

# Kisii Eye Hospital: May 2020 Newsletter

## Suggested Clinical Protocols to Prevent COVID-19

To safeguard visiting patients and the staff of the hospital we have taken the following actions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. A senior leadership task team was formed to develop the following protocols to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and plan for handling ophthalmic emergencies and high risk patients.

### Patient Examination Protocol

#### 1. OPD Restricted

In order to prevent the spread of Covid-19, the hospital suspended all camps and operated only one clinic ( Private Clinic)

#### 2. Temperature Check

Body temperature is checked using an infrared forehead Thermometer for both patients and staff entering the hospital. If one is found to have ( $> 37.5$  degrees Celsius), he or she will be referred to Kisii Teaching and referral Hospital Centre



: Temperature being checked for staff and patients using infrared thermal scanner

#### 3. Hand Sanitization

In order to ensure clean hygiene of patients and staffs, a permanent hand wash area is built in front of the Optical shop inside the Hospital. All patients and staff are required to wash their hands with soap and running water for at least 20 seconds before entering the private clinic



Hand wash area in entrance

#### 4. Reception and Preliminary Screening

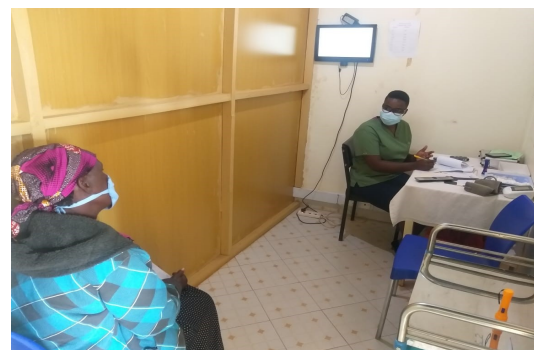
Once the patients have undergone the Hand wash exercise and Temperature taken and confirmed that its Below  $37.5$  oC they are directed to the Reception area in the Private Clinic, It's only patients allowed in the Reception waiting bay except for those who require guidance (e.g. vulnerable adults or children). Then one patient at a time is served by the receptionists and the Ophthalmic nurses.



One of the patient served by the receptionist

#### 5. Screening Triage

After normal registration the patients are directed to the Triage room, where they undergo normal triage procedures before being taken to see an Ophthalmologist for consultation.



History taking and triaging

## 6. Refraction



One of the patient served by the Optometrist

## 7. Doctors consultation



One of the patient served by the Doctor

## 8. Surgery and Admission

Admissions are done normally and surgery is done on Tuesday and Thursdays. Only booked patients by the Counsellor are allowed to undergo surgery on surgery days. Social distance must be adhered to when patients are admitted in the wards.

## 9. Patient Reviews

Since the Footfalls of patients is low and we don't have patients from camps, Patients are scheduled to come for review on certain specific days.

### a. Personnel Planning

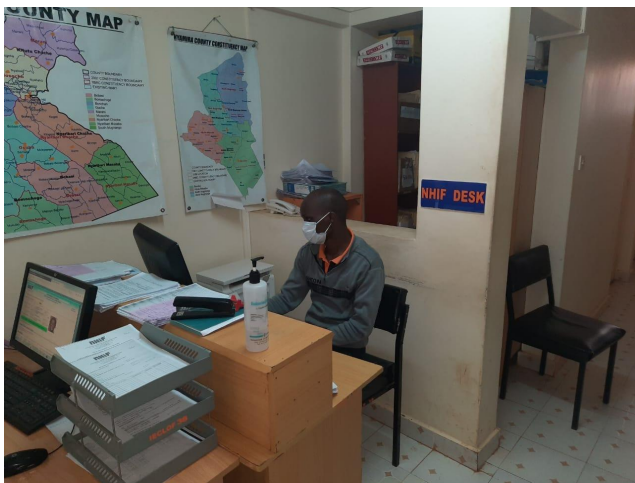
The management opted to run one clinic for efficiency and also keep lean staff due to low footfalls and easy congestions

### b. Staff Safety

Staff safety is taken as the highest priority and all possible avenues for disease transmission were identified and addressed. Masks are provided to staffs to protect themselves.



*Housekeeping staff wearing masks while working*



*NHIF staff wearing Mask while working*



*Procurement staff wearing masks while working*

**c. Patient Instructions:** Patients are discouraged from speaking at the slit lamp. This is to minimize the transmissions.

**i. Slit Lamp Protective Shield:** Due to the close proximity between patients and providers at the slit lamp, a durable barrier shield was installed on each slit lamp. These are cleaned at regular intervals and were developed in house by our biomedical engineering team.



*Figure 7: Slit lamp protective shield*

ii. Staff Awareness : A staff awareness training program was conducted for all staff to ensure personal hygiene and to minimize as much contact as possible . MLOP were advised to use cotton swabs when touching a patient. If any patient is contacted, then staff must change gloves immediately.

## 10. Cleaning and Disinfection

### a. Equipment and Instruments

b. Object Surfaces and Floor Cleaning:  
All object surfaces including tables, chairs, and floors are cleaned routinely.

c. Social Distancing  
Chairs in all waiting areas were placed to adhere to social distancing guidelines. The excess chairs in each unit were removed and the middle chair in the triplet chairs were blocked with red tape. All plastic single chairs are placed on pre-marked floor spacing.



Figure 10: Chairs strategically placed for social distancing

- d. Other Preventive Precautions
- a. All windows are opened and no air-conditioning system is used in order to prevent theoretical dissemination through the vent system.
  - b. All doors are kept open to reduce patient and staff touch.
  - c. All window curtains are removed.
  - d. All unassigned areas are completely shut from patient and staff access.

## 11. Information, Education and Awareness about COVID-19

Awareness displays and public service announcements were displayed of COVID-19 to help patients understand the importance of social distancing hygiene precautions



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