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**NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (2019nCoV) PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLAN
FOR OUTBREAK CONTROL**

**INFECTION CONTROL MEASURES FOR PERSONS QUARANTINED AT
HOME FOR NOVEL CORONAVIRUS EXPOSURE**

INTRODUCTION

A Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) was declared for novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) on 30 January 2020 by World Health Organisation (WHO) Director General (DG) based on the number of persons affected and territories affected.

At least four occurrences of **human to human transmission** have been documented outside of China including a cluster in Germany (Vietnam, Japan, Germany and France).

As a result, the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW) Jamaica is issuing this as the first edition of guidance on infection control (IC) measures for use when a novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) **exposure** is suspected.

QUARANTINE/ ISOLATION

Persons returning to Jamaica from a 2019-nCoV affected country will undergo screening measures at the ports of entry to Jamaica. Persons receiving passengers must maintain spatial distance of at least three feet/ one meter. The screening will include a temperature assessment and interview to assess the likelihood of exposure and the presence of symptoms. Persons conducting the assessment must therefore be protected with standard and contact precautions.

Persons found to be **symptomatic** even if in mild form will be referred to a treatment facility.

Persons who are asymptomatic will be assessed for either home or facility quarantine based on their risk category (see Appendix I) and the period of quarantine. The period for

quarantine will be calculated based on the most recent date of possible exposure. The period of quarantine is fourteen days less the number of days since the most recent exposure.

HOME QUARANTINE

Only persons designated as low risk will be managed **at home** for up to **14 days** with adequate quarantine instructions.

Line listings will be generated at the ports of entry with contact information for persons of interest.

These lists will be shared with the parish Health Department and the National Surveillance Unit within 24 hours for follow up of persons for the period that may be up to the 14 days as determined.

The Health Department will make contact with person of interest **twice daily** at home to perform temperature checks or by phone.

These visits will be random in order to ensure strict adherence to the rules of infection control.

In addition, the exposed person and household members should be educated on personal hygiene, basic infection prevention and control measures.

Persons will be released from quarantine after completing the prescribed period, that may be up to fourteen (14) days, without symptoms and consultations between the Health Department and the Ministry of Health and Wellness have been concluded.

Persons who fall ill within the period of observation will be referred to the nearest treatment facility for management.

Infection Control (IC) strategies used to prevent transmission in the home settings include the following:

- Source control
- Application and adherence of Standard Precautions for household
- Environmental controls

1) Source Control

The 2019nCoV exposed person **must remain at home until the 14 days since last exposure** have lapsed.

- Care givers should be provided if the exposed person is unable to adequately tend to self, e.g. Children < 2years of age and the Elderly > 65 years of age
- Place the exposed person in a well-ventilated single room.
 - Avoid common areas of the house where possible
 - If absolutely necessary, ensure that a spatial distance of at least three feet/ one meter is maintained AND surfaces are subsequently sanitized
- Person must at all times cover their cough or sneezes
 - Hand wash using soap and water before and after using the bathroom, or if coughing and sneezing
 - Avoid touching eye and mouth especially after sneezing or coughing.
- Alcohol Hand sanitizer with 62-70% Alcohol may also be used to sanitize hands regularly in between general activities.
- Access to bathroom and shower from room or nearby is ideal. Restrict other members of family from using these facilities during the period of quarantine.
- Wear a **mask** if person has to access common areas of household or if travelling outside of home is **ABSOLUTELY** necessary. **The Health Department must grant permission for this movement prior to leaving.**
 - Masks should not be touched or handled during use.
 - If the mask gets wet or dirty with secretions, it must be changed immediately.
 - Discard the mask after use and perform hand hygiene after removal of the mask.
- Restrict visitation of persons on home quarantine

2) Application and adherence of Standard Precautions for household

- All Persons in the household should wash their hands with soap and water or use 62- 70% Alcohol based hand sanitizer **after every contact** with the 2019nCoV exposed person's room or bathroom. Use paper towels to dry hands after washing.
- Maintain good ventilation in shared household areas by keeping windows and doors open.

- Wash hands or hand sanitize after handling linen of exposed person. Separate these items from rest of household and launder separately. Sun dry all linen.
- Keep surfaces in area of use especially bedside tables and bathroom clean.
- Remove all waste generated from area inhabited by exposed person in black garbage bags and discard as per normal schedule.
- Eating utensils can be switched to plastic disposable to minimize washing. If not available then wash utensils prior and after use with soap and water. Avoid sharing.
- If the affected household member develops symptoms of acute respiratory infection, including fever, cough, sore throat and difficulty breathing, then:
 - Contact the emergency services or local Health department immediately
 - Perform Hand rub using alcohol and put on a mask
 - Await help

3) Environmental controls

- Clean surfaces used by exposed person **daily**.
 - Wipe all surfaces that are touched regularly such as the door handle, light switch, bed side table, toys and phones).
 - Use mild disinfectants such as Lysol, Pine sol or 62-70% Alcohol to clean these areas.
 - Wipe moist and allow to air dry
- Floors should be cleaned **weekly** using soap and water first and then mild disinfectant like Pine sol or 5% bleach (Ajax, Chloro-do, etc.) after and allow to air dry.
 - Mix one cup bleach to nine cups of water in a bucket for mopping and in spray container for bathroom surfaces.
- Linen should be changed and laundered **at least weekly**
- Persons doing cleaning must wear a pair of industrial gloves while undertaking all cleaning procedures.
 - Gloves can be discarded or placed outside to air dry.
- Two sets of cleaning rags (One each for Bedroom and another for Bathroom) and a mop and bucket must be dedicated to the area where the 2019nCoV person will reside. These items must not be used to clean any other area of the household.

Figure 1: Mask



Figure 2: Industrial Gloves



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