activities

WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Make pedal-operated waste collection bins (or bins with swinging lids) available
- Open waste containers are better than those requiring physical opening
- Use waste bin liners
- Use the 3-bin waste segregation system for infectious waste, sharps and general waste
- Make final disposal arrangements i.e. incineration, autoclaves or pit burning (with kerosene)

