

## Job-aid for Malaria Volunteers to safely delivery malaria services during COVID-19 Pandemic



## Introduction

Malaria Volunteers are the frontline heroes providing life-saving malaria diagnosis, treatment, and prevention services to the community. With the emerging threat of COVID-19, it is important to give useful tips to volunteers on how they can maintain services in community whilst protecting them from risk of COVID-19 infection. Whenever possible, malaria volunteers and the civil society organizations need to follow to-date Ministry of Health guidelines and use this job-aid in conjunction.

This is not a complete guideline for COVID-19 prevention, treatment, and control nor replaces existing malaria guidelines. This simplified job-aid is developed to help malaria volunteers.

## Acknowledgment

This volunteer Job-aid vividly design for the practical use of malaria workers to continue malaria services in diagnosis and case management, health education, mobile outreach activity, LLIN distribution in a safe and sound manner on top of simple flow chart to prepare and deliver malaria services during COVID-19 Pandemic. This will reassure the anxiety and fear occurred in the malaria workers in dealing with the fever cases, potentially COVID-19 suspected patients. We hope all the malaria CSO partners that are working in the GMS will find this job-aid useful and encourage to sustain continuity of malaria services in the context of COVID-19 pandemic.

The Regional Malaria CSO platform, GMS, would like to express its sincere thanks and appreciation to Dr. Htin Kyaw Thu who prepared this simplified hand-on job aid for the Community health volunteers, including village/ mobile malaria workers in the Greater Mekong Sub region. This includes hours of effort to create short and concise operational guidance in terms of prevention, control and treatment relating with COVID-19 precautions.



# Heroes for Health

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*We thank brave women and men who are working as malaria volunteers saving lives every day.*

*They are truly our heroes.*

## Key message

All malaria suspected cases in the community need early diagnosis and treated according to national guidelines.

In this critical period, malaria services shouldn't be scaled back and essential services for community (malaria diagnosis, treatment, health education, and prevention (LLINs distribution) should continue. It is also important to strictly follow local health and administrative authorities and work closely with them.

However, malaria suspected patients and COVID-19 suspected patients may present similar symptoms and it is difficult to differentiate without proper testing. Therefore, you need to be vigilant while providing services in the community.

### Simple steps to follow



Assess the risk before providing services -- screen the patient whether they have COVID-19 suspicion before providing services.

