**Faculty COVID steering committee update**

10.11.2020

The Dean

Faculty of Medicine

Dear Sir

**Re. Update on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for medical students engaging in clinical appointments**

To mitigate personal risk of COVID infection as we suggested earlier, the students should be wearing the following PPE.

1. Surgical face mask – to prevent respiratory droplet infection
2. Face shield OR Goggles – to prevent splashing of secretions onto mucous membranes
3. Polythene or cloth material overall – to prevent contamination with secretions.
4. Gloves – to prevent contamination and spread of infection hands. Though gloves are worn, washing with alcohol sanitizer is essential after every patient encounter. If gloves are not used, students need to wash hands with soap and water after every patient encounter in the WHO recommended manner.

Additional protection with an N95 mask is required if the student in in close proximity to a patient having an aerosol generating procedure. Common aerosol generating procedures encountered in the wards are,

1. Nebuliser treatment
2. Mechanical ventilation including CPAP or BiPAP
3. Endotracheal intubation
4. Airway suction
5. Chest physiotherapy

Students should, in addition to routine protection, should either

1. Wear a N95 mask OR

2. Avoid being in the close proximity to patient if they are only wearing a surgical mask.

I shall be grateful if you could take suitable measures to disseminate this information among students and academic staff members.

The Ministry of Health guideline on “Screening and management of healthcare workers following exposure to a suspected of confirmed COVID19 patient” provides an excellent insight about the risk assessment process after exposure and what pre-emptive protective measures could make close contact with a COVID patient a “low risk” exposure. This guideline is also attached for dissemination.

Thank you



Dr Arosha Dissanayake

Faculty medical Officer and Chairperson of Faculty COVID steering committee