



BOPP CLINIC 2019-nCov (2019 Novel Coronavirus) RESPONSE PLAN

Dated: March 2020

OVERVIEW

This plan has been developed to be a guide in responding to an outbreak of 2019-nCov, to help the clinic manage such cases and curtail the spread of the disease during an outbreak.

GOALS

1. Provide awareness and information to health workers, patients, workers and dependents of BOPP.
2. Take adequate measures to prevent or reduce the impact of a possible 2019-nCov outbreak.
3. To put in place appropriate response measures given an outbreak of 2019-nCov.

OPERATING PRINCIPLES

1. Maintain communication with patients, health workers, workers/dependents of BOPP and state agencies (District Directorate of Health, Ghana Health Service).
2. Emphasis on preventive measures such as hand sanitation and cough etiquette.

PRE-EVENT

Communication campaign

1. Educational talks to be held at morning meetings with patients to create awareness of the disease
2. Emphasis on 2019-nCov as part of the weekly safety talk activities at BOPP
3. Peer educators to be empowered to give basic information about the cause, prevention and steps to be taken during suspected cases of 2019-nCov.

Hygiene/general preventive measures

Workers and patients should be strongly advised to wash their hands under running water with soap. Soap should be placed at appropriate locations including washrooms and portable water provided to facilitate this activity.

Use a tissue to cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze. Dispose of the tissue in appropriate waste bin after use.

Avoid going into crowded places when you have fever and cough.

Stay clear of those who are coughing.

Avoid traveling to affected regions

Visitors to the plantation from foreign travel should report first to the clinic for assessment after undergoing the necessary screening at the airport.

Suspension of receiving guests from affected regions until further notice

Vaccination



2019-nCov vaccines are in the early stages of development, they will be provided at the clinic as soon as vaccines are made available.

EVENT

In case of an outbreak of 2019-nCov on the estate, a Crisis Management Team (CMT) consisting of the Resident Medical Officer, Physician Assistant, Group Manager, Human Resource Manager, Estate Manager, Finance Manager, SHE/Factory manager, Divisional Managers and Security Coordinator will convene.

If the CMT meeting is called, a number of actions may be called into play as deemed necessary:

- Large gatherings may be canceled or postponed.
- Workers and patients may be advised to self-isolate at home until further notice
- The patient with cough and fever must wear a face mask to reduce the risk of spreading the infection when coughing, sneezing or talking. If a mask is not available, the use of tissue to cover the mouth and nose while coughing is strongly advised.
- While in home isolation, patients (with a cough and fever) and their household members must endeavor to wash their hands with soap and water or use alcohol based hand sanitizers (contains at least 60% alcohol) when soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty.
- Workers and patients who have a cough, fever and difficulty breathing or shortness of breath or who are believed to be severely ill should seek immediate medical attention.
- Suspected cases of 2019-nCov will be detained in the isolation room at the clinic until transported to a secondary or tertiary level of healthcare.
- Health workers are to use the necessary PPEs (gowns, hand gloves, face mask) when dealing with patients.
- Health care workers who collect or transport clinical specimens should consistently adhere to recommended infection control precautions to minimize exposure.
- A registry of workers and patients with flu-like symptoms will be kept and updated for surveillance purposes.
- CMT will be in communication with the District Health Directorate to share experiences, knowledge and resources.
- These protocols may be amended and/or changed based on recommendations from Ghana Health Service/ Ministry of Health and/or our own peculiar situation.
- The BOPP school may be closed until further notice

POST EVENT

CMT will communicate to the workforce/ patients about protocols called into play during the outbreak that will be discontinued and will consult with the District/Regional Health Directorate for additional recommendations.