

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) 3 for Screening Potential Virus Fighters

Preamble

Once a PVF is identified and details entered into the CST Mobile App, the job of the CST is to screen the CST for COVID19 as soon as possible. The screening process is assisted by the App, which will confirm the status of the PVF.

Important Definitions:

Potential Virus Fighter (PVF): An individual reporting symptom of COVID-19. We will be identifying PVFs in the following ways:

- a) through word of mouth from the community
- b) through individuals calling government hotlines 333) and reporting any symptom;
- c) other household members of the PVF being screened

Once the PVF has been screened, the result can be either of these three:

- 1. Verified Virus Fighter (VVF):** A PVF who has been screened and has high *fever* and with relevant signs/symptoms of respiratory disease (for example cough, shortness of breath (in last 15 days), sore throat) or the loss of the sense of smell.
OR an individual who tested COVID-19 positive in the last few days.
- 2. PVF with follow-up:** A PVF who has been screened and whose body temperature is between 99.0°F to 99.4°F AND who has at least one sign/symptom of respiratory disease (for example cough, shortness of breath (in last 15 days), sore throat, the loss of the sense of smell).
- 3. Cleared Virus Fighters (CVFs):** A PVF whose body temperature is below 99°F or who does not exhibit any symptoms of respiratory disease (for example cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, the loss of the sense of smell).

Vulnerable Individuals:

Certain individuals are at higher risk of developing complications and dying from COVID-19, these include older individuals (50 years or older in the context of Bangladesh), diabetics, hypertensive individuals, individuals with respiratory diseases such as COPD or those with compromised immune systems. Pregnant women are also a high-risk group for COVID-19 related adverse outcomes.

Community Support Team (CST): In urban and residential areas, the CST will consist of at least two volunteers from different volunteer organizations (e.g., Platform, CDP, Utshorgo foundation, Young Bangla), students from the communities and/or volunteers nominated by the Ward councilors.

In urban slum area the CST will consists of two Shasthyo Kormi (SK) from BRAC.

Each CST team will be assigned to one ward, and they will be supervised by Area Managers (AM) or Volunteer Area Managers (VAM).

These AMs/VAMs will be responsible for multiple wards (and hence multiple CSTs).

Scope

The SOP is used to determine the status of PVFs by identifying signs and symptoms of COVID19. The PVFs may be identified by the hotline, the community, or as close contacts of a VVF or identified COVID19 patients.

Purpose

The purpose of this SOP is to provide detailed guidelines to the CST on how to screen **PVFs** to determine if they are

- a) VVFs
- b) PVF with follow-up
- c) Cleared PVF

Logistics required (in necessary quantity as per visit plan) for CST:

- Smart phone/tab
- Soap and clean water or alcohol-based hand rub
- PPE items (mask, goggles, gloves)
- Infrared thermometer
- Oximeter
- Biohazard bag/thick poly bag/covered container
- A bucket of prepared diluted 0.2% sodium hypochlorite/bleach solution
- All materials required to make a diluted 0.2% bleach solution for demonstration if PVF is found to be a VVF

- All necessary supportive medicines (first line treatment advised by government telemedicine number 16263) will be carried for distribution to VVF household.
- Phone numbers of local ME

Procedure

1. The CSTs will make a daily plan for household (Khana) visits to identify PVF by word of mouth as part of their daily work and the PVFs on the App provided by Area managers.
2. The CST will visit household as per given daily target and look for PVFs to be screened.
 - CST will start the conversation with permission and introduce themselves, explain the HH members why they are here.
 - Then they will ask if someone in the household is sick or want to be screened as a PVF
 - If there is any sick person or the member of household want to be screened, please follow the steps from “6 to 14”
 - If the household denied for screening please follow steps “4 and 5”.
3. The CST calls the number from the app to confirm the name and number of the PVF and to request a screening visit. If the number does not answer, they should try three times before reporting the number as not answering.
4. If the PVF is reluctant for a visit, the CST member will try to convince them using good interpersonal communication skills. If they still do not agree for the household visit/screening, then the CST member will try to advise them about quarantine over the phone and also ask if they require food or medicine support. The CST will also check if there is any pregnant woman in the house, or any woman who has given birth in the last 6 weeks. The CST should not give up on the home visit but call again at another time.
5. The CST should use good communication skills to build trust with the PVF and household members before starting the screening. They should remember to treat the PVF as an equal and to respect his/her concerns. They should explain clearly why they are wearing PPE and why they will be taking measurements and asking questions. They cannot enter the house and commence the screening without permission of the household members.