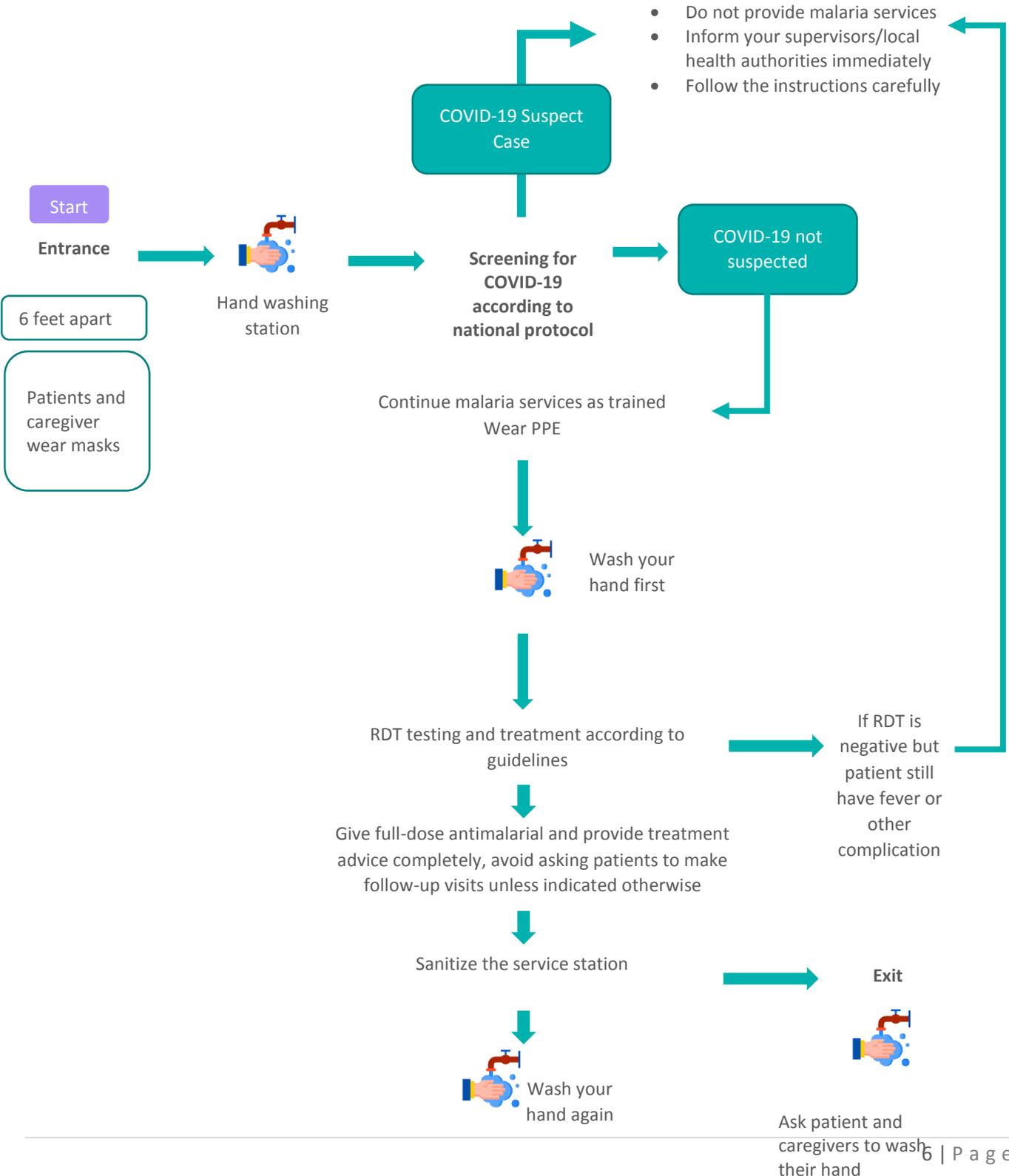


Strictly follow infection prevention control measures.

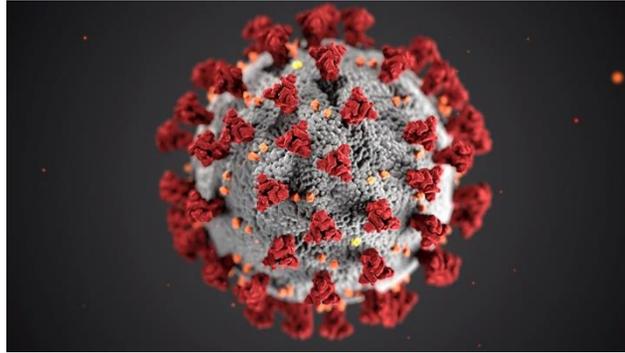


If COVID-19 risk is low, provide malaria services as trained.

# Simple flow chart to prepare and deliver malaria services during COVID-19 Pandemic



## What is Corona Virus (SARS-CoV-2) and COVID-19?



**Corona Virus (SARs-CoV-2)** is a virus found in animals and can transmit to human can cause acute respiratory disease. Infected persons can have from mild-flu like symptoms and recover without requiring medical care. Older people, and those with underlying medical problems like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, and cancer are more likely to develop serious illness.

**Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)** is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered virus called coronavirus. The virus mainly transmits human-to-human via respiratory droplets. Most people infected with the COVID-19 virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. Older people, and those with underlying medical problems like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, and cancer are more likely to develop serious illness.

### Most common symptoms



Fever



Dry Cough



Tiredness



Shortness of breath/Difficult breathing

### Less common symptoms



Sore throat



Loss of  
smell/taste



Headache



aches and pains

### How does COVID-19 transmit?

The COVID-19 virus spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes, so it's important that you also practice respiratory etiquette (for example, by coughing into a flexed elbow).



Respiratory droplets from sneezing

## How to prevent COVID-19 transmission?



Social distancing (6 feet apart) and avoid large gathering



Cover your mouth and nose, especially when you are coughing and sneezing



Wash your hand regularly with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub

## How to screen COVID-19 suspect case?<sup>1</sup>

 Signs and symptoms	 Travel History	 Contact History	 COVID-19 Suspect Case?
<p><b>Acute respiratory illness</b></p>  <p>Fever</p> <p>+</p> <p>at least one sign/symptom of respiratory disease</p>  <p>Cough</p>  <p>Shortness of breath</p>	<p>History of <b>travel</b> to or <b>residence</b> in a location reporting community transmission of COVID-19 disease during the <b>14 days</b> prior to symptom onset</p>		 COVID-19 Suspect Case
<p><b>Any acute respiratory illness</b></p>  <p>Cough</p>  <p>Shortness of breath</p>		<p><b>Contact</b> with a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case in the last <b>14 days prior</b> to symptom onset</p>	 COVID-19 Suspect Case
<p><b>severe</b> acute respiratory illness</p>  <p>Fever</p>  <p>Shortness of breath</p>  <p>Requiring hospitalization AND in the absence of an alternative diagnosis that fully explains the clinical presentation</p>			 COVID-19 Suspect Case

<sup>1</sup> Global surveillance for COVID-19 caused by human infection with COVID-19 virus Interim guidance 20 March 2020

## COVID-19 Screening Questions

1. Have you or anyone in your household been asked by the public health or medical staff to self-monitor or self-isolate?
2. Have you or anyone in your household travelled to an area where there are suspected cases of COVID-19 during the last 14 days?
3. Have you had close contact with someone suspected or diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last 14 days?
4. During the last 14 days, have you had any of the following?
  - Fever?
  - A new cough that you cannot attribute to another health condition?
  - Shortness of breath?
  - Sore throat?
  - Muscle ache that is not attributed to a specific activity?

