About this resource document: This resource document collates available guidance and tools on the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) to assist Nutrition in Emergencies (NiE) practitioners in integrating COVID-19 preparedness and response into humanitarian nutrition responses. Given the rapidly evolving situation, please go to the GNC Website to view the latest guidance available, and visit the COVID-19 forum on en-net to ask questions and participate in discussions.

Key

Capacity building resources

Considerations for application of guidance in emergency settings

Content

1. Preparedness
2. Health and Nutrition Facility and Systems Management
3. Prevention and Management of Wasting
4. Nutritional Support for Patients with COVID-19
5. Infant and Young Child Feeding
6. Workplace Precautions
7. Cross Cutting Issues
8. Research
9. COVID-19 General Resources

PREPAREDNESS


A related online training has been developed to assist UN country teams in scaling up country preparedness and response. Time to complete: 2 hours https://openwho.org/courses/UNCT-COVID19-preparedness-and-response-EN
HEALTH AND NUTRITION FACILITY AND SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT

WHO. IPC during health care when COVID-19 infection is suspected (Published 19 March 2020)
Includes standard precautions for facilities to take with all patients (e.g. those attending health and nutrition facilities for treatment of malnutrition) www.who.int/publications-detail/infection-prevention-and-control-during-health-care-when-novel-coronavirus-(ncov)-infection-is-suspected-20200125


WHO IPC Course for COVID-19
Online training for healthcare workers and public health professionals on what facilities should be doing to be prepared to respond to a case of an emerging respiratory virus such as the novel coronavirus, how to identify a case once it occurs, and how to properly implement IPC measures to ensure there is no further transmission to Healthcare Workers (HCW) or to other patients and others in the healthcare facility. Time to complete: 1 hour https://openwho.org/courses/COVID-19-IPC-EN

WHO Resource Page on COVID-19 Occupational Health (Multiple Resources)

PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF WASTING

➔ Refer to “Health and Nutrition Facility and Systems Management” regarding measures to be taken in acute malnutrition treatment facilities.

*CRITICAL NEW GUIDANCE. IASC. Interim Recommendations for Adjusting Food Distribution Standard Operating Procedures in the Context of the COVID-19 Outbreak – developed by World Food Programme (WFP). Version 2 (March 2020) Interim Guidance for field coordinators, site managers and public health personnel, as well as national and local governments and the wider humanitarian community working at food distribution sites, who are involved in the decision making and implementation of multi-sectorial COVID-19 outbreak readiness and response activities. https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/other/interim-recommendations-adjusting-food-distribution-standard-operating-procedures-context

*CRITICAL NEW GUIDANCE. UNICEF, GTAM and GNC. Management of child wasting in the context of COVID-19. This Brief is meant to provide information specific to services and programmes for the management of child wasting in the context of COVID-19 (updated every 10 days). https://www.ennonline.net/managementofchildwastinginthecontextofcovid19

United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN). Resource List on Food Systems and Nutrition

Advice | Guidance | Expertise | Learning

Version 1 - 13 March 2020

**WHO. Key planning recommendations for mass gatherings in the context of the current COVID-19 outbreak** *(Interim Guidance – Published 19 March 2020)*. For consideration for nutrition programmes conducting mass gatherings (e.g. during distributions organised by supplementary feeding programmes) [https://webprod.who.int/publications-detail/key-planning-recommendations-for-mass-gatherings-in-the-context-of-the-current-covid-19-outbreak](https://webprod.who.int/publications-detail/key-planning-recommendations-for-mass-gatherings-in-the-context-of-the-current-covid-19-outbreak)

**WHO. Reducing excess mortality from common illnesses during an influenza pandemic (2008)**. Guideline which provides strategies for prevention and treatment, at the community and household levels, of the most likely contributors to mortality from common illnesses during an influenza pandemic and recommendations to support a minimum level of continuity for priority public health programmes during a pandemic. Covers acute malnutrition programmes (p. 24) [www.who.int/diseasecontrol_emergencies/common_illnesses2008_6.pdf](http://www.who.int/diseasecontrol_emergencies/common_illnesses2008_6.pdf)

**NUTRITIONAL SUPPORT FOR COVID-19 PATIENTS**

**NB:** No guidance has been identified by GTAM on nutritional support for patients with COVID-19

NB: Breastfed children of patients who are too unwell to breastfeed or who have died may require replacement feeding with a nutritionally adequate diet (e.g. with donor human milk, through wet nursing or with a breastmilk substitute (BMS)). Note that there is currently no specific recommendation on the safety of wet nursing in the context of novel coronavirus disease. The **Operational Guidance on Infant Feeding in Emergencies** *(OG-IFE)* section 6.2 instructs to “establish clear eligibility for BMS use in agreement with the IFE coordination authority. If criteria are already in place, review and revise as needed. Communicate these criteria to caregivers, communities and emergency responders.”

