



COVID-19 Weekly Bulletin

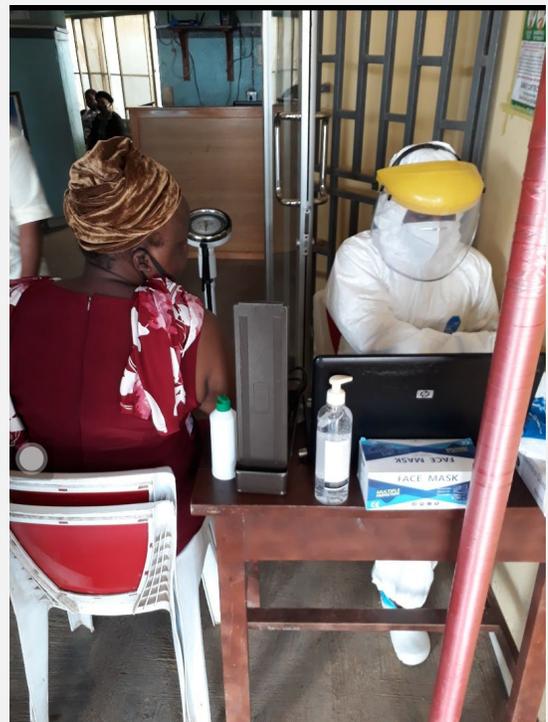
Training staff to cut infections

Health facilities are reporting more infections among their staff members. While some of these infections have happened outside of the hospital setting, there are many others that have happened at work. It is for this reason that staff training has become increasingly important.

All the CHAs within the IMA/ACHAP project have engaged in staff training to ensure that they handle patients safely. They have also been trained on personal hygiene as well as how to use the various PPE they have received. As times goes by, there is a likelihood of staff becoming more complacent, in the same way the general population has started to slowly flout measures put in place to control the virus. The unfortunate case at PCEA Kikuyu Hospital described in the previous bulletin illustrates the need for continued training of staff to ensure they handle patients safely from the moment they come in to when they leave, at all times. CBCHS's Eugene Foyeth had also earlier noted that some of the staff infections in Cameroon were due to slip-ups in the handling of suspect cases.

In Ghana, CHAG is currently undertaking massive training for health workers following an increase in the number of infections among them. "From the reports sent to the secretariat, three facilities have recorded 20 staff infections each," noted James Duah. He went on to add that a total of 993 staff members in 324 facilities are receiving IPC training, 400 of them face to face and the rest virtually. Kenya's CHAK continues to conduct these IPC trainings virtually, with the trained staff expected to cascade what they have learned to their colleagues.

On its part, the UPMB has been conducting simulations at various facilities on Covid-19 containment measures. These have included the handling and disposal of used PPE. Such simulations have also been conducted by CHAN previously. The Brigham University Teaching Hospital under CHAN recently held an IPC training for its cleaners, security guards and other casual workers. "The training exposed widespread



A nurse at Rufina Catholic Medical Centre in Nigeria taking a patient's vitals upon arrival.

myths on COVID-19, but participants were sensitized,” said Kelechi Utoware, who added that those who were trained are expected to educate their peers.

Continuous training of staff will help to reduce or avoid infections among them, meaning we have them available to help in the fight against the virus. The example set by the hospital in Nigeria to train non-medical staff may also be worth emulating.



A screen grab from a UPMB video showing a simulation of how to handle PPE removal and disposal by staff.

Summary of cases and actions taken per country

Cameroon

CBCHS response:

- Disinfection of hospitals and offices.
- Training of staff on appropriate use of PPE including masks.
- Took measures to encourage patients with chronic disease visit hospitals to receive treatment.
- Messages reach: 10 health workers; 10 faith leaders, 15 CHVs and 5 HFs pushed messages to CHVs.

Government response:

- Patients have been advised to stop avoiding visiting hospitals for treatment of other illnesses.

Nigeria

CHAN response:

- Accelerating infections have pushed facilities to the brink, but CHAN continues to encourage members to soldier on even as it looks for more funding to support them.
- Messages reach: 78 health workers; 50 faith leaders, 145 CHVs and 5 HFs pushed messages to CHVs.

Government response:

- With lockdown easing, most of the activities of the NCDC have been transferred to the states. NCDC will only handle extreme situations.

Ghana

CHAG response:

- IPC training for 993 staff in the health facilities.
- More staff members continue to get infected, with 60 of them in three hospitals recently reported to be infected.
- One medical superintendent passed on due to Covid-19.

Government response:

- Learning institutions to be opened in phases.
- Health minister has been infected. Questions have arisen on whether he has not been following guidelines to prevent infection. He has also been criticized for initially hiding his status.

Uganda

UPMB response:

- Conducting simulations at various hospitals as part of staff training.

DRC

Caritas Congo response:

- Ensuring hand washing installations are used and enforcing wearing of masks by staff and patients at facilities. This is helping to spread the message on Covid-19 protection to the community.
- A doctor at King Baudouin I Hospital who tested positive and has recovered is sharing her experience with other staff and members of the community.
- Messages reach: 6 health workers; 4 faith leaders, 5 CHVs and 5 HFs pushed messages to CHVs.

Government response:

- There is a new outbreak of Ebola in the country.
- Control measures reinforced at Kinshasa entry points.

Kindly share experiences and responses through email on communications@afriachap.org or via WhatsApp on +254726797558.