

INFECTION CONTROL

Strategies for Management

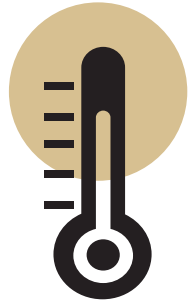


Atul Gawande is a surgeon in a hospital of 75,000 staff, many with high exposure to SARS-COV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. The hospital had infections, but never locked-down. A cocktail of

measures, ALL taken together, provide a safety net against disaster. These measures are: Hygiene, Screening, Distancing, Masks, and 'Culture.' We have added Ventilation.

HYGIENE

Provide sanitizer stations and hand-wash points with liquid-soap. Ensure a set of best-practices; add a short training video from the web, or make your own.



SCREENING

Thermal measurement is not effective in finding pre-symptomatic (or asymptomatic) people. Maybe consider using finger-oximeters, these quickly measure 'blood oxygen saturation'; a reading under 94% alerts you to a possible infected person for quarantine and medical assistance.



DISTANCING

Breathing has two threats; exposure to expelled micro-droplets; and, indoors, longer exposure to infected air. Micro-droplets and dehydrated particles are threats because of their size; some can stay in the air for 'several hours.' If people can work from home, let them; it reduces virus-loads on-site. Mark out one-way walk-paths to reduce proximity. Ideally people will eat outside, or in their own vehicles. Talking and shouting produce much higher levels of threat; reduce to a minimum, especially indoors.



MASKS

Insist on masks and the industrial N95 as a base-line. Provide instructions and petroleum-jelly to grease the edges and reduce seal-leakage. Where people have to be close together, consider using face-shields in addition to masks.



VENTILATION

Keep the people to air-volume ratio low. Bring in clean air: from outside, or sanitized air using above-head, virus-effective units (HEPA and UV can be considered). Remove washroom doors and have IR-activated lights inside and outside.



CULTURE

Every single person is a threat; one person can put ALL at risk. Training materials are needed. Ensure that anyone, at any seniority, is encouraged to call-out behaviors that do not meet infection control rules.

IMPORTANT NOTE: These are strategic guidance not recommendations and best-practice if constantly evolving; visit [OSHA.gov](https://www.osha.gov) for timely recommendations.