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# I. STATEMENT OF THE POLICY

This policy shall serve as an interim guideline during the COVID-19 surge.

## II. POLICY GUIDELINES

## 1. General Reiteration

- 1.1 All PHC employees should adhere to the minimum health protocols specifically hand hygiene, physical distancing, frequent cleaning and disinfection and wearing of appropriate PPEs.
- 1.2 Eating together is highly DISCOURAGED.
- 1.3 All PHC employees should remain vigilant and continue to encourage co-workers to follow ICP protocols. The Unit Safety Officers should strictly monitor their respective units.
- 1.4 All PHC employees are advised to limit social mobility to essential travel outside PHC.

## 2. Use of Personal Protective Equipment

- 2.1 For moderate and high risk areas such as patient care areas, medical mask on top of N95 should be worn plus face shield.
- 2.2 For low risk areas, medical mask should be worn. Option to wear cloth mask on top of the medical mask is allowed.
- 2.3 Do not take mask off in public areas.

## 3. RT-PCR Testing

3.1 All symptomatic PHC employee should proceed to Emergency Room for assessment and GeneXpert RT-PCR testing.

## 4. High Risk Exposure

- 4.1 All individuals identified by IPCO as high risk exposures should be immediately removed from duty and be quarantined.
- 4.2 For asymptomatic individuals, RT-PCR testing shall be done on the 5<sup>th</sup> day
- 4.3 If symptoms developed, proceed to COVID-ER for assessment and immediate GeneXpert RT-PCR testing.
- 4.4 High risk exposure individuals should complete 14-days quarantine.
- 4.5 If a household member is COVID-19 positive, do not report to work. Practice home quarantine, inform immediate supervisor and IPCO. RT-PCR testing on the 5<sup>th</sup> day

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of exposure unless symptoms developed. If symptoms developed, proceed to ER for assessment and GeneXpert RT-PCR testing.

## 5. Back to Work Criteria for COVID-19

- 5.1 For mild and moderate COVID-19 HCWs, they should have 3-days resolution of symptoms or completed 14 days-quarantine whichever is longer and with negative Swab on Day 15 of isolation or after 3 days.
- 5.2 For severe and critical COVID-19 HCWs, should have 3-days resolution of symptoms, completed 21-days quarantine and negative swab on 22<sup>nd</sup> day.

### 6. In-Patients

6.1 Repeat RT-PCR Genexpert testing on all patients should be done if medically indicated. Swabbing should be done in an isolation room or solo room.