

ENVIRONMENTAL AND PORT HEALTH PRESENTATION



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH GUIDELINES COVID-19 TRAINING



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Content



- Purpose
- Legislative framework
 - IHR
 - Environmental Health guidelines
- Accessibility of documents



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Purpose



- To share the activities and guidelines for implementation by Environmental Health Practitioners in the fight against COVID-19.



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Legislative framework



- International Health Regulations, 2005 (IHR)
- COVID-19 Environmental Health Response guidelines signed 27 March 2020
- Environmental Health Guidelines for Management of Human Remains in the context of COVID-19 – latest version signed 27 March 2020.
- Directions Issued In Terms Of Regulation 10(1)(a) Of The Regulations Made Under Section 27(2) Of The Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act No.57 Of 2002): Measures To Address, Prevent And Combat The Spread Of COVID - 19; number 457 of 08 April 2020.
- Directive on Public Hygiene Measures to be implemented to prevent the spread of COVID-19 signed on 08 April 2020.
- COVID-19 National Public Hygiene Strategy and Implementation Plan 2020 signed 14 April 2020



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IHR (2005)



- **Purpose:** to prevent, protect against, control and provide a public health response to the international spread of disease in ways that are commensurate with and restricted to public health risks, and which avoid unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade.

Article 23: A country may, for public health reasons require travellers to provide:

- information concerning their destination so that the traveller may be contacted;
- information on travel history to determine if they travelled to/from any affected areas
- a non-invasive medical examination which is the least intrusive examination.

This is in line with screening measures implemented in points of entry.



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Guidelines for Management of Travellers in Points of Entry



- To guide port health officials on early detection of an ill traveller
 - Details measures for screening of travellers
 - Visual assessment
 - Temperature screening
 - Implementation of traveller health questionnaire
 - Interview of travellers
 - Measures to be implemented for ill persons arriving through Points of Entry.
 - Measures for management of transportation of ill persons (medical evacuations).
 - Measures for importation and exportation of human remains

Directions / directives



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Environmental Health Response guidelines



- To guide EHS on key roles related to the management of the outbreak.
- The role of EHP in management of COVID-19
 - Participation in Outbreak Response Teams (ORT) activated at provincial and district level;
 - Investigation of suspected cases and contact tracing;
 - Monitoring of the management of the human remains and disposal of the dead;
 - Facilitate and monitor decontamination and disinfection of affected homes;
 - Monitoring of the management of health care waste;
 - Health education and awareness on public hygiene measures.



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Guidelines for Management of Human Remains in the context of COVID-19



- To monitor the management of human remains that dies of an infectious disease, including COVID-19.
 - Handling of human remains in mortuaries/ funeral undertaker
 - Measures when a patient passes on at home
 - Viewing of human remains
 - Environmental cleaning and control
 - Conveyance of infectious human remains
 - Disposal of Human Remains in medium risk and high risk situation.



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National Public Hygiene Strategy and Implementation Plan



- To improve and promote public hygiene and cleanliness as a key intervention to the delay and spread of Corona virus in South Africa.
- Guidelines in the strategy:
 - Guidelines for promotion of personal hygiene
 - Environmental cleaning and disinfection guideline
 - Waste Management guidelines
 - Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) guidelines
 - Public Hygiene communication guidelines



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Guidelines for promotion of personal hygiene



- Gives guidance on messages to promote personal hygiene.
 - Hand hygiene promotion.
 - Key public hand hygiene messages
 - Construction of self-made handwashing taps (Tippy Taps)
 - Use of alcohol based hand sanitizers.
 - Cough and sneeze etiquette messages
 - Other personal hygiene messages to promote personal hygiene
 - Social distancing messages



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- Gives guidance on regular cleaning and disinfection of surfaces.
 - General cleaning and disinfection of high touch surface in public places
 - Cleaning of minimally touched surfaces
 - Cleaning and disinfection of high touch surfaces
 - Environmental large scale disinfection/spraying in public places *(it is critical to note that spray disinfection is recommended in indoor environments and not outdoor as it is not cost effective and the virus is not airborne)*
 - Decontamination/disinfection (cleaning) in households, workplace of patients with COVID-19 and contacts.
 - Recommended surface and environmental disinfectants





- Gives guidance on regular cleaning and disinfection of surfaces.
 - Use of disinfectants, application of surface and spray disinfectants
 - Recommended frequencies of spraying for disinfection
 - Health Care Facility cleaning and disinfection
 - Precautions for staff responsible for cleaning and disinfection
 - PPE requirement for staff conducting disinfection.
 - Hygiene measures for public transportation
 - Hygiene measures for workplace



Waste Management guidelines



- Guide in terms of management related to **COVID-19**
 - Health Care facilities (public and private)
 - Management of COVID-19 waste for patients under investigation
 - Waste generated in designated quarantine facilities
 - Waste generated in Points of Entry (land, sea and air)
 - Waste in self-isolated/quarantine at homes
 - Waste in workplace/offices and public places
 - Reporting and response protocol where unlawful disposal of health care risk waste (HCRW) is detected



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- The following WASH measures should be implemented to support the control of the spread of the virus.
 - Provision of water in areas without adequate supply for municipalities
 - Keeping water supply safe
 - Safe disposal of sewage
 - Hygiene





- Main communication approaches to achieving public hygiene promotion objectives are:
 - Advocacy
 - Interpersonal communication
 - Community mobilization
- The strategy adopts the use of the following communications mediums:
 - Mass media
 - Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material
 - Community mobilization



Other resources developed for guidance



- The Role Of The National Department Of Health During Displacement Of Persons In The Country/ Disasters Or From Neighbouring Countries
- Draft Guiding Environmental Health Standards For Emergency Shelters For Homeless People During The COVID-19 Pandemic
- Templates / checklists for:
 - Taxi ranks
 - Old Age homes
 - Funeral undertakers
 - Daily reporting



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Accessibility of documents



- www.doh.gov.za
- <https://www.nicd.ac.za/diseases-a-z-index/covid-19/covid-19-guidelines/>



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Thank you



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