### Suspect COVID-19 patient



Immediately inform your supervisor

Follow the instructions strictly. Avoid performing malaria services further

Ask the patient to self-isolate, practice social distancing and use facemask

**Psychosocial support:** COVID-19 suspected patient and family may develop fear. It is important counsel and comfort them by saying early detection may save life of patient, family members and the community.

### Not suspected COVID-19 case - continue malaria diagnosis and treatment services

Follow the below steps to protect yourself, protect the communities by help reducing the transmission risk while saving lives with your malaria services.

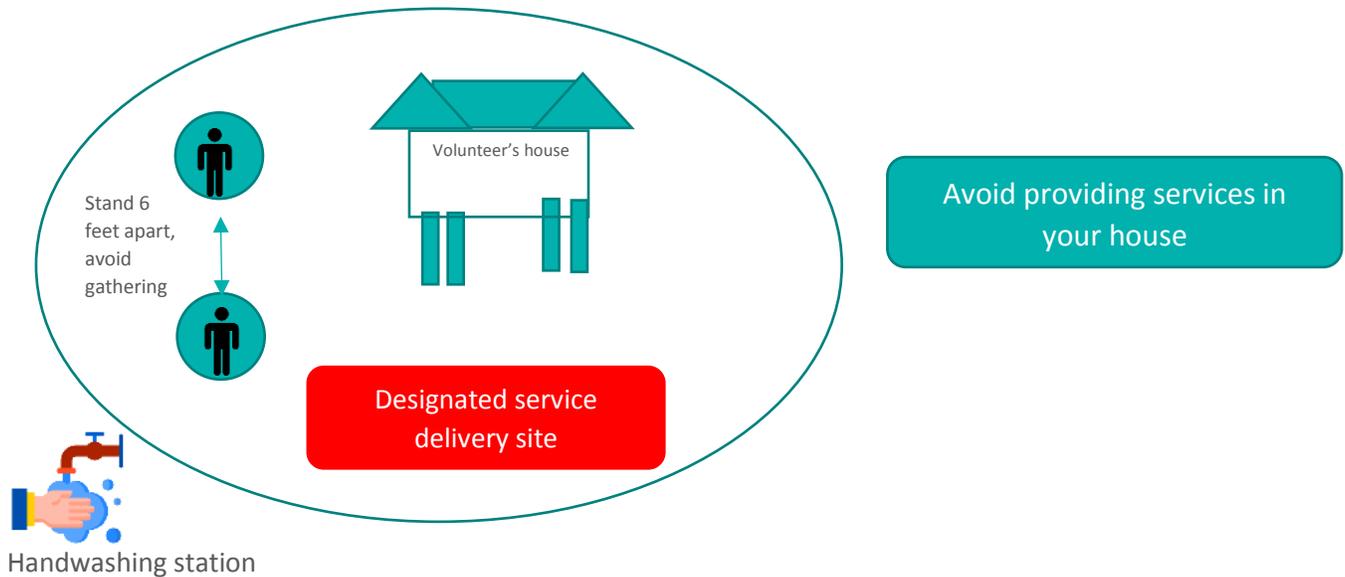
You need to follow strictly to testing procedures, treat according to national malaria treatment guidelines. While doing so, do not forget to wear PPE (facemasks, disposable gloves) while contacting the patient.

Please keep a distance of 6 feet from patient/caregivers until physical contact is needed (e.g. doing a malaria RDT test).

Always wash your hand properly before and after providing care to a patient.

