

Annex 4-G: Detailed Description of Community-Based Disease Control Strategies during the Pandemic Period

Infection Control and Environmental Measures

Use of Masks by Well Individuals

Advantages	Disadvantages
It may decrease exposure to large droplets containing the virus.	Hands and other surfaces may be contaminated when the mask is removed (requires public education).
Psychologically reassures people that they are taking measures to prevent infection.	It may cause panic if the availability of masks is limited.
	Use of masks without using other infection-control practices is of limited effectiveness and may provide a false sense of security.
	It is not feasible to wear masks constantly for the duration of the pandemic wave.
	Not all members of the public can afford to purchase masks
	Public purchase of masks may limit their availability in health-care settings where they are required.
This measure is not feasible or sustainable on a population basis and is not likely to be effective in reducing disease spread in the general population.	
Not recommended.	

Implement Hand-Sanitizing Stations in Public Settings (e.g., public transit settings)

Advantages	Disadvantages
It may increase the frequency of hand washing and thereby reduce the spread of disease.	It will not be effective against droplet spread via coughing and sneezing.
It reinforces key messages about hand washing.	Effectiveness depends on public compliance.
	It requires human and financial resources to keep stations adequately supplied. It is potentially expensive to supply and maintain.
	It may give people a false sense of security.
Frequent hand washing is an effective infection control measure when dealing with people known to be infectious. The public should be educated about hand washing and existing public washrooms should be appropriately stocked at all times. However, maintaining public hand-sanitizing stations during a pandemic is not a feasible strategy for Public Health Services, and its effectiveness in reducing viral transmission is uncertain.	
Not recommended.	

Increase the Frequency of Cleaning of Surfaces in Public Settings

(e.g., public transit settings, large institutions, businesses)

Advantages	Disadvantages
It may remove viable virus from frequently touched surfaces and therefore reduce the spread of disease.	Efficacy depends on the frequency and quality of cleaning (with appropriate supplies and techniques).
It reinforces key messages about the mode of transmission and personal hygiene.	Optimal frequency of cleaning cannot be determined and could be unsustainable during the peak of the epidemic in the community.
	It may be impossible to target cleaning efforts.
	It requires resources to maintain cleanliness.
Environmental cleaning is most effective when dealing with surfaces associated with people known to be infectious. Identifying infectious individuals in public settings is not possible, and virtually constant cleaning would be required to reduce the number of microorganisms on public surfaces.	
Not recommended.	

Other Measures Not Recommended for Implementation

Measure	Comments
Urge entire population in an affected area to check for fever at least once daily.	This is a potential measure to decrease the interval between symptom onset and patient isolation; however, this has not been effective in other situations.
Introduce thermal scanning into public places.	Experience has not shown this measure to be effective.
Carry out widespread environmental or air disinfection	This measure is not practical.
Disinfect clothing, shoes, or other objects of persons exiting affected areas.	This measure is not recommended for public health purposes. It may be required by veterinary authorities to prevent spread of infection in animals.
Restrict travel to and from affected areas.	Enforcement is considered impractical in most countries. It is likely to occur voluntarily when risk is appreciated by the public.
Establish a cordon sanitaire.	Enforcement is considered impractical.