



GLOBAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MECHANISM FOR NUTRITION

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)

Resources available for Nutrition in Emergencies Practitioners

VERSION 2 – 27 March 2020

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](#)
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PREPAREDNESS

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Global humanitarian response plan COVID-19. April – December 2020. <https://www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/Global-Humanitarian-Response-Plan-COVID-19.pdf>

Interagency Standing Committee (IASC). Interim Guidance on Scaling-up COVID19 Outbreak in Readiness and Response Operations in Camps and Camp-like Settings – developed by IFRC, IOM, UNHCR and WHO. (17 March 2020). Interim guidance for field staff, covering protection considerations, coordination and planning, risk communications and community engagement, surveillance and case investigation, individual health screening, infection prevention and control (IPC) and case management and continuity of essential health services (including [breastfeeding](#)/postpartum support). <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/other/interim-guidance-scaling-covid-19-outbreak-readiness-and-response-operations-camps-and-camp>

World Health Organisation (WHO). COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan: Operational Planning Guidelines to Support Country Preparedness and Response (Published 12 Feb 2020) www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/covid-19-sprp-unct-guidelines.pdf

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](http://www.who.int/publications-detail/infection-prevention-and-control-during-health-care-when-novel-coronavirus-(ncov)-infection-is-suspected-20200125)

WHO. Advice on the use of masks in the community, during home care and in healthcare settings in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak. (19 March 2020) Rapid guidance for public health and IPC professionals, HCWs and community health workers on use of medical masks. [www.who.int/publications-detail/advice-on-the-use-of-masks-in-the-community-during-home-care-and-in-healthcare-settings-in-the-context-of-the-novel-coronavirus-\(2019-ncov\)-outbreak](http://www.who.int/publications-detail/advice-on-the-use-of-masks-in-the-community-during-home-care-and-in-healthcare-settings-in-the-context-of-the-novel-coronavirus-(2019-ncov)-outbreak)

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)

Includes guidance rights, roles and responsibilities of health workers, health workers exposure risk assessment and management, rational use of PPE and a risk communication package. www.who.int/news-room/detail/09-03-2020-covid-19-occupational-health

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.enonline.net/managementofchildwastinginthecontextofcovid19>

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



Responses. Provides links to UN agencies' responses, food systems, IYCF, school aged children, adults, emergency nutrition responses and articles of interest. www.unscn.org/en/news-events/recent-news?idnews=2039

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://web-prod.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

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 nursing¹ 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.enonline.net/covid19brief2>

***CRITICAL NEW GUIDANCE. WHO. Clinical management of severe acute respiratory infection when COVID-19 infection is suspected (13 March 2020).** Guidance for clinicians caring for hospitalised adult and paediatric patients. Section 13 contains comprehensive breastfeeding and some artificial feeding guidance. [www.who.int/publications-detail/clinical-management-of-severe-acute-respiratory-infection-when-novel-coronavirus-\(ncov\)-infection-is-suspected](http://www.who.int/publications-detail/clinical-management-of-severe-acute-respiratory-infection-when-novel-coronavirus-(ncov)-infection-is-suspected)

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

Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine. Statement on COVID-19. (10 March 2020) www.bfmed.org/abm-statement-coronavirus

International Lactation Consultants Association (ILCA) Statement on Breastfeeding and Lactation Support during the COVID-19 Pandemic. (18 March 2020) <https://lactationmatters.org/2020/03/18/ilca-statement-on-breastfeeding-and-lactation-support-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

La Leche League. Breastfeeding and Coronavirus. Includes media releases, social media material and infographics. <https://www.llli.org/coronavirus-resources/> Available in **French** and **Arabic**.

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

Safely Fed Canada. COVID-19 Resources and Statements Related to Breastfeeding. Comprehensive compilation, including excerpts of guidance. <http://safelyfed.ca/covid19-resources/>

UNICEF. COVID-19: What Parents Should Know. (Accessed 26 March 2020) General information for parents, including precautions families can take to avoid infection and guidance for symptomatic women who are breastfeeding, including recommended precautions to prevent transmission to an infant.
www.unicef.org/stories/novel-coronavirus-outbreak-what-parents-should-know

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Statement on COVID-19 and pregnancy (Published 6 March 2020) Synthesis of evidence on risks for pregnant women as well as preventive measures and supportive therapies recommended. Includes guidance for symptomatic women who are breastfeeding, including recommended precautions to prevent transmission to their infant. www.unfpa.org/press/unfpa-statement-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-and-pregnancy

WFP COVID-19 and Breastfeeding. Version 2 (12 March 2020). Interim guidance. www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/covid-19-breastfeedinginterimguidance_20200311.pdf

WHO. Q&A on COVID-19, pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding. (18 March 2020) <https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-on-covid-19-pregnancy-childbirth-and-breastfeeding>

WHO. Home care for patients with suspected COVID-19 infection presenting with mild symptoms and management of contacts. (Published 17 March 2020) Guidance for public health professions and HCWs on issues related to home care for patients with suspected COVID-19 presenting with mild symptoms. See footnote on p. 2 for breastfeeding guidance.
[www.who.int/publications-detail/home-care-for-patients-with-suspected-novel-coronavirus-\(ncov\)-infection-presenting-with-mild-symptoms-and-management-of-contacts](http://www.who.int/publications-detail/home-care-for-patients-with-suspected-novel-coronavirus-(ncov)-infection-presenting-with-mild-symptoms-and-management-of-contacts)

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 breastmilk: 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.enonline.net/operationalguidance-v3-2017 (available in multiple languages)

WORKPLACE PRECAUTIONS

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

Describes precautions to take to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace, including during meetings. www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/getting-workplace-ready-for-covid-19.pdf

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

GBV Guidelines. COVID-19 resources to address gender-based violence risks. <https://gbvguidelines.org/en/knowledgehub/covid-19/>

WFP. Guidance for cash-based transfers in the context of COVID-19. Operational continuity and field support plan. <https://fscluster.org/coronavirus/document/wfp-guidance-cash-based-transfers-0>

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

Lancet COVID-19 Resource Centre

Compilation of COVID-19 content from across The Lancet journals as it is published. www.thelancet.com/coronavirus

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

A compilation of peer reviewed articles, summarising content and key findings. <http://hopkinshumanitarianhealth.org/empower/advocacy/covid-19/covid-19-children-and-nutrition/>



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

<https://coregroup.org/resources/2019-novel-coronavirus-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

www.unscn.org/en/news-events/recent-news?idnews=2039

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/>