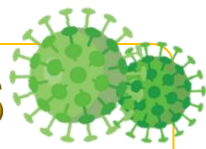


# COVID-19: CORRECTIONAL SERVICES



The 2019 novel coronavirus or SARS-CoV-2 is a new respiratory virus that has not been identified before, can easily spread and infect people. The virus causes diseases of varying severities ranging from mild (e.g. similar to common cold) to severe (e.g. pneumonia), and even death.

## TRANSMISSION



- ▶ Person-to-person **contact** or touching contaminated surfaces.
- ▶ Can spread through **airborne transmission** for small aerosols that can remain suspended in the air for minutes to hours
- ▶ Likely spread via respiratory **droplets** within a distance of two meters (2m) through coughing and sneezing
- ▶ Estimated incubation period is between 2-14 days

## SYMPTOMS: SUSPECTED COVID-19 CASE

(with or without other symptoms; NDoH guideline for Symptom Monitoring & Management V6 Dec 2020)



COUGH



SHORTNESS OF BREATH



SORE THROAT



LOSS OF SENSE OF SMELL



DISTORTION OF SENSE OF TASTE

## RISK ASSESSMENT

Employers should perform a risk assessment, which includes:

- Identify work tasks or areas where transmission can occur
- Identify vulnerable workers
- Assess the risk for each task or area, considering the route of exposure and viral load
- Identify suitable control measures, including the need for PPE, for each task or area according to the risk rating
- Consider additional hazards introduced in response to COVID-19
- Review the risk assessment when any changes to work processes occur, or following a confirmed case of COVID-19 at the workplace

## W-O-R-K-E-R-S RESPONSIBILITIES

<b>W</b>	Wash hands regularly using soap and water (~20 sec) or alcohol-based hand rub (~70%)
<b>O</b>	Obey health and safety policies and procedures
<b>R</b>	Remember to cover nose & mouth with a flexed elbow/ tissue when coughing & sneezing
<b>K</b>	Key is to avoid exposure and also refrain from exposing others to potential risks
<b>E</b>	Ensure you don, doff and dispose of personal protective equipment as prescribed
<b>R</b>	Report any situation likely to present a potential or serious danger to life or health
<b>S</b>	Self-monitor for signs of illness and self-isolate or report illness to managers, if it occurs



A risk assessment should be conducted to establish the risk profile of different occupations with regard to COVID-19 and the following personnel should be considered:

- Healthcare and Office Officials (including administrative staff)
- Security Officials guarding offenders at provincial hospitals
- Security Officials escorting offenders to hospitals and courts
- Security Officials guarding offenders at the cells
- Officials in direct contact with symptomatic offenders

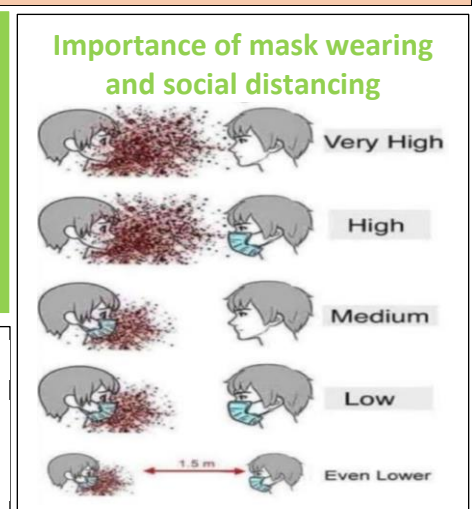
In addition to conducting a risk assessment and establishing a return-to-work plan, **Correctional Services Management should** consider the following measures in all facilities:

