

CORONASYS INNOVATION SHEET 33

RAPID HOSPITAL READINESS CHECKLIST

Background

Hospitals all around the world are still struggling to keep up with the high influx of COVID-19 patients. With the cumulative number of cases worldwide now topping 66 Million and more than 1.5 million people dead¹ the burden COVID-19 poses for healthcare systems worldwide is evident. Some argue that Europe neglected its chance to enhance health system preparation and response in summer when case numbers were relatively low². Even with promising vaccines on the horizon, COVID-19 will continue to challenge health systems and societies for the foreseeable future³. Preparedness and response remain crucial to mitigate the devastating consequences of the virus and its effects on society.

Features

WHO has developed and updated the [“Rapid hospital readiness checklist”](#)⁴. It can be used to inform decision-making and (contingency) planning before, after and amid the pandemic. The checklist can help to determine current capacities and identify relevant gaps along 12 key components: Leadership and Incident management, Coordination and Communication, Surveillance and information management, Risk communication and community engagement, Administration, finance and business continuity, Human resources, Surge capacity, Continuity of essential support services, Patient management, Occupational health, mental health and psychosocial support, Rapid identification and diagnosis, Infection prevention and control⁵. The Checklist comes with an Excel file to quantify and analyse a hospital’s readiness⁶.

Potentials

The checklist can help to determine whether facilities have the necessary arrangements in place and the functioning capacity to respond to COVID-19 surges. It can identify potentials and priority actions to enhance the facilities response. The tool can also help to monitor the development of hospital emergency readiness over time⁷.

Points to consider

All recommendations have to be checked for their feasibility for the individual context. Due to the fact, that the guidance derives its recommendations through real-time analysis it has to be regularly updated to include new information on best practises in the field.

Conclusion

The WHO Rapid hospital readiness checklist can be a useful tool for local health officials in assessing and enhancing hospital capacity for COVID-19.

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Countries: International

Focus area: Hospital Preparedness and Response

Developers: WHO

Beneficiaries:

- Hospital leaders, managers, and administrators
- managers and administrators of long-term care facilities
- Ministries of Health

¹ Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center. “COVID-19 Map.” Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center, December 6, 2020. <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>.

² Knight, Ben. “Coronavirus: WHO Warns of COVID-19 Third Wave, Says Europe Failed to Learn from Asia | DW | 22.11.2020.” DW.COM, November 22, 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/coronavirus-who-warns-of-covid-19-third-wave-says-europe-failed-to-learn-from-asia/a-55690325>.

³ PBS NewsHour. “Even with a Vaccine, COVID-19 Will Last for Years, Expert Says.” PBS NewsHour, November 12, 2020. <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/even-with-a-vaccine-covid-19-will-last-for-years-expert-says>.

⁴ WHO. “Rapid Hospital Readiness Checklist: Interim Guidance,” November 25, 2020. <https://www.who.int/publications-detail-redirect/WHO-2019-nCoV-hospital-readiness-checklist-2020.1>.

⁵ WHO. “Hospital Readiness Checklist. A Module from the Suite of Health Service Capacity Assessments in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic.” WHO, November 25, 2020.

⁶ WHO. “Rapid Hospital Readiness Checklist: Interim Guidance,” 2020. <https://www.who.int/publications-detail-redirect/WHO-2019-nCoV-hospital-readiness-checklist-2020.1>.

⁷ WHO. “Hospital Readiness Checklist. A Module from the Suite of Health Service Capacity Assessments in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic.” WHO, November 25, 2020.

Background on Innovation Sheet Series

As part of a real-time evaluation of the SARS CoV 2 pandemic (with focus on epidemiological, medical, economical, societal, technical, and cultural developments in Germany and Armenia) the CoronaSys research team, under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Martin Voss, is conducting a continuous monitoring of developments and medical, technical, and social innovations concerning Covid-19.

Multiple national and international media outlets, research platforms, and scientific and organizational guidelines, briefs, and updates are screened to feed into this outlet. The rationale behind this is to support the projects' network partners in Armenia and Germany with short summaries of key developments and promising innovations that are shaping the global, German, and Armenian outbreak response and recovery.

The aim of these short briefs is to give condensed and structured information on selected innovations emerging out of the conducted horizon scanning. This could be mainstream big-ticket items or fringe subjects that are easily overlooked in the global flood of information. Some innovations will be followed through their evolution in time while others may only appear once. While subjectively selected, the briefs are descriptive in nature and leave analysis and critical interpretation to the reader. Network partners in both countries are invited to provide feedback on their interest areas and suggest particularly relevant topics for the CoronaSys Workshop series.

The CoronaSys Innovation Sheet Series is published by the [Academy of the Disaster Research Unit](#), which is, as a non-profit limited liability company, a spin-off of the [Disaster Research Unit](#) at the Free University of Berlin. The series is part of the research project "[CoronaSys](#): Addressing the corona pandemic in Armenia through systemic risk management", sponsored by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or if you wish to be taken on (or off) the project mailing list for CoronaSys updates, innovation sheets, and workshop invitations, please send a message to Janina Schäfer (schaefer@a-kfs.de). For general project inquiries, you may contact the team lead Sara Merkes (merkes@a-kfs.de) or the project lead Martin Voss (voss@a-kfs.de).

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- 1 "New" Antiviral Face Masks
- 2 "Dyphox" Surface Coating
- 3 MOVES SLC Portable ICU
- 4 Portable TRI- KLEEN 500UV
- 5 Convalescent Plasma Therapy
- 6 ASIC-App
- 7 BinaxNOW Antigen Test
- 8 Corona Traffic Light
- 9 Aproof at Home Antibody Test
- 10 IVAT Hygiene Tower
- 11 LY-CoV555 Antibody Treatment
- 12 4C Mortality Score
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- 14 Computer-designed Mini- Proteins
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All previous CoronaSys Innovation Sheets are available online:

<http://coronasys.a-kfs.de/category/innovation-stream/>

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