

## Safety and Efficiency Practices for the Police

These guidelines<sup>1</sup> are for the police to adapt at the strategic and operational levels:

### A. Strategic Recommendations for Senior Officers (PPO, CCPO, CPO, DPO and others)

- Buildings should be protected with minimum required staff
- The police's buildings should be thoroughly sprayed with a disinfectant
- Guidelines should be made for personnel visiting the building that may include; wearing clean mask (if available); spraying with disinfectant, whole body and belongings, especially the shoes
- Each person entering through the gate (whether to join duty or after field duty) should be checked for temperature. If found ill (cold, flu or high temperature) refer him/her to medical facility; and staff deployed at main entry points and dealing with visitors should wear PPEs (minimum gloves and mask)
- Special formal training is required to be incorporated for police officers deployed inside or near hospitals treating the patients of COVID-19 and to secure the quarantined localities
- Establish clear rules of engagement and use of force guidelines. Review the use of force policies for healthcare facilities, for forced movement of infected individuals/quarantined individuals, ration distribution points and mobs. The information should be included at roll-call training for agency personnel
- Make policies for random testing of police personnel even if they are asymptomatic
- All the DPOs, SDPOs and SHOs are required to be formally oriented on the instructions given earlier. They will be tasked to formally orient their subordinates on following the SOPs and safer practices
- The SHOs, SDPOs and DPOs should be emphasized and supported to build rapport with the community
- A culture of constantly prompting the colleagues of the SOPs needs to be promoted
- A strict monitoring and accountability mechanism needs to be implemented to ensure that all the officers strictly follow the SOPs.

### B. Operational Recommendations:

#### 1. Dealing with people at police stations, or during patrolling, snap checking, raid and arrests, court attendees, prisoners escort, traffic duty, on-crime scenes etc.<sup>2</sup>

- Do not shake hands/hug people
- Do not get physical with anyone until it is absolutely required. Maintain 3 feet distance from public
- Wear a face mask all the time
- Keep drinking water to keep yourself hydrated. (one bottle for one individual)
- Do not touch unnecessary surface/items/eyes/nose/mouth
- Disinfect police mobiles after transporting criminals and suspects as they might be asymptomatic
- Do not spit around and ask others to do the same
- Stay away from an individual with cold/flu
- Stay in a well-ventilated space/room
- Take enough sleep
- Wash your laundry (uniform, washable belongings, belt etc.) with hot water and a detergent

- Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly; Wet your hands and turn-off the water tap, apply soap and rub your hands together for at least 20 seconds, remove the dirt from and clean under your fingernails, and wash thoroughly under running water. Close off the tap (if possible, using your elbow)
- Observe cough/sneeze etiquettes: Cover your mouth and nose with tissue, dispose of used tissue properly, if there is no tissue, cover your face with bend of elbow
- All vehicles entering the building premises should be sprayed with disinfectants. (individual for this purpose be available equipped with spray machine and wearing all PPEs)

#### 2. Arrest and Detention<sup>3</sup>

- There will always be occasions where arrest/detention will be necessary considering the threat and harm. In such instances, the health and wellbeing of the public and detainees remains the primary consideration for the police

<sup>1</sup> Guidelines developed and compiled by UNODC COPAK

<sup>2</sup> UNODC's guidelines for the police in the wake of COVID-19

<sup>3</sup> National Police Chiefs' Council's Custody guidelines

- During the current COVID 19 pandemic, consider out-of-custody options, such as voluntary attendance.
- This approach particularly applies to those who are diagnosed/suspected of having contracted COVID-19
- It is advisable that those responsible are familiar with the signs and symptoms of COVID-19
- Consideration should be given concerning the use of bail as the pandemic is predicted to last for months
- Forces should consider including health screening questions concerning COVID 19 for risk assessment
- If the presence in custody of a detainee suspected/identified as having contracted COVID-19 is necessary, they should be isolated from others. Staff required to interact with such detainees should use PPEs
- Additional guidance and recommendations should be sought on this from local healthcare professionals
- Appropriate hygiene facilities such as hand washing with soap should be made available to all detainees
- Inform those who have come into contact with a detainee suspected of having been infected
- Consideration should be given to providing face masks to detainees who are symptomatic or suspected

### 3. External Visitors

- Other professionals and visitors will be required to attend police custody during the COVID-19 pandemic. In such conditions, adhere to and implement local screening practices which may include health questions, before visitors are admitted;
- Take care of those who are most at risk e.g. those over 60 years of age/with pre-existing medical issues
- Enable detainees to exercise their right to legal advice. Consider allowing them to seek telephone advice
- Police are encouraged to consider implementing local procedures for Independent Custody Visitors (ICV) in accordance with the United Nations mandate
- Non-essential visitors and police personnel should attend custody only in exceptional circumstances
- Mark visitors place for standing and sitting plan at appropriate distance from the staff and detainees
- Mention dedicated hand wash for visitors and provide them with mask if required
- Ask complainants to take precautionary measures but never discriminate against anyone

- Give special attention to the needs of vulnerable complainants, particularly women and children

### 4. Public Order

- Certain infected individuals may deliberately move from affected areas to non-affected areas
- Some individuals have been reported spitting and coughing at police officers' faces to intimidate them<sup>4</sup>
- Wash your hands and face as soon as possible in such instances
- Clean your equipment and work environment after your intervention
- Where appropriate use PPEs and apply physical distancing
- Communication over preventive and control measures could play a role in maintaining public order

### 5. Stop and Search Pickets

- Avoid or limit direct contact with documents
- When dealing with uncooperative individuals, limit contact and practice hand hygiene
- Strictly apply WHO's guidelines for physical distancing and PPEs

### 6. Contact Tracing

- Use proportionate police investigation resources to trace individuals who have been in contact with COVID-19 patients
- This should be conducted in compliance with national laws and with due respect to individual rights to privacy

### 7. Inform the Public about COVID-19

- The police will be at high risk of contracting the virus where the community is careless about COVID-19
- As a public safety provider, use your goodwill and authority to inform others through news conferences, press releases, social posts and personal visits within your community. This is a chance to build your rapport and develop trust with the general public that will go a long way even after the pandemic is over!

4 INERPOL's guidelines for law enforcement in the wake of COVID-19

The comprehensive approach of UNODC is aligned with Pakistan's vision 2025.

Striving to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 on Peace, Justice and Institutions: "Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels." Also contributing to the SDG Goals 3, 5, 8, 11, 15 and 17.



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