

Operational guidelines on preparedness and response for COVID-19 outbreak for work settings Open Markets

Please follow the relevant sections of the General Guidelines (published in this webpage) in addition to the following specific measures.

Responsibilities of the Local Authority

- Identify a responsible officer at the local authority as a focal point to monitor the implementation of control activities against COVID-19 at open markets
- Ensure cleaning the floor of the market prior to starting business
- All vendors have to be traceable. Their names, addresses, contact details and identity numbers must be documented in a register
- The entrance and exit paths including the flow of movement in the market premises need to be clearly identified. Display this site plan at the entrance and the exits of the open market. If the market area is huge, divide the venue to sub areas and designate entrances and exits for each area.
- Dedicate separate parking area for vehicles.
- Restrict the number of customers for a given time in order to maintain 1 meter distance and prevent overcrowding. Ask customers to wait in a queue until their turn.
- Provide hand washing facilities with soap and water or hand sanitizers at the entrance (preferably with a pedal operated tap, sink).
- Ensure that the public toilets are cleaned and disinfected, and provided with hand washing facilities.
- Ensure proper and safe waste disposal at the market.
- Posters / signage to be placed at the site for physical distancing, wearing of mask and hand washing. Use public address system/audio recording to provide instructions on site plan, health promotional messages and recommended practices at the facility.
- Following instructions for the customers to be displayed at the entrance of the market
 - Keep one meter distance between other customers and the vendor
 - Refrain from touching weighing scale, shelves and goods unnecessary
 - Wash hands with soap and water properly or use alcohol based hand sanitizer to clean hands
 - Always wear a face mask
 - Do not touch face, mouth and nose while marketing
 - Minimize handling of cash. Try to give exact amount where possible
 - Bring your own bag to collect the goods. Not to touch goods unnecessarily
 - Do not bring children to the open market

Instructions for vendors

Physical distancing

- Maintain minimum of one meter physical distance with other vendors and customers at all times
- Do not share food, water and beverages with others.

Hand hygiene

- Practice hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use 70% (v/v) alcohol based hand sanitizer to clean their hands before, in between and at the end of a business day.
- Wash or sanitize hands after handling cash or alternatively should wear gloves

Respiratory etiquette

- Always wear masks properly while doing business.
- Refrain from touching the mask or face even with gloved hands.

Others

- Avoid sharing weighing scales, weights and other equipment among vendors.
- Frequently touched surfaces including weighing scale, weights, cash box, shelves, etc. should be cleaned and disinfected before starting and at the end of a business day.
- Display price tags for goods to minimize verbal communication with customers.

Director General of Health Services

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