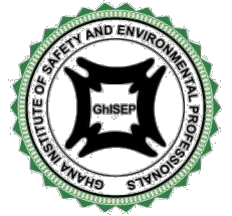


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To: All Media-Houses

State Institutions
General Public

GhISEP

Ghana Institute of Safety &
Environmental Professionals

PRESS STATEMENT

GhISEP ADVISES EMPLOYERS ON COVID-19

The Ghana Institute of Safety and Environmental Professionals (GhISEP), as the sole Health, Safety and Environmental (HSE) Professional Body has observed the growing spread of COVID-19 in Ghana, and the World as a whole.

In order to limit the spread to prevent severe situations as seen in other badly affected countries, our Occupational Health experts recommend the following:

1. As much as is reasonably practicable, workplaces should make arrangements for workers to work from home or rotate employees. This should be done in a way as to not to jeopardize the safety of current work processes and activities.
2. As much as is reasonably practicable, meetings with customers, clients, contractors and other external stakeholders should be by teleconferencing instead of physical meetings.
3. As much as reasonably practicable, cross-training of employees should occur, especially in areas key to day-to-day operations and safety. This will enable the roles of a sick employee to be taken over by others until recovery to enable business continuity. Such training ideally should be conducted online to minimize contact.
4. At entrances to work premises, the following should be done for anyone who wants to enter, if reasonably practicable:
 - A. Temperature checked with non-contact infrared thermometer to detect a fever of $\geq 38.0^{\circ}\text{C}$.
 - B. Asked if they have been in, or had contact with someone who had been to a country with COVID-19, or have come into contact with someone with COVID-19
 - C. Asked if they have the following symptoms:
 - Fever (Temp $\geq 38.0^{\circ}\text{C}$)
 - Cough
 - Sore Throat
 - Difficulty Breathing

If any from A, B and C are found present, the person to be informed of possibility of having COVID-19, given the hotline numbers to call and asked to proceed home. Such an individual should not be allowed into the premises

5. All individuals whether at work, at home, or any location in-between should observe the following:

- Regularly and thoroughly clean hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water.
- Maintain at least 2 meters (6 feet) distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.
- Make sure to follow good respiratory hygiene. This means covering of the mouth and nose with a bent elbow or tissue when coughing or sneezing. Then disposal of the used tissue immediately, followed by hand washing or use of hand sanitizer
- Stay home if feeling unwell. If a fever, cough and difficulty breathing develops, to seek medical attention and call in advance to inform medical provider of symptoms

6. Public transport, including “trotros” should reduce the number of passengers carried as much as is reasonably practicable. We recommend at least halving the number of passengers to reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19. With more people working from home and adhering to the restrictions on large gatherings, we expect the number of passengers needing transportation to reduce and hence this measure should not adversely cause hardship to passengers in terms of waiting times and available vehicles. Understandably this will reduce profit, but internationally all industries are undergoing financial loss by taking measures to limit the spread.

7. Immediate suspension of the use of motorcycles, tricycles, mahama camboo, pragia and others for carrying passengers. These modes of transportation involve very close contact and suspension of use will reduce potential community transmission.

It has also come to our attention that price of hand sanitizers has risen exponentially, making it difficult to afford. We urge all manufacturers and distributors not to view this time as a profit, but rather as a chance to help stem the spread of this virus.

Community spread means if people are not protected, we are all at an increased risk. We urge that as much as possible prices be reduced to as low as is reasonably practicable. We also wish to remind the public that hand washing is both cheaper and more effective than hand sanitizer use.

There is a disturbing trend of expatriates being stigmatized due to fear of contracting COVID-19. We urge the immediate cessation of all stigmatization, both of expatriates and locals, as this will promote underreporting to the detriment of us all. Anyone suspected of having, or diagnosed with COVID-19 should be treated with empathy and compassion. This virus is no respecter of race, social status or sex. It can affect anyone and hence we should be united in this fight against it.

Let us stay calm, follow the advice of local and international public health agencies, and do our part to prevent further spread of COVID-19.

Our Occupational Health experts are available for any assistance the Nation will require.

Thank you and God bless Ghana.

Signed

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