# SECURITY SERVICES

## What security personnel need to know about COVID-19

The 2019 novel coronavirus or SARS-CoV-2 is a new respiratory virus that has not been identified before; and thus people have no immunity to it. The virus causes diseases of varying severities ranging from mild (e.g. similar to common cold) to severe (e.g. pneumonia).

## TRANSMISSION

- Person-to-person **contact** or touching contaminated surfaces
- Likely spread via respiratory **droplets** within a distance of two meters (1-2m) through coughing and sneezing
- Estimated incubation period is between 2-14 days

## WHO IS AT RISK?

All security personnel may be at risk of COVID-19. It is important to conduct a vulnerability risk assessment to determine the additional measures that need to be in place to ensure the safety of at risk security personnel.

Below are vulnerable groups of workers:

- Immunocompromised workers
- Auto Immune Diseases of any kind
- Chronic Lung Diseases, including TB, Asthma and COPD
- Cancer
- Diabetes
- Chronic Kidney Diseases
- HIV +ve with low CD4 count
- Smokers
- Over 60 years of age

## WHAT IF THERE IS A CONFIRMED CASE AT WORK?

- Immediately inform health officials in your company to determine course of action.
- Cooperate with the contact tracing officers. They will assess who has to be placed on quarantine.
- Inform co-workers of their possible exposure to COVID-19 but maintain confidentiality.
- Immediately vacate and seal-off the section of the workplace premises where the confirmed case worked.
- Carry out a thorough cleaning and disinfection of the workplace premises.

## KEEPING SAFE AND PROTECTING OTHERS

- Wash your hands regularly with soap and water (~20 seconds) or use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser with at least 70% alcohol.
- Wear a mask and install a barrier where social distancing is impractical.
- Avoid close contact with people by maintaining a 1.5m distance. Cough or sneeze using a flexed elbow or into a tissue and safely dispose of it.
- Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Taking a flu shot can help.
- Self-monitor for signs of illness and self-quarantine if it occurs.

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# PREVENTATIVE PLAN

## SECURITY SERVICES EMPLOYERS SHOULD:

- Review, update and implement policies, procedures and emergency operation plans that address COVID-19, for example:
  - ➤ Transportation of security staff
  - ➤ Parading of security staff before deployment.
- Develop communication plans for sharing credible information (e.g. notice boards, and updates on business communique especially for staff working in remote sites).
- Provide training and education on prevention of COVID-19 infections.
- Ensure that security services staff are trained on updated information.
- Have HR policies to account for unique sick leave such as self-quarantine (14 days).
- Encourage staff to stay at home when sick.
- Perform a risk assessment to determine the level of exposure for security staff.
- Identify exposure risks for security staff (e.g. frequently touched surfaces, sputum or other bodily fluids on surfaces) and implement appropriate control measures.
- Provide resources for staff e.g. personal protective equipment like masks and overalls and appropriate disinfectants.
- Where staff is not able to wash hands frequently, a sanitiser may be provided for each security post for regular sanitising.

## SECURITY PERSONNEL SHOULD:

**The risk to security services is considered medium. Based on job specific risk assessments, consider the following:**

- Adhere to the workplace health and safety protocols.
- Practise and promote frequent handwashing throughout the shift.
- Wash hands for at least 20 seconds. When hand washing facilities are not readily available, alcohol-based hand sanitizer is required- atleast 70%.
- Where possible, stay one metre or more away from fellow colleagues and visitors.
- Promote good respiratory hygiene (elbow coughing and sneezing).
- Avoid touching your face especially while working.
- Perform frequent cleaning and disinfection of touched surfaces (e.g. desks, keyboards, scanning apparatus, doorknobs, countertops, remote controls etc.).
- Apply the visitors' protocol and follow appropriate reporting structure when necessary.
- In a case of goods delivery, have advanced knowledge of goods that are being delivered.
- Use appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as per risk communicated by the employer. As a guide consider the following based on a risk assessment:
  - ➤ The ill visitor should be provided with a surgical mask.
  - ➤ Used PPE should be considered contaminated and discarded in accordance with safe practice.



**PREVENT THE SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**

**WASH YOUR HANDS OFTEN**
Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer

**AVOID TOUCHING YOUR FACE**
Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

**COVER YOUR COUGH & SNEEZE**
Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve when coughing. Do not sneeze or cough into your hands

**STAY HOME**
If you are sick, stay home. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

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