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Administrative Measures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Reporting and assistance requirements as specified in the Consolidated Directions on Occupational Health and Safety Measures in certain workplaces, regarding risk assessment records as well as every diagnosed case of COVID-19 amongst employees, and contact tracing</li> <li>▶ Provide officials and offenders with information and training on the applicable legislation and regulations, as well as the measures implemented to adhere to these</li> <li>▶ Officials should take sick leave and stay at home when sick or displaying symptoms associated with COVID-19</li> <li>▶ A COVID-19 compliance officer must be appointed to oversee the implementation of the plan for protective measures and strict adherence to all implemented standards and protocols</li> <li>▶ Minimize number of officials at the workplace through e.g. shift regimes, rotation, remote working arrangements</li> <li>▶ Minimize contact between officials, and between officials, offenders and the public</li> <li>▶ Investigate the cause of each diagnosed case, determine possible failure of control measures, and review the risk assessment</li> <li>▶ Support employee vaccination, in line with National initiative. For information on vaccine</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Cloth Masks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Management must supply officials and offenders with at least two cloth masks; to be worn at all times</li> <li>▶ Management must ensure that officials and offenders are instructed, trained and supervised to use masks correctly</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Social Distancing Measures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Arrange the facilities to maintain at least one and a half meters between officials and offenders at all times where possible</li> <li>▶ If not possible, place physical barriers between or on workstations</li> <li>▶ Where needed, supply officials with the appropriate PPE</li> <li>▶ Implement staggered break times where possible to avoid crowding in common areas, e.g. canteens, gyms</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Symptom Screening</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Officials and offenders must be screened for observable symptoms associated with COVID-19 on arrival at the workplace or start of the day</li> <li>▶ Officials and offenders must self-report any additional symptoms on start of shift or day, or if they start experiencing symptoms during the day</li> <li>▶ Isolate officials and offenders that present with symptoms, provide them with surgical masks, and arrange for safe transport to home or a health care facility, as required</li> <li>▶ Assess the risk of transmission, disinfect the work area, perform contact tracing, and refer officials and offenders who may be at risk for screening</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sanitizers, Disinfectants &amp; Handwashing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Supply hand-sanitizer (containing 70% alcohol), for use by all at work areas</li> <li>▶ Work surfaces and equipment, and common use areas must be disinfected before, regularly during, and after work</li> <li>▶ Ensure adequate hand wash facilities, with paper towels</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ventilation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Every facility must be well ventilated by natural or mechanical means to reduce the SARS-CoV-2 viral load</li> </ul>
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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Specific PPE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Officials must wear the required, provided PPE applicable to the specific task as identified by the risk assessment. The following can be used as a guideline for selecting appropriate PPE:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/338033/WHO-2019-nCoV-IPC_PPE_use-2020.4-eng.pdf?sequence=1&amp;isAllowed=y">https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/338033/WHO-2019-nCoV-IPC_PPE_use-2020.4-eng.pdf?sequence=1&amp;isAllowed=y</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Measures in respect of workplaces to which public has access</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Determine maximum number of occupants in a workspace based on the floor area and ensure a distance of at least one and a half meters</li> <li>▶ Put in barriers at counters or provide officials with face shields</li> <li>▶ Implement symptoms screening measures for the public and entry of the facility</li> <li>▶ Display notices for precautionary measures to be taken by the public; wearing of masks at all times, use of sanitiser at facility entrances, maintaining the required social distances when queuing</li> </ul>
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**Different categories of workers have different risk exposures:**  
**Based on job specific risk assessments, please consider the following:**

- Administration and clerical – no sharing of equipment
- Call centre and communal space sharing – share equipment like computers, desks, telephones, headsets etc.
- Field worker with no direct contact with potential source of infection
- Field workers with contact with potential or suspected source of infection



**IF YOU SUSPECT YOU HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO COVID-19:**

- ▶ Alert your supervisor or occupational health clinic immediately.
- ▶ If you are experiencing symptoms, inform your healthcare provider about any contacts and recent travel to areas affected by COVID-19.

<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">COVID-19</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">COVID-19 Workplace Preparedness &amp; Prevention</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">HEALTHY, SAFE &amp; SUSTAINABLE WORKPLACES</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Workplace Hotline: 0800 2121 75</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Occupational Health Surveillance System [OHSS]</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">General queries for data submission: 0723215503   0713981169   OHSSWorkplace@nioh.ac.za</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">www.nioh.ac.za   info@nioh.ac.za   twitter: @nioh_sa</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">NATIONAL HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em; margin: 0;">Division of the National Health Laboratory Service</p>
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