## Step-by-step guide for providing malaria services

### Step (1): Preparing service delivery site

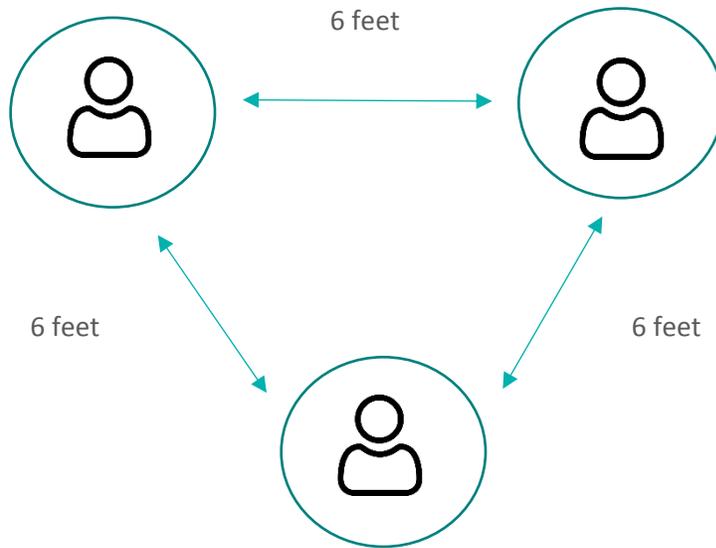


- Choose a site to do malaria RDT testing, patient counseling. Let the site be well-ventilated, shaded, and outside of your house.
- Choose a designated site either a table or a surface. This will help you easy cleaning and sanitizing after the service is done.

### Avoid crowding and large gathering in house/compound



To avoid crowd and gathering in your compound, ask the patients to bring less family members than needed. If possible, only ask one care-giver to come with them.



Ask them to stand 6 feet apart from each other. If there are too much attendees to your house, assign different time slots to reduce long-waiting hours and unnecessary gathering.

### Infection prevention and control practices

#### Requirements



Soap



Water



Methylated spirit and cotton



Disposal bin



Hand sanitizer (if available)



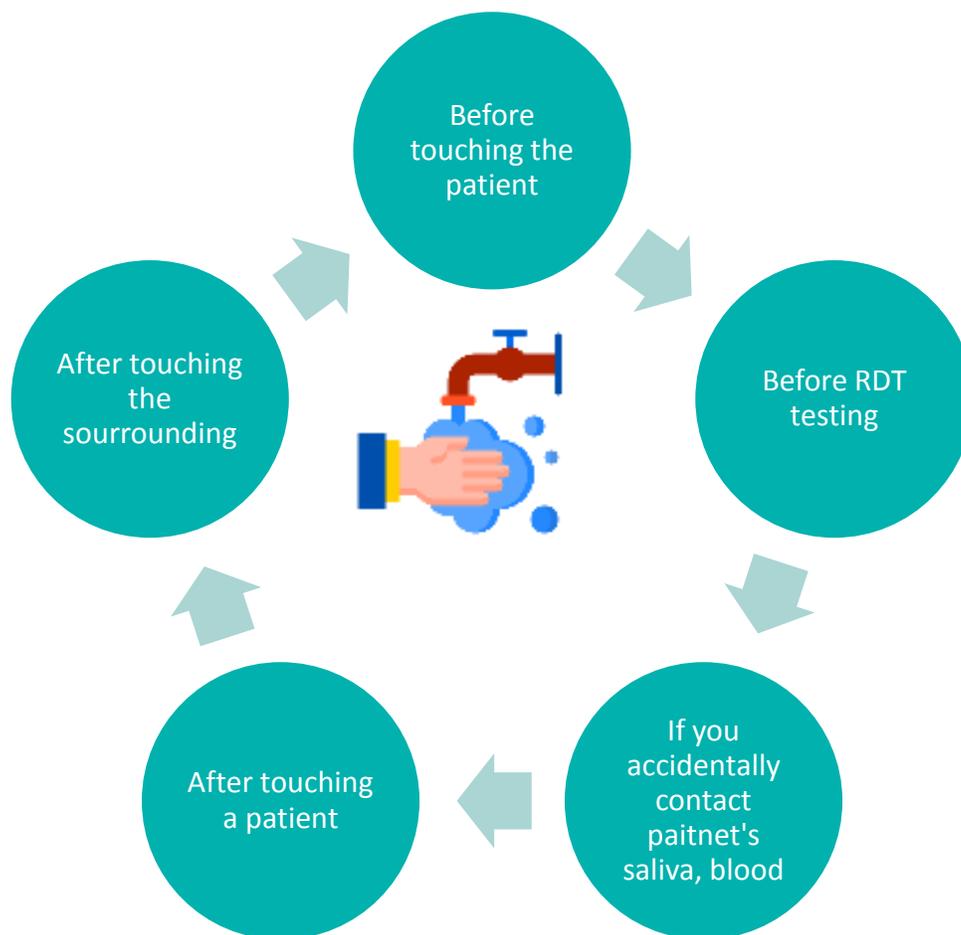
Facemask



Disposable gloves

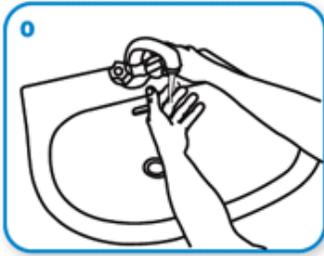
## Step (2): Practicing infection prevention control for your patients and yourself

