

LAGOS STATE UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL

RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES FOR COVID- 19 PREVENTION & CONTROL IN THE HOSPITAL

As the country witnesses an increase in cases of novel Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19) it is necessary to put measures in place to reduce the risk to staff and patients as follows:

A. Awareness creation

Sensitization of staff (using online platforms such as official e mails and association and union WhatsApp groups) as to the importance of the disease and general preventive measures to protect themselves – that is, strict adherence to hand washing, social distancing. Authentic sources of information are advised to be the Federal Ministry of Health, Lagos State Ministry of Health, NCDC.

Provision of information, education and communication (IEC) materials in clinics and all notice boards around the hospital. The hospital may source IEC materials from the LSMOH.

B. Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

All staff should ensure strict adherence of standard precautions and adherence to existing hospital protocols on infection control. To aid adherence to hand hygiene the management is ensuring:

- Availability of running water and liquid soap at all existing wash hand basins and bathrooms.
- Prompt refill of existing liquid soap dispensers
- Provision of hand held sanitizers to all staff especially those involved in patient management.

- Enforcement of good hand hygiene
- Provision of additional liquid soap dispensers at strategic points
- Provision of hand dryers
- The LASUTH pharmacy is producing hand sanitizers
- Provision of face masks, gloves and other personal protective apparel for clinical staff
- Training of staff on IPC measures
- Promotion of Screening & Personal Hygiene in the hospital community

C. Social distancing

General compliance with government's advisory of maintaining a distance of approximately One metre from a person that is coughing or sneezing, not holding gatherings with more than 50 people.

Decongesting the wards -

- discharge stable patients
- minimal contact with patients
- put in every efforts to stabilize patients quickly and discharge them
- regular/daily talks on Covid19 to staffs, patients and relatives
- reduce number of visitors to patients to 1
- Restricting number of relatives waiting with patients
- Restricting patients visitors to immediate family members

Decongesting clinics by -

- Giving Staggered appointment to Reduce the number of patients per clinic at a point in time

- Use of SMS to communicate with patients concerning appointments
- Giving longer appointments for stable patients (generally give long appointment to patients)
- Where possible, phoning patients with near appointments and extending appointment dates
- Making provisions for stable patients who need only drug refills
- Reduce waiting time in clinics and reception areas (Patients and clients should be attended to and discharged promptly)
- Only 1 person should accompany a patient into the clinic
- Not accepting IT students for the time being
- enforce crowd control
- those for elective surgery can be given long appointment

D. Good clinical and laboratory practice

- Triaging of patients to ensure those that are ill are promptly attended to. Older patients should be prioritized.
- Proper supervision of medical students and other trainees working in clinical areas.
- Proper attendance/ identification should be taken at clinics to facilitate contact tracing and line listing where necessary.
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- Travel history must be taken when clerking patients

E. Identification of an isolation ward (The isolation ward is right in front of Lasuth Medical Emergency)

F. Managing Sick staff

Staff with cough, runny nose and fever should self-isolate at home, inform their HOD and call staff clinic contact for follow – up monitoring

G. Travel advisory

Staff should be advised to suspend all international travel and those just returning should self-isolate for 2 weeks. Hosting of international visitors/receiving international guests suspended other than for the most essential services.

H. Communication

- Working with the media to educate the public on the new measures that have been put in place
- Education of patients on how to protect themselves from corona virus
- Education of patients on new appointment process

PRODUCED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH & PRIMARY HEALTHCARE, LASUTH FOLLOWING AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THURSDAY 19TH MARCH, 2020.

THIS DOCUMENT WILL BE UPDATED ON REGULAR BASIS.

