

PREVCOVID-BR NEWSLETTER!

TECHNICAL NOTE GVIMS/GGTES/ANVISA N° 04/2020

Main Updates

ARTICLE Luciane Simões Duarte

Technical Note GVIMS/GGTES/ANVISA No. 04/2020 entitled "Guidelines for Health Services: prevention and control measures that should be adopted during care of suspected or confirmed cases of new coronavirus infection (SARS-CoV-2)" was published on January 30, 2020 and updated on February 25, 2021. This note defines minimum guidelines, but health services can adopt more rigorous prevention and control actions, since provided they are based on scientific evidence.

The 12th edition of the PREVCOVID-BR bulletin highlights the following updates: 1) Inclusion of other non-specific or atypical symptoms of COVID-19; 2) Guidance on SARS-CoV-2 variants existing in Brazil; 3) Reinfection; and 4) Prevention and control measures in health services.

Included in the observation of suggestive signs and symptoms were: headache (cephalea), coryza, gastrointestinal symptoms other than diarrhea, partial or complete loss of smell (hyposmia/anosmia), and decreased or complete loss of taste (hypogeusia/ageusia). They warn that the elderly may present different signs and symptoms than younger populations; for example, not presenting with fever, evolving with hypothermia, mental confusion, or presenting with falls from their own height. This information is important because it alerts health professionals to recognize cases of SARS-CoV-2 infection that present infrequent signs or symptoms.

In Brazil, the variant VOC 202012/01, lineage B.1.1.7 (United Kingdom), and the variant 501Y.V2, lineage B.1.351 (Republic of South Africa) have already

been detected. There is also a new variant from Brazil that is being called variant P.1. These three variants are considered "variants of concern" (VOC) due to mutations in the Spike protein, which is related to the entry of the virus into cells, which may increase transmissibility and worsen the epidemiological situation in the areas where they have been detected. There is still much to study about these variants, about the clinical differences, the potential for reinfection and to affect treatment, and the effectiveness of vaccines.

As for reinfection, according to the Brazilian Ministry of Health, it is defined as the presence of two positive RT-PCR results for the SARS-CoV-2 virus, with an interval of 90 days or more between the two episodes of respiratory infection. Thus, this definition excludes the possibility of a persistent viral infection. There are still many assumptions about the subject, for example cases of reinfection may be the result of limited and transient protective immunity from the first infection, or they may reflect the virus' ability to reinfect by evading previous immune responses.

Regarding prevention and control measures in health services, the new guidelines are for all professionals to use surgical mask. Thus, all professionals who work in care areas or in direct contact (less than 1 meter) with patients should use a surgical mask. However, the recommendation remains that during the performance of procedures potentially generating aerosols, professionals should use the mask N95/PFF2/ or equivalent. The cloth mask can be used in the administrative areas of health services only, provided that the professionals do not have contact with patients. About the placement of the surgical mask, it is reinforced the need to fit the mask well to the face, with

the suggestion of tying a knot in the straps behind the ears, to minimize the gaps between the mask and the face.

The Technical Note reinforces stricter care regarding respiratory symptoms of patients, visitors/accompanying persons during the entire health care, from arrival to care. There is a need to question whether patients have respiratory symptoms at the time of scheduling outpatient appointments. If the patient is positive for symptoms, the patient should be advised to extend the appointment date to at least 10 days after the onset of symptoms. However, if the patient reports any symptoms that may indicate severity, he or she should be advised to seek emergency medical attention. However, if it is not possible to postpone the outpatient appointment for a patient with symptoms of respiratory infection, it is recommended to schedule the appointment at an exclusive time (the last hour of the day), use a surgical mask, social distancing, and hand hygiene. In addition, after seeing this patient, the office and waiting room must be sanitized.

Technical Note GVIMS/GGTES/ANVISA N° 04/2020 - REVISED ON 02/25/2021:

https://www.gov.br/anvisa/pt-br/centraisdeconteudo/publicacoes/servicosdesaude/notas-tecnicas/nota-tecnica-gvims_ggtes_anvisa-04_2020-25-02-para-o-site.pdf/view

PREVCOVID-BR WEBINAR DIALOGUES OF PRACTICE

ARTICLE Giulia M. Mainardi

This March, the first session of the webinar "Dialogues of the Practice" will take place this year 2021. The topics to be addressed in this session will be the current recommendations for the use of face masks; the main changes that were made in the update of 25/02/2021 of technical note 04/2020 of the

National Health Surveillance Agency; and presentations, by professionals from the sectors of the Hospital Infection Control Committee (HICC), on the progress made in the improvement plans of two hospitals participating in the project. To compose the panel of debaters, we will count on the participation of professionals from Anvisa and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC-USA).

New themes and proposals for debate on strategies to confront COVID-19 will be presented monthly in these virtual meetings of the "Dialogues of Practice" series.

See the box below for more information about this month's session.

Date and Time	Themes
03/25/2021 15:00 - 16:30 (Brasilia time)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Summary of current recommendations on the use of face masks (International Speaker). ➤ Main changes in the technical note entitled "Guidelines for health services: prevention and control measures that should be adopted during assistance to suspected or confirmed cases of new coronavirus infection (SARS-CoV-2) - updated on 25/02/2021- GVIMS/GGTES/Anvisa n° 04/2020, (Lecturer Lilian de Souza Barros, Anvisa). ➤ Improvement Plan: progress achieved at Vila Alpina State Hospital ➤ Improvement Plan: progress achieved at Hospital and Emergency Room João Lúcio.

We look forward to your presence and participation!

Coordination: School of Nursing of University of São Paulo. Email: prevcovid@usp.br