### 5 moments of Handwashing<sup>2</sup>

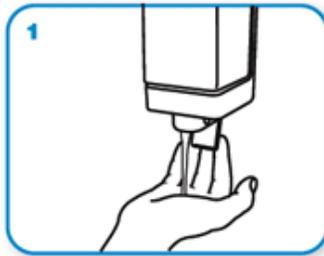


- Make a **handwashing station** at the entrance of your house. E.g. bucket of clean water with soap. Ask whoever enters the house/compound to wash their hands first before entering.
- Hang a handwashing poster near the handwashing station and teach them how to wash their hand properly

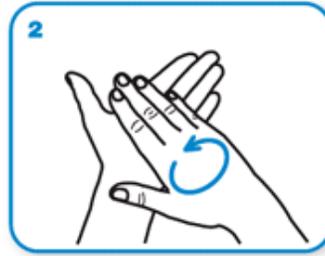
<sup>2</sup> Hand Hygiene: Why, How & When?



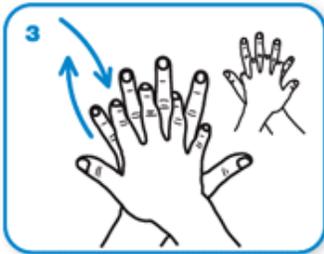
Wet hands with water



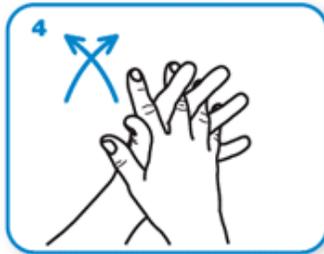
apply enough soap to cover all hand surfaces.



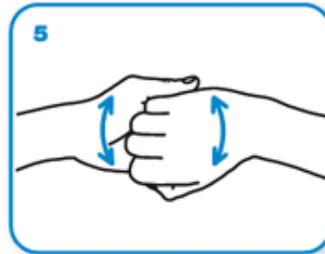
Rub hands palm to palm



right palm over left dorsum with interlaced fingers and vice versa



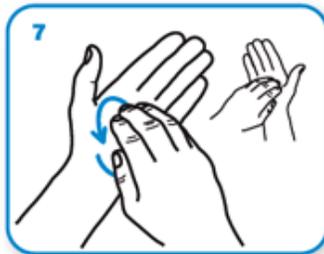
palm to palm with fingers interlaced



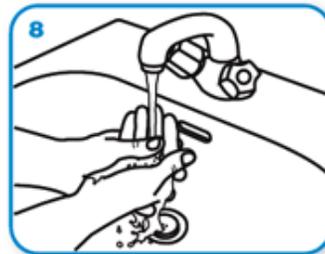
backs of fingers to opposing palms with fingers interlocked



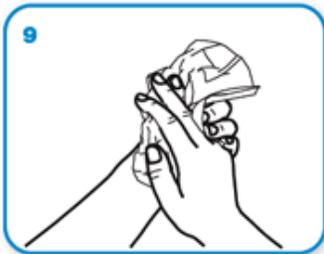
rotational rubbing of left thumb clasped in right palm and vice versa



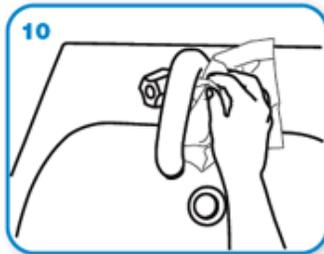
rotational rubbing, backwards and forwards with clasped fingers of right hand in left palm and vice versa.



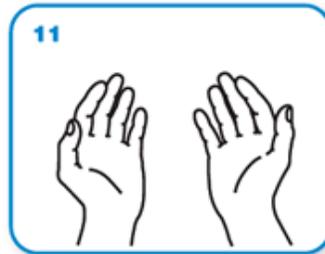
Rinse hands with water



dry thoroughly with a single use towel



use towel to turn off faucet



...and your hands are safe.

## Soap and water

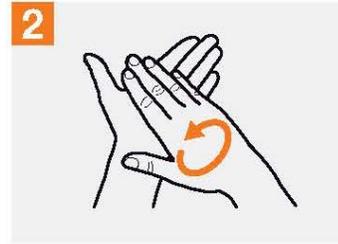
# HOW TO HANDRUB?

