

ISDELL:FLOWERS MALARIA INITIATIVE

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FOUNDATION

Isdell:Flowers Cross Border Malaria Initiative

Tailoring malaria interventions during the COVID-19 pandemic

This document was released on 2 May 2020, based on existing scientific understanding and global guidance, and will be updated as additional information becomes available.

Goals:

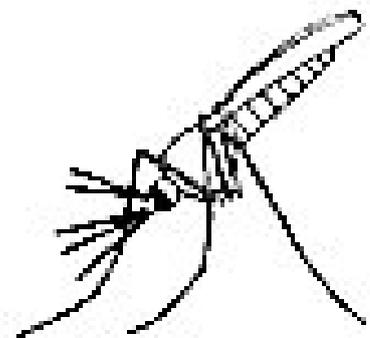


1. Protect the safety of staff and volunteers

While working to reduce the impact of malaria, we must also ensure that we take appropriate precautions to keep the novel coronavirus from spreading to our staff, volunteers, and the communities in which they work.

2. Maintain malaria control and elimination efforts

The World Health Organization (WHO) warns that if malaria prevention, diagnosis, and treatment strategies are reduced in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of malaria deaths could double or even triple.¹



¹ World Health Organization. (23 April 2020). The potential impact of health service disruptions on the burden of malaria: A modelling analysis for countries in sub-Saharan Africa Retrieved from <https://www.who.int/publications-detail/the-potential-impact-of-health-service-disruptions-on-the-burden-of-malaria>

Guidelines for maintaining malaria efforts while protecting the safety of staff and volunteers:

1. Government coordination
 - a. All anti-malarial activities will be done in coordination with the government, observing local guidelines.
 2. Knowledge base
 - a. All staff and volunteers will receive good training on the novel coronavirus/ COVID-19, and its prevention, through teaching done by staff from the local government Health Departments and IFCBMI staff.
 3. Physical distancing
 - a. No group meetings will be held or encouraged.
 - b. Any small essential meetings will be held outside, people will sit two metres away from one another, and meetings will be kept as short as possible.
 - c. All household visits will be done outside, with no handshaking.
 4. Personal protective equipment (PPE)
 - a. Staff and volunteers will wear face coverings in public.
 - b. When a malaria test is conducted, staff and volunteers will wear gloves (in addition to their face covering).
 - c. When a malaria test is conducted, the person being tested for malaria will wear a face covering. (The most important use of face coverings is by those with COVID-19, and a patient who is febrile or coughing is more likely to have COVID-19 than someone with no symptoms.)
- Note: Mass testing campaigns initiated by the Isdell:Flowers Cross Border Malaria Initiative will be put on hold. Malaria tests will only be done for patients with symptoms and those who live near people who test positive (where this is local policy).*
5. Handwashing
 - a. Handwashing will be encouraged and modelled by staff and volunteers. Volunteers will wash their hands upon leaving any household visit, including those in which malaria tests were not conducted. Where possible, soap will be left with the household for their use. Physical distancing must occur during handwashing.²
 6. Actively support government net distribution and IRS campaigns
 - a. Isdell:Flowers staff and volunteers will work with National Malaria Control Programmes to facilitate community work that allows Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) and mass distribution of nets to continue as planned.
 7. Additional precautions
 - a. Isdell:Flowers volunteers may choose to pause their activities until after COVID-19, at which point they may resume as normal.
 - b. Once there is evidence of local community transmission of COVID-19, those at higher risk (due to age or underlying health conditions) must take a pause in their service.
 - c. Once there is evidence of local community transmission of COVID-19, all volunteers will sign documentation affirming their understanding of risks of COVID-19.

² In emergencies where soap and water are not available, sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol can help destroy viruses and can be used instead.