

# **Covid related Child Protection Guidelines**

**June 2020**

**The Concerned for Working Children**

[www.concernedforworkingchildren.org](http://www.concernedforworkingchildren.org)

# Covid related Child Protection Guidelines

During a pandemic like Covid, physical as well as psychological well-being of children needs care and attention. This document contains:

## I. Guidelines for:

- **Preventive Care: for Namma Bhoomi and Field Programmes**
- **Preparations for quarantine: for Namma Bhoomi and Field Programmes**
- **Quarantine: for Namma Bhoomi and Field Programmes**

## II. Guidelines for:

- **Namma Angadi (outlets, exhibitions and sales)**
- **CWC's offices**

I

### **Preventive Care: for Namma Bhoomi and Field Programmes**

#### Physical care:

- Share with children the latest updates related to Covid and periodically refresh their knowledge about the nature of the virus, symptoms of the infection and medical advice given by valid sources.
- With children, develop guidelines for good practices including how to best manage 'physical distancing'.
- Explain to children the need to keep localities clean, to not spit in public spaces, to manage waste effectively and to fill/drain out stagnant water because these are a good breeding ground for many infections.
- Stress on the need to build immunity and strength so that infections – including Covid can be kept at bay and/or recovered easily from.
- Warn them about fake news and rumours related to cures for Covid being circulated on social media so that they do not fall prey to them.

It is FALSE that:

1. The virus attacks only old people and children; and spares young people
2. The virus is transmitted through pets and people should abandon their pets
3. The use of mouthwash, antibiotics, cigarettes, and liquor with high alcohol can kill COVID-19
4. Going outside in the sun, can prevent you from getting infected with corona virus
5. All food items are contaminated and will spread the corona virus
6. There is no need to worry as Indians have higher immunity and are exposed to many diseases than people in the western countries
7. Corona virus does not survive in warm/hot weather
8. Once infected and cured of Covid, a person does not get infected again

Psychological care:

- Give children confidence and courage; motivate them to follow all safe guards to keep themselves and their friends safe and strong.
- Find out what concerns they have, regarding themselves and their families in relation to Covid or any other issues. If there is anyway CWC can support them, let us act on it.
- In case of infections in their own communities or families, support them to deal with those, systematically and carefully. Help them to not panic and to remain calm.
- At present there is a lot of social stigma attached to 'being Covid positive'. Work closely with children and communities to make sure they treat those tested positive to Covid, with empathy and in a dignified manner. Explain to them the need to interact with those who are Covid positive in a friendly manner, yet to ensure physical distance from them to safe guard themselves.
- Help them to make simple posters, songs, rangolis or plays about how to prevent spread of Covid, to reinforce their understanding. They can share these with each other. Try out games like the Covid - Snake and Ladder Game (attached) an example of how learning and fun can be combined.
- Encourage them to be engaged in different activities and to not be engrossed all the time in Covid related news or discussions.

Practical information:

- In CWC's visitors' protocols, include maintenance of physical distancing, use of face masks, use of sanitizers and temperature test as mandatory.
- Publicise the CWC 'helpline' numbers for children to contact CWC for any support they may require.

- Remain attentive to psychological state of children and provide them in-house counseling or external help as required. Share help-line details with them.
- Continue to work with children on safety from risk, in anticipation of potential future waves of the pandemic.
- Plan for recreation by keeping adequate supplies of crayons, paints, clay, colouring books, arts and craft materials, activity books/sheets, to aid children to relax, learn and be creatively active. CWC's Makkala Toofan programmes may be shared and discussed with children.
- Discuss with them the possible outcomes of Covid such as food scarcity, loss of livelihoods and pressure on the local governments to respond to the situation, Plan how they can be involved, in their own communities to address this.
- Work closely with Bhima Sanghas, Makkala Sanghas, Makkala Mitras and Mahila Mitras on all of these.

#### **Additional points for Namma Bhoomi**

- Conduct regular physical and psychological health assessments.
- Encourage frequent hand washing of children and Team CWC
- Keep required stock of basic medicines and thermometer in the clinic on campus. Put up Phone numbers for Ambulance service and emergency doctors' consultations on the notice boards for easy access.
- Keep the Department of Women and Child Welfare updated, as requested by them.
- Ensure sufficient quantities of nutritional food (including vegetables and fruits grown on the campus), drinking water, groceries, Listerine, disinfectants such as bleach, or alcohol based disinfectants, liquid soap, menstrual hygiene products, protective clothing, quality face masks and other basic necessities.
- Support children to grow vegetables and greens in the campus for nutritional and healthy food.