## RUB HANDS FOR HAND HYGIENE! WASH HANDS WHEN VISIBLY SOILED

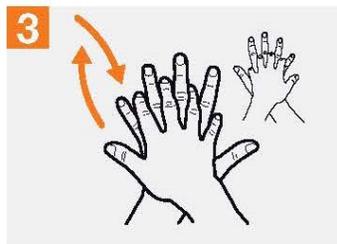
 Duration of the entire procedure: 20-30 seconds



Apply a palmful of the product in a cupped hand, covering all surfaces;



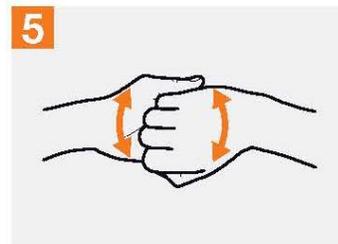
Rub hands palm to palm;



Right palm over left dorsum with interlaced fingers and vice versa;



Palm to palm with fingers interlaced;



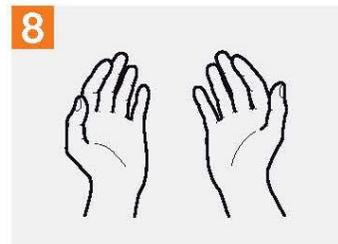
Backs of fingers to opposing palms with fingers interlocked;



Rotational rubbing of left thumb clasped in right palm and vice versa;



Rotational rubbing, backwards and forwards with clasped fingers of right hand in left palm and vice versa;



Once dry, your hands are safe.

hand sanitizer

## Designing handwashing station



Principles for design of handwashing station in your village<sup>3</sup>

Ask for help to your community to build locally feasible hand washing station at your home.

<sup>3</sup> Handwashing with soap (HWWS) facilities, Compendium of Indicative layouts designs and cost estimates, UNICEF, April 2020



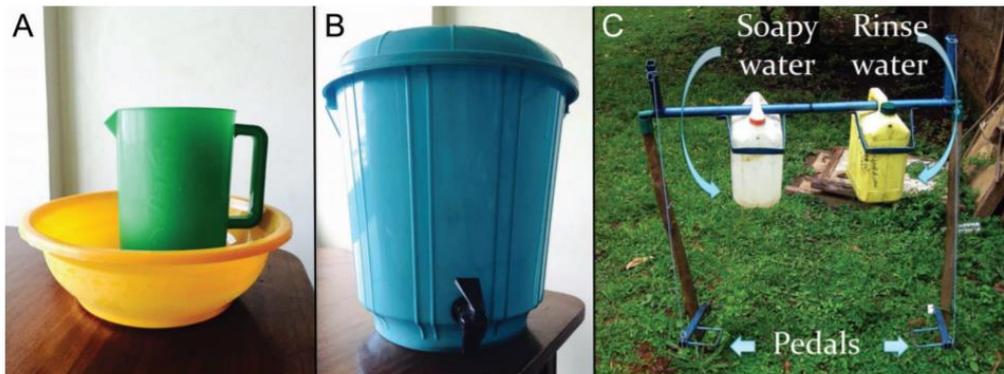
Teach the community for proper handwashing, Hang posters near handwashing station.



Place handwashing stations outside of your house. If possible, keep the distance between the stations.



**If don't have all the resources, think out of box - you can still make handwashing station with minimal supplies needed.**



**You can use from conventional (jug and basin) to dual tippy tap station that dispense both water and soapy water.**

<sup>4</sup> Photos from Teaching Ecological Sanitation in Schools How to make simple hand washing devices by Peter Morgan and Annie Kanyemba

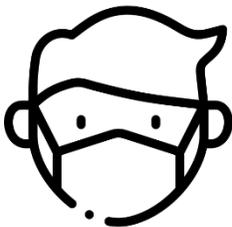
## Avoid touching your mouth, nose, and eyes



- Always put on your glove while providing care. Remember 5 moments handwashing.

**Ask the patient and caregiver to use facemask or cloth covers (whichever available to cover their mouth and nose) and for yourself, wear a medical mask at all times.**

- Some COVID-19 suspected cases may not show symptoms or malaria suspected cases may have similar symptoms with COVID-19 (e.g. fever, tiredness). It's safe for you to practice infection prevention control at all times for yourself as well the patients you see every day.



- Ask the patient to wear a mask or cloth cover, well covering their mouth and nose.
- Some patient may feel discriminated for this advice, you can counsel them by saying -

Thank you for your understanding. This is for your own good, for your family as well as for the community. You also help protect health workers like me who see patients every day. It is safe and best for all.

