

Strategies to support the COVID-19 response in LMICs

A virtual seminar series

Resource Page

Setting Up an Incident Command Center to Focus Your COVID-19 Response

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Summary/Key Points:

Create a split flow model

- Use low threshold, expansive criteria to separate COVID population
 - Develop criteria to separate influenza-like syndrome from suspected COVID
 - Consider comorbidities of patients
 - Number of symptoms individual has
 - Any needs for specialized respiratory equipment
- Separate out staff to manage COVID area vs non-COVID area
 - This reduces the risk of contamination from donning and doffing PPE
 - This protects patients who are COVID negative
 - This protects staff members and providers
 - This helps conserve PPE as well
- Incident command on ground that knows how to manage policies and protocols
 - Incident command should be at departmental level
 - In charge of monitoring and managing PPE needs of the department
 - Ensure the smooth flow of the department
 - Explore means to convert areas for COVID patient management
 - Provide training on PPE management and training on testing criteria
 - Allocates tasks to each person on department
- Set up alternate testing area for people to get tested
 - Especially important to reduce volume in the ED
 - Siphon off people coming in from primary care providers
 - Preserves PPE and allows for better testing flow
- Develop a testing algorithm
 - Prioritize individuals with high-risks of exposure
 - Prioritize individuals with several comorbidities

Value of Tent Set up

- Expands capacity
- Allows for quick testing
- Ventilatory requirement (exploit natural air circulation)

Other considerations

- Have a tiered response to PPE
 - What PPE is required for various procedures
 - E.g. Aerosolized procedures
 - Use of devices to prevent secretions (e.g. intubation boxes)
 - Provide patients with masks to limit secretion transfer
- Provide training in proper donning and doffing of PPE
- Reminder to maintain social distancing among other providers and colleagues

Online resources:

[WHO case definitions](#)

[COVID-19 surge capacity guide](#)

[PPE requirements](#)

[Estimated PPE needs](#)