#### **Additional points for Field Programmes**

- Monitor the situation of children who may be at increased risk of infection, violence, abuse and neglect, such as children with disabilities, chronic illnesses, and children with family or household members who have been infected.
- Consider psychosocial interventions, including working with Sanghas for community-based, home-based, peer-to-peer and one-on-one support.
- Be alert to possibilities of increased domestic and child abuse at homes; and to child marriages. Have frank discussions with children and with members of the community regarding these and measures to prevent them.
- Work closely with grama panchayats and concerned officials to help children get the support required by them or their families.
- Where ever possible, be actively involved in the Panchayat Task Force's work.
- Collaborate with other organisations working with women, MGNREGA Workers, persons with disabilities

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preventive health measures such as drinking warm water, use of ginger, pepper and lemon in cooking and in drinks to be increased.</li> <li>• Have an interesting routine planned. Children feel a sense of comfort in that. Include physical exercises, fun as well as engaging learning sessions.</li> <li>• Help children to keep regular contact with their families and other service providers (like counselors) through audio-visual media.</li> <li>• Include vocational education courses that have good demand in the present situation and in the immediate future.</li> <li>• Include Covid safeguards in the academic education as well as professional education programmes. Identify specific safety guidelines relevant for each vocation and include them in the curriculum as well.</li> <li>• Encourage them to make masks and donate/sell them as part of their Community Service and outreach.</li> </ul>	<p>etc so that protection concerns that are common to all these constituencies can be collectively raised and resolved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interesting programmes like these: <a href="https://www.savethechildren.net/news/covid-19-camel-library-takes-remote-learning-new-levels">https://www.savethechildren.net/news/covid-19-camel-library-takes-remote-learning-new-levels</a>- are helping children in remote communities to access story books and study books. Consider this kind of support for children in remote communities.</li> </ul>
--	---

<b>Preparations for quarantine for Namma Bhoomi and Field Programmes</b>
<p><u>Physical care:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If children show symptoms of cold, cough, fever or any other conditions that require testing, ensure they have easy access to external medical care.</li> <li>• Share with them information related home remedies to cold, cough, fever and fatigue</li> <li>• Explain to them the Covid testing method.</li> <li>• Explain to children why is there need to retain physical distancing from the time there are early symptoms.</li> </ul> <p><u>Psychological care:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform children about the period of recovery and motivate them to remain confident.</li> </ul>

<p><u>Practical information:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide children with access to Covid related helplines and emergency services numbers. Explain to them how the Aptamitra App works and how to make use of it, if required.</li> <li>• Make them aware of the steps required if found positive and where they can get medical help.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Additional points for Namma Bhoomi</b></p>	<p><b>Additional points for Field Programmes</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep a hospital bag ready with materials a child is likely to need, should the child require hospitalisation at short notice.( for example, change of clothes, toiletries and medicines).</li> <li>• Identify beforehand who are the adults (from child’s family or from CWC) who will support children during hospitalisation.</li> <li>• Update children’s emergency contact information. This will make identifying the appropriate family members, if any, easy. If a child needs to be quarantined their support could be very helpful.</li> <li>• Identify a room or space where children or staff who fall ill can be cared for, separate from those who are well, in advance. Explain to children why they need to use specific bathrooms if they have Covid symptoms.</li> <li>• Ensure adequate supply of medicines and nutritional supplements such as zinc containing multivitamins and Vitamin C food supplements which could be given daily to children to reduce the chances of them catching the common cold.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check if there are adequate quarantine facilities available in the community. If not, bring it to the notice of the Panchayat and ensure that.</li> <li>• Ensure the facilities have all the basic requirements to care for its occupants.</li> <li>• Ensure they are safe, especially for children, women, persons with disabilities and the elderly.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Quarantine: for Namma Bhoomi and Field Programmes</b></p>
<p><u>Physical Care:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make sure the basic needs of children are met and they have good medical guidance.</li> </ul>

- Monitor children’s medical prognosis. Ensure they are getting the care required. If any child requires hospitalisation, get speedy medical guidance on how to proceed.
- In case they require intensive medical intervention, where applicable, involve the family and their support for the child.
- Take a second opinion if major medical interventions are required for the child. Proceed based on sound advice with active involvement of parents/guardians, if any.

