

RONAVIRUS (COVID-19) and Security Services

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). WHO and public health authorities around the world are taking action to contain the COVID-19 outbreak. However long term success cannot be taken for granted. All sections of society including businesses and employers must play a role if we are to stop the spread of this disease.

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

HOW IS COVID-19 DIAGNOSED?

If your healthcare provider suspects you may have COVID-19, then a laboratory test would be required.

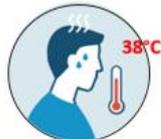
Specimens collected may include combined nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swabs, sputum, tracheal aspirate or broncho-alveolar lavage.

The National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) has detailed information and guidelines for collecting, handling, and transporting clinical specimens from patients under investigation (PUI) to their laboratory.

COMMON SYMPTOMS



Cough



Fever



Shortness of breath



Sore throat



Headache

Other symptoms include:
Body aches and pains
Weakness or fatigue
Severe respiratory distress



Protect yourself and loved ones from coronavirus.

Wash your **hands** regularly with **soap** and **water** or use an **alcohol-based** hand rub.

Cover your mouth and nose while **sneezing** or **coughing**.

Avoid close contact with anyone who has a cold or flu-like symptoms.

If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing, **seek medical care early**.



WHAT IF THERE IS CONFIRMED CASE AT WORK?

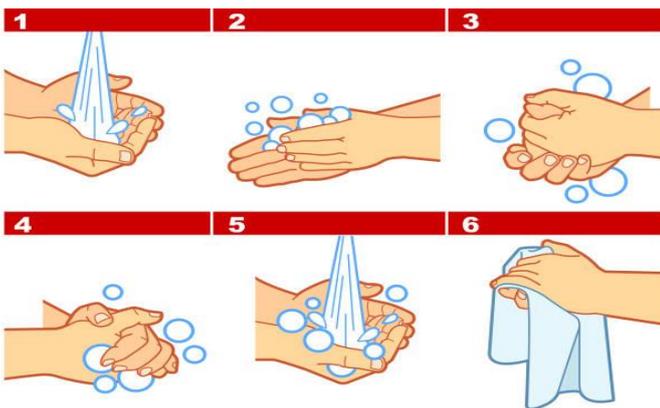
- ▶▶ Immediately inform health officials in your company to determine course of action.
- ▶▶ Cooperate with the contact tracing officers. They will assess who has to be placed on quarantine.
- ▶▶ Inform co-workers of their possible exposure to COVID-19 but maintain confidentiality.
- ▶▶ Immediately vacate 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.

PREVENTATIVE PLAN

SECURITY SERVICES EMPLOYERS SHOULD:

- Review, update and implement policies, procedures and emergency operation plans that address COVID-19.
- Develop communication plans for sharing credible information (e.g. notice boards, and updates on business communicate especially for staff working in remote sites).
- 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), travel, etc.
- 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 workers (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 disposable gloves and

How to wash your hands?



SECURITY STAFF SHOULD:

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

- Apply the visitors's protocol and follow appropriate reporting structure when necessary
- In a case of goods delivery, have knowledge of goods that are being delivered.
- 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.
- Where possible, stay one metre or more away from 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.).
- 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.

Recommendations for security staff:

Display signage at security entry points reminding security staff to practice good personal hygiene.

For more information, contact

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www.nicd.ac.za or www.nioh.ac.za



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