

COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control in the Workplace

Preventing Workplace Transmission

WHO reiterated the minimum risk of infection following compliance with the DOH requirements for prevention of transmission and for isolation following infection.

- It is important that recovered patients and their close contacts who reintegrate into their communities and workplaces continue to wear masks, maintain physical distancing, clean their hands frequently and avoid the three Cs (crowded, closed and close-contact settings) just like everyone else.
- Employers to ensure workplace safety and health via increased mental and physical resilience and reduction of physical contact and gatherings of employees, among others.
- Stringent environmental disinfection, while emphasizing to workers the importance of self-monitoring and observance of health protocols especially mask wearing and physical distancing. They were reminded that exposure may occur anytime, as they travel to and from the workplace, and while they are at work.
- Individually, we need to take command of our protective measures against COVID. If we do so, we are protecting everyone else in the workplace and elsewhere.

Moving Forward

- There should be better implementation of contact tracing and quarantine procedures for workers, including proper identification of and coordination with close contacts and their families. Companies were thus encouraged to establish and maintain reporting mechanisms with the Department of Health and their local government for tracking and validation of data especially on confirmed cases and close contacts.
- Employers and employees have an important role in reducing transmission, providing a better health capacity system, and mitigating the social impact (of workplace infections). Workers are considered among the most vulnerable to COVID-19 infection, more so those in enclosed spaces or in close proximity with others.

Source: www.who.int.com