6. Before entering the house, the CST members should wash their hands using soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub prior to donning appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):
 - a. Eye Protection: Goggles
 - b. A clean three layer cloth mask
 - c. A pair of new gloves
7. PVF should collect information in a respectful way and record the data on the CST mobile app. If the app does not work for some reason they will record the data in the given PVF interview form. The order of questioning and data collection will be guided by the app or interview form.
8. All personal data and a complete history of the PVF's symptoms should be recorded on the CST mobile app or the form.
9. The PVF's temperature should be taken with an infrared thermometer and the measurement recorded on the CST mobile app. CST members will point the thermometer in 3 centimeters distance from the forehead of the VVF. Please refer to SOP 4a Using the Infrared thermometer.
10. Based on the signs and symptoms and temperature reading, the mobile app will determine if the PVF meets the definition for a **VVF** or **PVF with follow-up** or a **Cleared PVF**.
11. The CST will also check if there is any pregnant woman, any woman who has given birth in the last 6 weeks (42 days) or any vulnerable people in the household.
12. **If the PVF is a VVF, then the CST will take the following steps:**
 - a) The CST will measure the blood oxygen saturation of the VVF using the pulse oximeter and record the reading in the CST mobile app (see SOP 4b. Using the oximeter).

- b) If the oxygen saturation level is equal to or below 93%, the CST should explain to the VVF that he needs specialized medical treatment and immediately call the AM/VAM for assistance to take the VVF to hospital.
- c) The CST should proceed to ask the rest of the questions as prompted in the CST mobile app.
- c) The CST should add information (name, age, sex, telephone number and relationship to the VVF) of each household member in the CST mobile app.
- d) These household members should be screened as PVFS.
- e) The CST will check if any member of the household (including the PVF who was just screened) is either pregnant or a breastfeeding. The household will be given the OGSB number to call for any advice on referral to a hospital or any other issue. If a female household member is pregnant: The CST will advise them to go to a health facility for regular antenatal visit, and to deliver in their facilities. -If a female household member is a breastfeeding mother: The CST will advise them to wear masks while breastfeeding, and for them to consider family planning.
- f) The CST should connect to the telemedicine doctor and hold the conversation on speaker phone so that both the VVF and CST can hear. The medical expert who will determine the severity of the VVF's symptoms and depending on the severity, will recommend a course of action. (Refer to SOP 9: Dedicated Medical Guidance Call Centre for VVF). If it is not possible to connect to the doctor, the CST can leave the number with the VVF to call later.
- g) The CST should then follow the Home Family Quarantine Support SOP 5 for guidance on counselling the VVF and their family for maintaining 14-day home quarantine, implementing IPC within the household and support measures.

- h) The VVF should be advised that there will be personal follow up visits on days 3 and 7 and then a phone check up on day 10.
- i) The CST will then ask the VVF if they want to be tested for COVID-19, if the opportunity arises. Before recording the answer in the CST mobile app, the CST will clearly describe the consequences of agreeing to be tested as described below:

Please tell them that if they opt for testing, then the government (IEDCR) may call them for sample collection. If the family agrees to be contacted by the government for testing, then they might get a call from the government, and then two or more individuals might visit their house to collect the sample(s). These individuals might be wearing coveralls or other PPE items that might scare the neighbors. There is also a chance that the neighbors might ostracize/avoid the family because of this. If the VVF is less than 18 years old, then please ensure that their at least one of their parents/guardians is part of this conversation. The VVF and their family have complete autonomy to decide if they want to get tested or not. Their decision to test or not to test will not impact the services or support that they are supposed to receive from the CSTs.

Please refer to the Sample Collection SOP for details.

13. If the PVF is a PVF with follow-up, then the CST will take the following steps:

- a) Counsel them on monitoring their symptoms and the importance of contacting the CST right away if symptoms worsen. They should advise on wearing masks outside the house for all household members
- b) The CST will revisit the PVF with follow-up in two-days' time for re-screening.

14. If the PVF is a Cleared PVF, then the CST will take the following steps:

- a) Counsel them on monitoring their symptoms and the importance of contacting the CST right away if symptoms worsen. They should advise on wearing masks outside the house for all household members.
 - b) The CST won't revisit the Cleared PVF again unless they call back for further support.
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- 2. At this point, if there is any household member who is also reporting COVID-19 like symptoms and wants to be screened as a PVF, then the CST can screen this person as a PVF (recording this person as a new PVF screening in the CST mobile-app).
 - 3. At the end of each household screening the CST members should remove the gloves carefully so as not to allow the outer surface of the gloves to contact their skin and then dispose of them appropriately in a covered container.
 - 4. They should wash their hands using soap or clean with an alcohol-based hand rub before donning a new set of gloves.
 - 5. Masks should be worn all day replaced whenever they become wet or visibly soiled and disposed appropriately in a thick poly bag/covered container. Refer to SOP 8 for correct donning and doffing of masks and mask care.