

PREVCOVID-BR NEWSLETTER!

PREVCOVID-BR TRIBUTE

To the health workers of Manaus and Amazonas State in the COVID-19 pandemic

ARTICLE Luciane Simões Duarte; Giulia M. Mainardi; Lucia Y. Izumi Nichiata; Maria Clara Padoveze

Manaus, capital of the state of Amazonas, faces a second wave with an increase in cases, hospitalizations and deaths due to infection by SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

According to the Ministry of Health's COVID-19 Panel in Brazil, the total number of cases of COVID-19 increased from 82,675 on January 1, 2021 to 115,148 on January 28. The number of deaths, in the same period, increased from 3,388 to 5,231 due to the disease. In this short period of time, the rapid increase in the number of cases and deaths once again led to the collapse of the health system and the funeral service (<https://susanalitico.saude.gov.br/extensions/covid-19.html/covid-19.html.html>).

In addition to this critical situation, a new variant of the new SARS-CoV-2 was identified, which has similarities between the strains found in the United Kingdom and South Africa. Preliminary conclusions on this new Brazilian lineage show a higher transmission capacity in relation to the previous one. However, there is no scientific evidence to indicate a greater severity than the other known SARS-CoV-2 strains.

In view of this, a state of emergency was declared in Manaus for 180 days. In this scenario, health workers who were already physically and emotionally exhausted by the confrontation of COVID-19 last year, find themselves in an even more challenging scenario.

PREVCOVID-BR would like to pay homage to all health workers and thank all the project grant recipients who work in Manaus. To the fellows who are in hospitals, to congratulate them for their active work in the fight against COVID-19 and for the development of the project activities; and to the administrative fellows, to congratulate them for their efforts in the administrative management and acquisition of essential materials to face the pandemic. To the Health Surveillance Foundation of Amazonas (FVS/AM), the coordination of PREVCOVID-BR expresses gratitude for the partnership and support to the project. We sympathize with all Manauaras and Amazonians in face of the difficult situation of the moment.

IMPACTS OF PREVCOVID-BR Fellows' report on improvements in the area of screening

ARTICLE Luciane Simões Duarte, Luciana Ursini Nunes e Edna Cristina Goulart

After the application of the form entitled Tool for rapid assessment of HCF readiness for COVID-19, fellows **Luciana Ursini Nunes** and **Edna Cristina Goulart** verified the absence of the waiting and screening areas for patients with

respiratory symptoms at the **Hospital Maternidade Vila Nova Cachoeirinha** outpatient clinic.

In the outpatient clinic, patients identified as suspected cases of COVID-19, i.e., with characteristic respiratory symptoms, usually waited for health care in the same waiting area as



patients who did not have respiratory symptoms were. All these patients were then seen in a single, small, poorly ventilated screening room.

The fellows highlighted this gap in the improvement plan and an external waiting and screening area was implemented by means

of a tent. This improvement had the cooperation of **José Alfredo Martinidi**, Technical Department

Director; **Maria Lucimar Fernandes de Sousa**, Hospital Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Coordinator; **Tatiana Bueno Atilio**, Medical Coordinator of the Clinic; **Silmara Macera**, Nursing Manager of the Clinic; and **Abigail dos Santos Moraes**,

Manager of the Clinic Reception and Scheduling.

Thus, all patients who arrive at the clinic will enter this area and will be examined by a nursing worker, who will aim to investigate signs or symptoms compatible with

COVID-19. If these patients are considered suspicious, they will not be able to enter the ambulatory and will be evaluated in the tent itself, with the provision of guidance on collection of examination and isolation measures. In case they are not respiratory symptoms, they can be sent to the internal area of the reception and wait for the service.

In addition, extra seats have been placed in the area



outside waiting (rain shelters) to reduce the number of people inside, since escorts are only allowed in cases provided for by law. A hand sanitizing sink has also been installed before entering the internal waiting area.