Psychological Care:

- Plan for recreation for children in quarantine to keep them positive and cheerful.
- Work closely with children and communities to not let this affect them emotionally and to not let the stigma they may face affect them negatively.
- Involve children in identifying recovery priorities. Find out how children wish to be involved in their own recovery and support them.

Practical information:

- If the parents of any child are in quarantine – plans should be drawn up for where the child/children may be cared for – could be under the care of extended family (kinship care) or with a local fit institution like Namma bhoomi.

<b>Additional points for Namma Bhoomi</b>	<b>Additional points for Field Programmes</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Separate sick children and staff from those who are well, explaining to both the reasons for it.</li> <li>• Keep children in contact with counsellors, during quarantine. Both children who are infected and those who are not require access to this service.</li> <li>• Keep children in quarantine cheerful, relaxed and positive. Include indoor games and activities as part of their daily schedule. If they are up to it, include academic work and exercises.</li> <li>• On campus, keep adequate supplies of crayons, paints, clay, colouring books, arts and craft materials, activity books/sheets, to aid children to relax, learn and be creatively active.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During quarantine and self-isolation, monitor the needs of the children and their families in the community.</li> <li>• Coordinate with local governments to ensure they are provided for.</li> </ul>

## II

### **Namma Angadi (Outlets, exhibitions and sales)**

- For Namma Angadi, have a hand out related to Covid related safeguards along with a list of Covid-safety related products available for sale in Namma Angadi. Make this available to the customers before they enter Namma Angadi.
- Ensure customers of Namma Angadi maintain physical distancing. Ensure they use sanitizers prior to entry and retain face masks while at Namma Angadi.
- Ensure physical distancing of team members, use of masks and of regular disinfection of hands & surfaces at offices and at Namma Angadi. Make sanitizers available in multiple places within the office with easy reach.

### **CWC's offices**

- Ensure all members of Team CWC, CWC's service providers and visitors are informed about Covid related safeguarding measures.
- All Team CWC members must ensure that Covid related child protection safeguards are adhered to. It is important for Team CWC members to small containers for sanitizers with them for use when out of office.
- Guide team members to follow all personal care and hygiene to reduce their chances of getting infected and of carrying the infection into the communities. In case they present symptoms that indicate a potential infection, encourage testing and if positive, to self-quarantine either at home or in hospital care as required.
- Support family members of Team CWC, in quarantine, if required.
- Consider the duration of medically required/prescribed quarantine as 'on duty'.
- If any member of Team CWC violates these Guidelines, ensure their line managers take appropriate disciplinary action.

### ***Resources***

Enfold (2020): Guidelines for Child Care Institutions under the Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2015 in the Context of COVID-19.  
[https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/node/17089/pdf/save\\_the\\_childrens\\_covid-19\\_program\\_framework\\_and\\_guidance\\_-\\_version\\_2.0.pdf](https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/node/17089/pdf/save_the_childrens_covid-19_program_framework_and_guidance_-_version_2.0.pdf)  
[https://alliancecpha.org/en/system/tdf/library/attachments/cp\\_during\\_ido\\_guide\\_0.pdf?file=1&type=node&id=3018](https://alliancecpha.org/en/system/tdf/library/attachments/cp_during_ido_guide_0.pdf?file=1&type=node&id=3018)  
[https://www.wvi.org/sites/default/files/2020-06/World%20Vision%20COVID-19%20CP%20Policy%20Brief\\_20200608\\_fnl.pdf](https://www.wvi.org/sites/default/files/2020-06/World%20Vision%20COVID-19%20CP%20Policy%20Brief_20200608_fnl.pdf)  
<https://www.unicef.org/india/media/3401/file/PSS-COVID19-Manual-ChildLine.pdf>



Save the Children (2020). Save the Children's COVID-19 Program Framework and Guidance.

The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action. Guidance Note: Protection of Children during infection disease outbreaks UNFPA (2020). Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Preparedness and Response UNFPA Interim Technical Brief .

World Vision (2020). COVID-19 & Children Protection in Fragile and Humanitarian Context.