**INFANT AND YOUNG CHILD FEEDING**

**CRITICAL NEW GUIDANCE.** UNICEF/GNC/GTAM. Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) in the context of COVID-19. This Brief provides information specific to infant and young child feeding (IYCF) in the context of COVID-19 (updated every 10 days) [https://www.ennonline.net/covid19brief2](https://www.ennonline.net/covid19brief2)


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1 Also known as allomaternal nursing, breastfeeding of a child by someone other than the child’s biological mother.


Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG). COVID-19 Infection in Pregnancy. Information for healthcare professionals. Version 4.1 (Updated 26 March 2020) Resource for United Kingdom HCWs. Includes advice to share with pregnant women and advice for services caring for women with or recovering from COVID-19. Section 4.9.2 (p. 31) on infant feeding covers shared decision making and precautions caregivers with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection should take to prevent transmission when feeding their infant (covers both breastfeeding and formula feeding). www.rcog.org.uk/coronavirus-pregnancy


WHO. Five keys to safer food. Poster – applicable to preparation of complementary foods. [https://www.who.int/foodsafety/areas_work/food-hygiene/5keys-poster/en/] Available in French and Arabic.

With regard to feeding children expressed breast milk: as per the OG-IFE Sections 5.9 and 6.23 “the use of … breast pumps should only be considered when their use is vital and where it is possible to clean them adequately, such as in a clinical setting” and “discourage use of feeding bottles and teats due to high risk of contamination and difficulty with cleaning. Support use of cups (without spouts) from birth.”

General guidance on IYCF in the context of Infectious Disease Outbreaks can be found in Section 5.40: “Anticipate and assess the impact of human and animal infectious disease outbreaks on IYCF, such as interrupted access to health and feeding support services; deterioration in household food security and livelihoods, transmission risks via breastfeeding; and maternal illness and death. Take actions to mitigate risks. Interim guidance may be necessary to address unanticipated IYCF consequences in outbreaks. Consult WHO for up to date advice.” [www.ennonline.net/operationalguidance-v3-2017](http://www.ennonline.net/operationalguidance-v3-2017) (available in multiple languages)

WORKPLACE PRECAUTIONS

WHO. Getting your workplace ready for COVID-19. (Published 3 March 2020)

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES


RESEARCH

Elsevier’s Novel Coronavirus Information Centre
Compilation of expert guidance, clinical information and research for the research and health community. [www.elsevier.com/connect/coronavirus-information-center](http://www.elsevier.com/connect/coronavirus-information-center)

Lancet COVID-19 Resource Centre
Compilation of COVID-19 content from across The Lancet journals as it is published. [www.thelancet.com/coronavirus](http://www.thelancet.com/coronavirus)

Johns Hopkins. COVID-19, Maternal and Child Health, Nutrition – what does the science tell us?
COVID-19 GENERAL RESOURCES

Disaster Ready: Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Resources
Collection of learning resources for healthcare workers and public health professionals (log-in necessary)
https://www.disasterready.org/

Core Group COVID-19 Global Response Coordination

EN-NET COVID-19 and Nutrition Programming Forum
A free and open online forum to discuss emerging challenges related to COVID-19 and ask questions for which answers are not readily accessible. www.en-net.org/forum/31.aspx

Johns Hopkins – Global Mapping
Global mapping of cases updated daily.
https://gisanddata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6

MedBox
Compilation of Context & Facts, Situation Reports & Updates, Clinical Guidelines and Prevention & Control
https://www.medbox.org/toolbox/114M2DGK

Sphere Standards for the Coronavirus Response
4 page guidance document on relevant parts of the Sphere Handbook.
https://spherestandards.org/resources/coronavirus/

United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN). Resource List on Food Systems and Nutrition Responses - related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Link to all UN agency responses

WHO Novel Coronavirus Information Landing Page
Information and guidance from WHO, including sitreps, technical guidance and training.
www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019

About the Global Technical Assistance Mechanism (GTAM) GTAM is a common global mechanism endorsed by over 40 Global Nutrition Cluster (GNC) partners to provide systematic, predictable, timely and coordinated nutrition technical assistance in order to meet the nutrition rights and needs of people affected by emergencies. The GTAM is co-led by UNICEF and World Vision International (WVI) in collaboration with a core team (GTAM-CT) comprising of the Emergency Nutrition Network (ENN) as the Knowledge Management (KM) partner as well as the Global Nutrition Cluster (GNC) and the Technical Rapid Response Team (Tech RRT). When country and regional capacities are exhausted, unresolved technical issues can be escalated to the GTAM. Depending on the issue, the GTAM will provide technical advice, facilitate the development of consensus-driven guidance (through Global Thematic Working Groups and normative agencies such as WHO) and provide specialized technical expertise. Wherever possible and appropriate, the GTAM seeks to leverage existing technical support mechanisms. For further information about the GTAM, visit: http://nutritioncluster.net/resources/global-technical-assistance-mechanism-nutrition/