

Please address
all correspondence
to the Chief Executive
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Government of Samoa
Ministry of Health

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5th November 2020

Daryl Anesi
Education Team
Ministry of Health

Dear Sir,

RE: COVID -19 PREPAREDNESS SIMULATION TABLETOP EXERCISE ON 3RD NOVEMBER 2020

Please find attached is a brief report including the gap analysis and recommendations for the COVID-19 Table Top Exercise (TTX) conducted on the 3rd November 2020 from 11am-4pm.

INTRODUCTION

As part of our COVID-19 preparations the simulation committee decided to have a combined TTX simulation to bring all the plans including Public Health and Clinical teams together at any one time. The main objective was to identify and strengthen any gaps with the Ministry of Health's preparations with regards to existing guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). Subsequently recommendations and resolutions were developed with an action plan to be implemented in a timely manner by respective departments.

The exercise was a great success with the participation and attendance of the majority of teams especially the non clinical units as well as our partners the World Health Organisation.

OBJECTIVES

1. To examine and strengthen existing plans, procedures and capabilities to manage an imported case of COVID-19
2. To raise awareness and confirm procedures related to the management of a suspected case/s before and after laboratory confirmation
3. To review preparedness for COVID-19 cases with focus on evaluating the critical functions and ability of clinical responses
4. To provide an opportunity to discuss and explore key issues, using a structured scenario loosely based on real life events
5. To help identify any key gaps in preparedness, and ensure continuity of essential health services in the face of a single case vs community transmission
6. Confirm arrangements for notification, coordination and internal communications before and after the confirmation of a COVID-19 case
7. Review plans to clarify lines of accountability (roles & responsibilities) and communication to enable a timely, well-coordinated and effective response

TABLE TOP EXERCISE

SCENARIO #1:

The simulation commenced with the Public Health response to a covid case from a repatriate passenger. A Female 47yrs from Los Angeles (USA) develops FLI

- *cough, shortness of breath, fever, body aches, reduced appetite, diarrhea*
- after 4 days in quarantine at Orator Hotel (Tanumapua)
- Negative test prior to arrival
- Background of COPD & Hypertension
 - Medications: Albuterol & Symbicort, Lisinopril & Amlodipine
- Tested positive by Public Health team

1. PUBLIC HEALTH TEAM RESPONSE

- Re-assessment and testing
- ***Tested positive in quarantine***
- Response if:
 - MILD
 - BP128/74, HR 92/min, SPO2 96% (RA), RR18/min
 - MODERATE-SEVERE:
 - BP 156/95 HR 107/min SPO2 92% (RA) RR 26/min
 - Needing oxygen

2. CLINICAL TEAM RESPONSE

- Referral from PH because patient requires medical care (Moderate-Severe)
- Clinical teams: COVID EMT, Logistics,
- Supportive teams: Laboratory, Biomedical, Logistics and Coordination, Information and Technology
- Non clinical teams: Security, Porters, Medical records, Dietetics, Domestic and Laundry,

SCENARIO #2:

- Mr. TJ, 58 year old presents to APCC with history of being quarantined 3 days ago.
- Developed FLI - dry cough, fevers, generalised body aches after being released.
- Claims had a negative test
- Isolated in APCC: public health respond and ***tested positive for COVID-19***

1. RESPONSE TO: (POSITIVE CASE)

- MILD
- MODERATE-SEVERE

2. PATIENT TRANSFER FROM APCC TO ISO WARD

- Processes (SOP)
- Personnel involved: medical and support teams
- Line of Communication
- Timing of events:
 - AM VS PM?

3. CLINICAL ACTIVATION PLAN

All the teams responded accordingly with their exiting guidelines and SOPs. Each plan were scrutinised by the group and any deficiencies were identified and appropriate recommendations put forth for actioning.

Please find attached for your perusal:

- Gap analysis and resolutions report
- List of participants and Programme
- TTX Power point presentation

NEXT TTX: 10/11/2020

We look forward to working with you all again at our next meeting on the 10th November 2020 where the focus will be on:

1. Welfare of patients and their families
2. Welfare of staff and their families
3. Specialist clinical services for covid-19 patients eg. Surgical, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, ICU, etc
4. National Health surge plans for Community transmission
5. Preparations and plans to maintain the non covid-19 essential services

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank everyone who made the time and participated in this valuable simulation. The success of our preparation and response should we have a covid-19 case is dependent on a collective effort of the Ministry of Health for the Public Health and Clinical Health Services.

Thank you also to your team for the organisation especially the lovely sustenance for the day.

Faafetai tele lava,

Poao Dr. Lamour Hansell
For Simulation committee