

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
GUYANA

**PHASED APPROACH TO REOPENING**

**Background**

In March 2020 Guyana along with many countries in the region of the Americas and globally stated to experience the outbreak of the 2019 novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus which originated in China in 2019. The World Health Organization (WHO) on the 12 March 2020 declared this outbreak the first pandemic to affect the world in the new millennium.

Since then Guyana recorded 248 active cases with 12 deaths in 8 of the ten administrative regions across the country. Additionally measures varying from hygiene measures, social distancing restrictions of movement through a curfew and the closure of all schools and official points of entry. Several non-essential services were also closed to avoid rapid community transmission and spread to vulnerable populations including the elderly and children.

**General Measures**

1. Clients/Workers - Practice good hygiene

- Wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer, on entering the facility, after touching frequently used items or surfaces, after using rest-rooms or before removing masks and eating.
- Avoid touching your face at all times once you are out of your home.
- Cough/sneeze into a tissue and immediately discard safely or into the inside of your elbow/sleeves.

DRAFT

- Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.
- Use non-medical face coverings(mask) while in public, especially in circumstances that do not readily allow for appropriate physical distancing (barber shop, hair, nails and beauty salons, grocery/retail stores, pharmacies, public transportation, public office and public space).
- Persons at high risk is advised to take extra care when accessing any of these services.

2. Employer/Facilities - Implement appropriate policies as defined by NTF/MOPH and local regulatory authorities and informed by industry best practices, regarding:

- Social distancing (3feet apart between staff and between staff and clients for more than 90% of time in the facility) Markers may be placed on floors and seating to ensure this measure is observed with least discomfort. A member of management/supervisor can be designated as a social distancing monitor to ensure the measure is complied with
- Protective equipment - where possible physical shields can be constructed to reduce direct droplet spread especially for receptionist/cashier or check out. Staff must be provided with a face mask/face shield and gloves. These must be used in accordance with guidelines
- Temperature checks and/or symptom screening on entry will be desirable
- Collaborate with public health on testing, isolating, and contact tracing
- Sanitation between each client of all surfaces that contact was made with (chairs, handstands, head rest). Clean client gown,

DRAFT

drapes and covers must be provided , avoid re-using these items without proper cleaning

- Use and disinfection of common and high-traffic areas
- Designate a special day/time for elderly and other persons at high risk. Social distancing should be extending to at least 6 feet for high risk persons.
- Monitor workforce for indicative symptoms. Do not allow people with symptoms of COVID-19 to work.
- Collaborate with public health when implementing policies and procedures for workforce contact tracing following an employee COVID+ test.

**PHASE ZERO: All none essential services and business remain closed. Only access to essential services (food, security, social relief financial and health care services) allowed**

**PHASE ONE:** Selected none essential services resumed, lifting the Stay-at-Home order to allow for some activities, special attendance of students to school for examination, some lodging and hotel allowed to operate with control measure in place, community transport services to allow for persons provide these phase one opening,

**PHASE TWO Reopening:** Food establishment (restaurants, bakeries, cook shop, fruits and vegetable vending) Beverage shops (off licence take away beverage store) hardware and services providers, transportation (bus, tax, speed boats, light aircraft to hinterland locations), physical exercise public open spaces, selected educational and practical training centers (health/medical), control funerals/cremations, social support services. Selected international flight for repatriation of Nationals, diplomats and service providers.

DRAFT

- Gatherings may expand to 10 persons. For guidance on event planning
- Vulnerable populations should continue to follow stay home guidance.
- Gyms / pools / hot tubs remain closed
- In addition to houses of worship, other places of assembly can become operational under the group size restrictions and physical distancing guidelines in this phase. Virtual worship encouraged
- If you are planning an event with more than 10 people, you should consult with the National Task and the local Health Department on a plan to implement and maintain adequate social distancing for special permission.

**PHASE THREE:** Limit on group size to no more than 50 persons.

Selected educational institution for preparation and examination, skill and practical training, controlled vending of persons supplies footwear and clothing,

PHASE FOUR: Vulnerable populations can resume public interactions, tourism and social functions, but should practice physical distancing, and continue to take precautionary measures.

PHASE FIVE: Full reopening and recreational activities. Some control measure may still be needed.

Submitted by:  
Dr. Shamdeo Persaud  
Chief Medical Officer

CMO, Guyana  
July 2020