



MALAWI GOVERNMENT
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL MEASURES IN PUBLIC PLACES



COMMUNICATION TO CENTRAL HOSPITAL DIRECTORS AND DIRECTORS OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

RESTRICTION ON THE VISITING HOURS IN HEALTH FACILITIES (PUBLIC, CHAM & PRIVATE)

The **MINISTRY OF HEALTH** wishes to inform the general public and members of staff that hospitals are highly infectious environments.

Therefore, in an effort to combat disease transmission to both the patients, visitors and reduce overcrowding in the hospitals, management should implement the following measures:

- ✓ Strengthen **TRIAGE** of patients in the Out Patient Departments and introduce innovative systems to reduce crowding in the waiting areas.
- ✓ **0.05% chlorinated water** should be used for hand washing this is cheaper and effective as we anticipate huge demand for hand sanitizers
- ✓ Only one guardian per patient will be allowed and will be issued an identification card by the hospital security personnel for this purpose.
- ✓ **NO VISITORS** are allowed in the wards during this period
- ✓ Guardians are strongly prohibited from eating food during lunch hour and evening inside the wards. Eat outside the wards.
- ✓ Family members, relatives and other visitors should meet the guardian outside the wards to limit overcrowding.
- ✓ In an effort to avoid overcrowding, Ward rounds shall be conducted **DAILY** to ensure that patients that have recovered are discharged home promptly
- ✓ Hospital management should ensure availability of PPEs at all time for use
- ✓ These guidelines will change from time to time depending on the situation

These measures have been put in place with immediate effect until further notice.

Your cooperation will be highly appreciated

Dr Dan Namarika
Secretary for Health