# How to **put on, use,** **take off and dispose** of a mask

1



Before putting on a mask, wash hands with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water

2



Cover mouth and nose with mask and make sure there are no gaps between your face and the mask

Avoid touching the mask while using it; if you do, clean your hands with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water

3



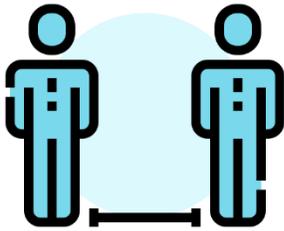
Replace the mask with a new one as soon as it is damp and do not re-use single-use masks

4

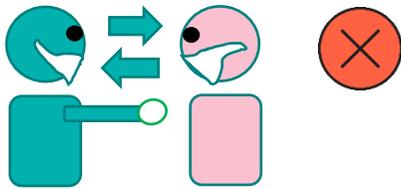


To remove the mask: remove it from behind (do not touch the front of mask); discard immediately in a closed bin; wash hands with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water

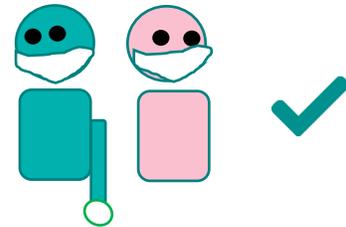
# Best posture to keep during physical contact with the patient



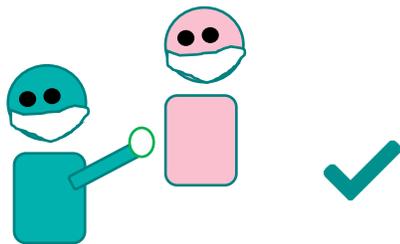
Always keep 6 feet distance from the patient as much as possible while taking history, patient counseling and recording, except during physical contact during RDT testing.



Do not sit face-to-face with the patient



Sit side-by-side. Ask the patient to extend his arm to his side while face turning opposite.



Ask the patient to stand in front of you. Ask to extend his arm backwards for finger pricking

### Step (3): History taking and performing blood test

#### “Five moments” handwashing!



Wash your hand with soap and water or use hand sanitizer

#### Using thermometers and sanitizing them

##### Digital thermometer



Do not put in the mouth. Always take axillary temperature. Always clean before and after use.

##### Mercury thermometer



Do not put in the mouth. Always take axillary temperature.under arm pit Always clean before and after use.

##### Sanitizing your thermometer

**With methylated spirit:** Use either alcohol swab or cotton wool with methylated spirit to clean the entire thermometer. Let it air dry and do not blow and place it back into the case.

**If you do not have methylated spirit** - Wash with water and soap. However, if you use digital thermometer, do not dip it into water. Wash only the metal part of the thermometer.

### **RDT blood testing**

While taking blood test, ask the patient to extend his arm backwards or side for finger pricking

After waiting for the RDT result, maintain the physical distance at least 6 feet. Do not gossip except providing health education messages.

- **Follow the national treatment guideline if the suspected patient got tested positive. Provide the full course of anti-malaria drugs and explain the guidance on time and side effect of prescribed drugs to the patient while maintaining physical distance at least 6 feet.**
- **Refer the patients to the health facilities if the patients with severe sign and symptom of malaria. Contact the supervisor and respective basic health staff immediately.**
- **In case, the suspected patients got negative result, you can provide paracetamol, vitamin and oral hydration salts as guided by the national programs.**

### **Step (4): Cleaning of the service delivery site after blood testing and treatment**

Clean the service delivery site after blood testing of every suspected malaria patient before performing blood test to another person.

### **Step (5): Safe disposal**

Use proper disposal bin (with covers). Use burning or burial methods.

# Conducting Health Education session

The accurate preventive malaria information, knowledge, and advice to promote seeking health for the malaria to take blood test especially at the malaria season (monsoon and after monsoon) are very important to reach the vulnerable community. These valuable messages are required to deliver by the malaria workers during COVID-19 pandemic.

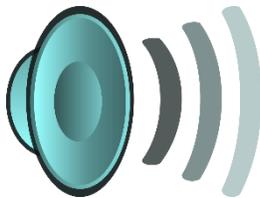
**Please follow below instructions while providing malaria messages**



Avoid gathering of people to conduct group health education. Follow the government guidance on physical distancing.



Instead of group health education, consider sharing information one-to-one to the suspected patient during taking blood test or encourage patient's household member to deliver the information among themselves.



**Use loudspeaker** to deliver the malaria preventive information occasionally with the help of village leader.

Share the following relevant information repeatedly in the village. Consider getting help from respective NGO staff.

- COVID-19 related preventive information (with language relevance to the village)
- COVID-19 prevention information and songs and sound track famous within community
- Malaria preventive information, sound track and audiotapes from the Ministry of Health

## Steps to follow during LLIN distribution



LLIN is one of the best preventive measures to protect malaria.

**Distribution of LLIN activity should continue during COVID-19 pandemic**

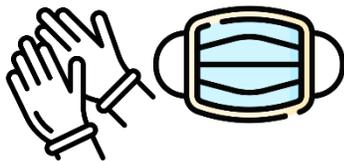
### Necessary things for preparation



Arrange place to wash hand with soap or hand gel at the distribution site.



