

## COVID-19 Simulation: Protecting Healthcare Workers

### **“Equipment” Needed:**

2 people	Hand sanitizer
PPE	NP swabs
Cleaning solutions	3 buckets (reusable PPE, disposable waste, hazardous waste)

### **Rationale:**

Protecting healthcare workers is essential in order to maintain the viability of the health system in your country. More than 3000 healthcare providers have contracted COVID-19, and many of them have had ICU stays and some have died from the disease. There are a number of potential reasons why so many healthcare workers have contracted the disease: 1) they became infected prior to the recognition that this new coronavirus existed in their country; 2) they had inadequate PPE or used it improperly; and 3) they acquired it outside of the healthcare setting.

As such, healthcare workers are at increased risk of contracting COVID-19. This increased risk threatens the healthcare workforce because: sick workers cannot provide medical care; and fear of disease may cause some doctors and nurses to stay home even when they are well. Thorough and repeated training in the proper use of PPE, along with standard infection prevention and control measures, and reassurance that healthcare workers will receive optimal medical care if they get sick with COVID-19.

### **Proposal:**

1. Evidence-based PPE and its proper use, plus standard infection prevention and control, must be available to all healthcare workers.
2. Determine the potential number of patients at risk for COVID-19 and create a voluntary cadre of healthcare workers whose primary responsibility will be taking care of potential COVID-19 patients at specialized areas within the hospital or at facilities outside of the hospitals and provide 24-hour coverage. Young, healthy individuals without medical comorbidities or significant family responsibilities would be the optimal volunteers to be on this roster list which:
  - a. Maximizes the training capabilities of these specific healthcare workers in the proper use of PPE.
  - b. Reduces the risk of inadequate PPE use because every single patient that they take care of will be presumed to be infected with COVID-19 until proven otherwise.
  - c. Optimizes the likelihood that the entire hospital (or all but an isolated wing of a hospital) can be kept free of COVID-19 as these healthcare workers will be restricted from other hospital areas and may need to be provided with living quarters.
  - d. Promotes a feeling of safety for all the healthcare workers.
3. Do everything possible from a medical management perspective if a healthcare worker gets sick with COVID-19.
  - a. This sends a message to all healthcare workers that we value you, will do everything possible to protect you, and will take care of you to our maximum ability if you contract COVID-19.
  - b. This should maximize healthcare workers feeling that it is safe to go to work.

### **Simulation Exercise:**

- Hand hygiene
- Donning PPE
- Collection of lab specimen(s)
- Doffing PPE
- Waste management and decontamination