

14 May 2020

Community Pharmacy Guidance During COVID-19

This guidance Summarizes the most important international safety aspects to minimize the risk of exposure during COVID-19 pandemic. Applies to all community pharmacy staff and patients/visitors

Face Covering

Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians should always wear a facemask while they are in the pharmacy.



Hand Hygiene

Staff should use Hand washing facility and/or alcohol-Based Hand sanitizer with at least 60% ethyl alcohol or isopropyl alcohol 70% to disinfect hands to be used after attending to each patient/visitor and provide easy access to sanitizers to all customers

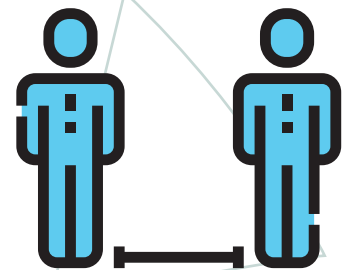


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Pharmacy access and physical distancing measures

- Use signage and floor markers to make sure that each patient \ customer remain (1.8 m) away from the pharmacy customer and next customer.
- Limit the number of customers in the pharmacy to maintain those measures
- To protect from droplets pharmacy may install a section of clear plastic at the customer contact area to provide barrier protection (e.g., Plexiglas type material or clear plastic sheet).



Prescription filling

The pharmacy should develop procedures to avoid handling paper prescriptions, insurance and payment cards if not possible a proper hand hygiene should be done after each handling



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Adjusting Services

Discontinue the use of magazines and other shared items in the pharmacy.

Pharmacy staff close-contact patient care procedures (e.g. vaccination, blood glucose test) should be provided with appropriate PPE.

Pharmacy should assess risk versus benefits from the services and readjust accordingly .

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Advices and Cautions to Patients

- Avoid unnecessary long stays in the pharmacy.
- Where possible, order your medication through online services.
- Avoid touching products in the pharmacy.
- Everyone entering the pharmacy should wear a face covering (Cloth, or face mask)

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References Apply to all

1. Guidance for Pharmacies. (2020, April 14). Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/pharmacies.html>

2. FIP: COVID-19: GUIDELINES FOR PHARMACISTS AND THE PHARMACY WORKFORCE (PDF). (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://bsac.org.uk/covid19-resources/fip-covid-19-guidelines-for-pharmacists-and-the-pharmacy-workforce-pdf/>