Avoid involvement in distribution of LLIN if you are feeling unwell. Stay at home.



Wear mask and glove during LLIN distribution.



Ensure availability of loudspeaker to share dos and don'ts and correct method of using LLIN at the distribution site.

## Household registration



Prepare the list to distribute LLIN with the help of village leader before distribution of LLIN or use the previous distribution list. Avoid requesting each person to list themselves for receiving LLIN at you.



Make sure everyone in the village, forest goer, farmer, and mobile migrant population who are away from village to be included in the list. Forecast the estimated need of LLIN as a rate of 2 people per 1 LLIN.

## At the time of distribution



**Avoid mass gathering** of people as before. Request **only one person** per household to collect LLIN. But, advise that person shouldn't be children and over 60 years old. Explain to the people if they are not free, they can request help from one of the neighbor to collect LLIN on behalf.



**Arrange the distribution site at an open** space to make sure the opportunity for the people to maintain physical distancing at least 6 feet.



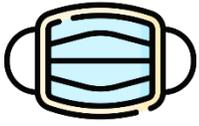
**Arrange morning and evening distribution LLIN session (e.g. morning and afternoon).** If possible, arrange token system to collect LLIN to avoid mass gathering.



**Maintain 6 feet distance** each other. If possible, make circle marking to stay before collecting LLIN



**Arrange place to wash hand with soap.** Put the guideline to proper handwashing method. Allow the person to enter the LLIN distribution site only after handwashing.



**Wear mask** for all people who are at the LLIN distribution site (both distributor and collector)



Distribute the **proper use of LLIN pamphlet** to the collector and explain the prevention method of COVID-19

**Hang your Net (LLIN)**

Bed      Outside

**Use the net every night  
anywhere you sleep**

Mat      Mattress

For A Malaria Free Lagos, Play Your Part

**Show videos/photos of how to hang a bed net** and encourage proper use. Avoid doing demonstrations that attract large crowd.

If the **above steps are impossible** to conduct in the village



### Use door-to-door delivery service



Request volunteer from the village to help door-to-door delivery. Do not allow the volunteer from children and over 60 years old. Make sure all volunteers to wear mask and glove.



Inform the door-to-door delivery service to the village beforehand with planned date and time.



The LLIN need to distribute in front of the house. If possible, leave LLIN in front of house without entering inside of the house



Practice personal hygiene. The delivery person is suggested to wash hand every other five houses. If possible, keep hygiene gel with you.

## Mobile outreach activity for blood test

It is very important to get blood test and treat if malaria suspected for the people who are living in malaria endemic areas such as remote and hard to reach areas. Be aware that reaching to those people could be even more difficult due to movement restriction during COVID-19 pandemic.



**Make sure malaria detection is absolutely needed for** hard to reach population (e.g. increased number of malaria suspected patients). Work with local authorities to plan your trip.



If needed, **arrange the mobile visit** after consulting with village authority. Take all the necessary prevention materials such as LLIN, RDT, drugs, and prevention pamphlets with you during the mobile visits. Inform your estimated arriving time to the areas beforehand.



**Follow the physical distancing guideline** during blood test and treatment (avoiding mass gathering, practicing personal hygiene).



If the areas are **difficult to visit again** during the COVID-19 pandemic, **give anti-malaria drugs with instruction on how to take drugs as stand-by.**

Make sure you give them LLINs and educate how to use. Tell them whom and to contact in case of emergencies.



Provide malaria and COVID-19 preventive pamphlets. Request to inform you if there is any suspected malaria and COVID-19 patients.

# Malaria reporting guideline for malaria during COVID-19 pandemic

It is important for the malaria workers to continue on time reporting the data on RDT testing and case management

## Without travel restriction

- Continue reporting malaria data to Health center (or) NGO
- Be aware of COVID-precaution practices while going to the Health center (or) NGO
- Approach to your supervisor if there is any difficulty to go to health center (or) NGO for reporting.

## With travel restriction

- If there is internet connection, send the photo of your case register to supervisor by available social media such as viber, Line, messenger, telegram and WhatsApp
- If there is no internet connection, provide the below information through mobile call to your supervisor

*At least, give aggregate number.*

- **Total tested patient** (Male and Female, age group)
- **Total positive patients** (Pf, Pv, mixed, age group, under five and pregnant woman)
- **Remaining stock balance**

## References

1. Tailoring malaria interventions in the COVID-19 response. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2020
2. Community-based health care, including outreach and campaigns, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. World Health Organization and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), 2020.  
License: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.
3. Global surveillance for COVID-19 caused by human infection with COVID-19 virus Interim guidance  
20 March 2020