

COUNTRY COVID-19 INTRA-ACTION REVIEW (IAR) - 28 APRIL 2021

→ IMPORTANT NOTE: The considerations presented in this document have been identified through reviews of various sources, including emerging scientific and grey literature, websites of international and nongovernmental organizations. They have to be tailored to countries regulations.



CONDUCTING SAFE ONSITE COVID-19 INTRA-ACTION REVIEWS DURING THE PANDEMIC





1. Travel and Logistics Planning

Minimize the need for physical meetings: Be selective about in-person
trainings for facilitator and note-takers or other IAR coordination
meetings and invite only essential personnel; proceed only when
specific issues cannot be addressed remotely.
Avoid trainings or meetings that require people to travel across national,
district or provincial borders.
If it is not possible for participants to avoid public transportation, remind
them to take precautions while in transit: wear a mask; limit contact with
other people and objects; wash and sanitize hands frequently, especially
after touching their mask, and before they touch their eyes, nose and
mouth; and maintain a distance of at least 1m from other people if
possible.
Choose outdoor venues over indoor spaces.
Limit group size. Split large groups into smaller cohorts.
If lodging is required, provide single rooms for participants.
Request that training or meeting participants avoid socializing with one
another or with the community (e.g., going out to restaurants, bars, etc.);



2. Venue

Select a venue with numerous windows that can be opened to ensure
good air flow in the space (avoid air conditioning). Avoid venues with few
windows. Consider outdoor meeting venues if weather permits.
Set up the training or meeting venue ahead of time with labelled seating
areas.
Designating seats/places and marking the floor to ensure physical
distancing between people of at least one meter.
Make markings on the floor and/or in the benches (using tape, chalk, etc.)
to indicate at least 1-meter distance anywhere that people will wait,
queue or assemble.
Limit the number of people in vehicles used for transportation; keep
windows open when traveling in the vehicle for ventilation, if possible.
Make sure everyone wears a mask in the vehicle, including the driver.



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3. Establish Norms and Procedures

Provide safe meeting practices guidelines/requirements to participants in advance of trainings or meetings so they know what to expect.
Remind the participants to not come to the training or the meeting if they have COVID-19-related symptoms.
Display health advisories with visual cues/reminders.
Ask attendees to commit to the safe meeting practices guidelines/requirements.
Start each day with a reminder of expectations/rules.
Ask permission before taking group pictures of the participants while ensuring participants are still maintaining 1 meter of physical distance.



4. Symptom and Fever Screening

Screen each participant for symptoms each morning, using a standard
checklist (see Annex 1).
Use a no-touch thermometer for fever screening.
Ensure that the thermometer is functional/calibrated each day.
Make sure to allow sufficient time for symptom screening.
Ask attendees about health status in post-event surveys to monitor for
disease transmission so participants can be notified in case anyone falls ill.
Prepare event attendee data in case an outbreak occurs; the local health
authority may need to ask for this information for contact tracing.
Encourage participants to self-report and get tested if they develop
symptoms during or after any onsite IAR training, meeting or workshop.



5. Facilitation

		Develop individual activities; use group activities only when essential and
	_	possible while respecting physical distancing parameters.
		Tools and equipment (e.g., pens, computers, phones, microphones)
	_	should not be passed around to participants. Where this is not practical,
		the trainer must disinfect the tools and equipment after each participant's
		use.



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6. Respiratory Etiquette

Promote respiratory etiquette by all people at the workplace (in line with
national or local guidance)
Ideally participants would receive new masks if they are required to remove and
replace them (e.g., after lunch or tea breaks).
Provide disposable tissues with alcohol-based hand rub nearby. Observe hand
hygiene after using a tissue (see "Hand and Face Hygiene" section below).
Provide closed-lid bins for used masks and tissues throughout the venue.
Post signage with visual cues/reminders about coughing etiquette.



7. Hand and Face Hygiene

Provide hand hygiene stations throughout the training or meeting venue (entrance, hall, toilets, etc.).
Encourage frequent use of the hygiene stations, including upon entry into the training or meeting venue.
Hygiene stations can be foot pump operated or sensor operated with stations equipped with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub dispensers.
Provide signage reminding participants to avoid touching their masks, eyes, noses and mouths.
Provide signage reminding participants to dispose of used tissues and wash hands after coughing or sneezing.



8. Environmental Cleanliness

Confirm cleaning and disinfection arrangements with the venue in advance. Make sure sufficient staff and supplies are available.
High-touch surfaces, including bathrooms, door and window handles, , work surfaces should be identified for disinfection .
Ensure that windows are kept open to maintain good air flow in the space.
Limit contact with surfaces when possible (e.g., by propping open doors).



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9. Meals and Breaks

Ensure that breaks are staggered to limit congregation; because participants will need to remove masks for eating and drinking, adequate space should be provided so that they can maintain a minimum of 1-meter distance from one another.
Use disposable single-use plates and utensils and single-use water bottles (cross contamination is common through water bottles).
Each participant should have a designated and labelled personal drinking glass/mug.
All food should be pre-packaged as "takeaway"; no shared platters or serving utensils should be used.
Limit the number of people preparing and serving meals; ensure that meal preparation staff are screened for signs of illness, follow all hygiene guidelines and wear a mask.
Consider using individually-wrapped food instead of open buffets.
If using buffets, ensure that there are splash and sneeze guards or other food safety measures in place.
Avoid dishes that are shared, such as dips and vegetables.

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