

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

Solid Waste Handlers

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

- All workers have to be traceable staff. Their names, addresses, contact details and identity numbers must be documented in a register.
- Provision of welfare facilities such as meal room, toilets, bathing and washing facilities with soap and water, changing rooms/ rest rooms and pedal operated closed bins for waste disposal. Adequate space and ventilation must be available in rest rooms.
- Ensure adequate supply of suitable personal protective equipment, industrial gloves, masks and boots for workers.
- Hand washing facilities with soap and water must be established at the entrance of the Local Authority (preferably with a pedal operated tap, sink).
- Make arrangements to do screening for respiratory symptoms before starting each shift.
- Educate the workers regarding healthy behaviors including mask management, physical distancing, respiratory etiquette, not spitting on the ground, personal hygiene measures and to avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth. Workers must also be made aware of the risks involved when dealing with garbage.
- Always operate at one designated route if possible.
- Introduce a horn with some specific tune to inform the people in the area to be ready to hand over the garbage to the waste handlers.
- Workers should be provided with proper training on waste handling and updated information on the new guides and protocols on their safety.
- Ensure supervision and monitoring of adherence to COVID-19 preventive measures by the workers.

Instructions for employees

Physical distancing

- Maintain minimum of one meter physical distance with persons at all times.

Hand hygiene

- Worker should wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds at the entrance of the Local Authority and at the beginning of the waste collection shift.
- Should wear gloves during house to house waste collection.

Respiratory etiquette

- Wear masks properly while working and should be discarded in to a pedal operated bin lined with a garbage bag at the end of the waste collection round.
- Refrain from touching the mask or face (especially eyes, mouth, nose).
- Do not spit on the ground.

Others

- At the end of the work shift, take a bath before going home.

Director General of Health Services

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