



Government of Samoa
Ministry of Health

COVID-19 EDUCATION TRAINING REPORT

CLINICAL, TTMH-MOTO'OTUA

Time Frame: September 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th 2020

Introduction

Background

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. It spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes, however latest reports from Centre of Disease Control (CDC), given its lengthy presence in the communities, it has strong proven evidence that the virus is airborne.

Most people infected with the COVID-19 virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. Older people and those with underlying medical problems like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, and cancer are more likely to develop serious illness. The best way to prevent and slow down transmission is to be well informed about the COVID-19 virus, the disease it causes and how it spreads. Protect yourself and others from infection by washing your hands with soap and water or using an alcohol based rub frequently and not touching your face.

It has taken the world by storm throughout the duration of this year and is not showing signs of slowing down anytime soon. At the time this report was written, a million people have died and a thousands newly infected. Many countries in the world are suffering since the pandemic occurred and the burden has affected health and non-health workers alike. These life threatening social issues include; physical and mental exhaustion, seclusions from families, financial short comings; unemployment and lives have unfortunately been lost in the process as well.

Samoa together with some other small island nations remain free of COVID-19 cases thanks to the collective work of the government, Ministry of Health specifically the Public Health division, Health Emergency Operation Centre (HEOC) and the Clinical Health management. To sustain awareness, improve preparedness and to increase health employees' knowledge on COVID-19, education and simulations have been in operation to ensure our clinical health service TEAMS are meeting standard guidelines. And we are hoping and praying, this would in the acute and long term, serve the health body of Samoa, battle the corona virus pandemic together with the rest of the world, regardless whether it hits our shores or not.

Education Team

The clinical COVID-19 response team has been divided into two. One team being responsible for simulations while the other was educating hospital multi-teams on what they needed to know about COVID-19, the clinical health plan, infection prevention and control, as well as a mental health preparedness to compact COVID-19 transmission.

COVID-19 Education Committee is made up of a couple of nurses and doctors. We started with a few who were willing to help however the invitation has been sent out to all units and departments for volunteers for sustenance and expansion of the team. Nevertheless, as of now, this team consistent of the following individuals who have volunteered their time and effort to ensure this essential task gets accomplished;

- **Dr Folototo Leavai –Head of Unit (Medical Department)**
- **Dr Cecilia Va'ai-Bartley –Senior Registrar (Anaesthesia/Intensive Care Unit)**
- **Dr Fa'amuamua Arasi –Senior Registrar (Anaesthesia/Intensive Care Unit)**
- **RN Matilda Nofoaiga –Consultant Nurse Specialist (Intensive Care Unit)**
- **RN Falelua Maua –Senior Registered Nurse (Perioperative)**
- **RN Pisaina –Senior Nurse Specialist (Mental Health)**

Weekly Timetable

The sessions were all held twice in the conference room on the 3rd floor [Emergency Department (ED) building] every week on Friday in the month of September. To accommodate for the number of participants, these sessions were delivered in the morning from 9am to 12pm and in the afternoon from 1pm to 3pm. There were four presentations outlined below and each member of the committee was allocated to each of the same content. These were all delivered both in English and in Samoan for a wider spectrum of attention and understanding. Each presentation was timed to a maximum of 30mins however some went over board to ensure important content deliverance. There were a few activities and ice breakers in between sessions to captivate the participants, maintaining the essence being

COVID-19 nevertheless. Also a tea break interval was provided half way through prepared by our committed developmental team.

The content/agenda of the training includes:

- 1) What you need to know about covid-19?*
- 2) TTMH Clinical response to covid-19?*
- 3) Infection and prevention control for covid-19*
- 4) Mental Health preparedness- What service is available in times of crisis?*

All these in the short duration allotted to each, were given a time for discussion and for the participants to share thoughts and comments and questions for further clarification. At the end of each educational seminar, the team had short debriefings for transparency, accountability and also to discuss ways to improve on the talks overall contents.

Participants Overall Response

The content although made brief in consideration of time and attention span, the participants maintained their attention and enthusiasm in the duration of each session. This was coupled with a quite a handful of thought provoking questions and comments in between and at the end of each talks. Some of these questions are enlisted below:

- 1) Should there be more screening sites rather than two?*
- 2) Should there be a covid PATIS that'll automatically identify suspected/confirmed cases and contacts to ease screening timings and prevent false information that could jeopardize preparations and place an entire nation under risk?*
- 3) Shouldn't there be more hospital securities with walkie talkies in hand to enable easier conversations for staff and public safety?*
- 4) How effective are screening sites in identifying covid risk patients and safe guarding the non covid patients and staff?*
- 5) Must hospital staff get screened daily if they enter hospital vicinity through covid screening sites?*

Other COVID-19 Aids/Teaching Materials

To assist the message across the room, there were posters, COVID-19 reading materials and statistics and hospital sewn cloth masks were distributed to all participants to help with visual aids and to support the COVID-19 displays.

CONCLUSION

In spite of a few limitations encountered in the beginning such as unavailability of all the committee members per session due to their consecutive department's patient turnovers, the untimely sessions due to certain delays, the odd hours of the day, the overall team work was great and satisfactory.

We are optimistic within the next few weeks, although there is a slight change of content to the COVID-19 response teams, a lot more on COVID-19 and its updates together with local guidelines in place would be appreciated and develop a wholesome preparedness as we battle this pandemic together. We also believe that team work is most essential in seeing these trainings through as without the input of the health administration, each hospital departments and freeing us to contribute and attend these seminars; this would not have been possible. Fa'afetai tele lava.

Acknowledgements

TTM Clinical Education & Training would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to Daryl Anesi & Ministry of Health Development Team for your support and assistance. Thank you Information Technology team for setting up the laptops and projectors. Last, but not the least, TTM COVID-19 Planning & Preparation team, thank you for your continuous support, encouragement and assistance.

References

- *Health.gov.ws website*
- *Control Disease Center(CDC) website*
- *Worldometer website*
- *World Health Organization website*
- *UptoDate website*

Annex



