COVID-19 PANDEMIC

RECOMMENDED PROTECTION MEASURES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

There is currently no vaccine nor specific treatment against COVID-19. The best way to prevent illness and contamination spread is to avoid exposure to the virus.

Apply these precautionary measures whenever possible:

**ON DUTY**

- Proper and frequent handwashing with soap or use hand-sanitizer.
- Apply social distancing measures.
- Self-monitor for signs of illness.
- Do not touch your face with unwashed hands.
- Clean or decontaminate your work equipment if you think you have been in contact with a COVID-19 patient.
- Seek medical advice if you show any symptoms, as per your national public health recommendations.

**PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)**

Important: PPE protects you and others only if you know how to use and dispose of it properly.

- When wearing:
  - Avoid touching the mask while wearing it.
  - Avoid touching your face when wearing gloves.
  - Do not touch the front of the mask when removing it.
- When removing:
  - Discard gloves appropriately.
  - Wash your hands.

**AFTER YOUR SHIFT**

Law enforcement duties can potentially expose officers to COVID-19; either by contact with contaminated surfaces or with infected individuals. Before coming back into direct contact with loved ones, law enforcement officers should maintain social distancing measures and follow these steps when returning home:

- Take off duty clothes. Handle, transport and wash them in way that limits exposure to skin, eyes, environment and other clean clothes (avoid shaking clothes).
- Take a shower or wash exposed skin with soap and water.
- Wash duty clothes in warm water with laundry soap as soon as feasible.
- Clean or decontaminate your work equipment, including shoes, avoiding the spread of particles or dust.
- Self-monitor for signs of illness.

These protection measures are recommended by INTERPOL and based on best international practices, including those of WHO, CDC, ECDC.

More information on interpol.int

www.interpol.int

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ENFORCING RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENTS

Law enforcement may be requested to support public health in preventing and mitigating the spread of COVID-19 by restricting the movements of people for a period of time.

AT BORDER CROSSING POINTS

- Apply social distancing measures even between colleagues.*
- Avoid or limit direct contact with documents (passports, IDs or any other paper) as they can be potentially contaminated.
- Wear gloves and masks when available and recommended by national public health authorities.
- Avoid touching your face (even while wearing gloves and mask).

IN AREAS UNDER LOCKDOWN

- When dealing with uncooperative individuals, limit contact and practice hand and face hygiene as soon as possible.
- Ensure frequent cleaning/disinfection of work space.
- Air the work space as often as possible.
- Important: PPE such as gloves and masks protect you and others only if you know how to use and dispose of them properly.

* Maintain at least 1 metre (3 feet) distance. The WHO recommendation is to stay at least one metre away from each other (some national guidelines recommend more).
LAW ENFORCEMENT IN SUPPORT OF COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES

PUBLIC ORDER

Ensuring public security and order is a fundamental aspect of law enforcement. There are important health and safety measures that should be considered when dealing with public order matters.

CORDONING CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURES SUCH AS HOSPITALS

JAIL BREAKS AND PUBLIC ORDER DISRUPTION INSIDE AND OUTSIDE PRISONS

POPULATION UNREST/RIOTS

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Apply social distancing measures even between colleagues.*

Avoid touching your face (even while wearing gloves and mask).

Choice of Personal Protective Equipment should be based on task and risks.**

Clean/disinfect your duty clothes in warm water with laundry detergent and work equipment, including shoes after intervention.

When dealing with uncooperative individuals, limit contact and practice hand and face hygiene as soon as possible.

Important: PPE such as gloves and masks protect you and others only if you know how to use and dispose of them properly.

* Maintain at least 1 metre (3 feet) distance. The WHO recommendation is to stay at least one metre away from each other (some national guidelines recommend more).

** In tense situations during public order operations, where appropriate social distancing cannot be relied on, it is recommended that law enforcement officers wear appropriate PPE or protect their face from the spread of droplets.
**Law Enforcement Services**

Law enforcement services can be requested to use proportionate investigation resources to support public health in identifying and locating individuals who have been in close contact with confirmed cases. Law enforcement duties in this area can fall under three main categories:

### Analysis
- Use of analytical capabilities to help:
  - locate COVID-19 patients;
  - identify possible links between people;
  - trace movements of people.

**Recommendations:**
- Proper and frequent handwashing with soap or use hand-sanitizer.
- Apply social distancing measures whenever possible.
- Air the work space as often as possible.

### Interviewing
- Interviewing patients;
- Interviewing close contacts of patients.

**Recommendations:**
- Phone interviews can be conducted when possible.
- When conducting face-to-face interview respect social distancing.
- Avoid contact with potentially contaminated surfaces.
- Follow national healthcare recommendations for accessing health premises.

### Field Work
- Use of proportionate investigation resources to locate uncontactable or unidentified close contacts.

**Recommendations:**
- Apply social distancing measures whenever possible.
- Proper and frequent handwashing with soap or use hand-sanitizer.
- Avoid contact with potentially contaminated surfaces.
- Clean work equipment as soon as feasible.

*Such activities should be conducted in strict compliance with national legislation and with due respect to individual rights.*
LAW ENFORCEMENT IN SUPPORT OF COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES

SECURING DELIVERY OF EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

Law enforcement services can be requested to ensure that emergencies supplies (medical equipment, PPE, etc.) are delivered to healthcare centres and that storage and distribution centres are secured. These supplies may become a target of:

**THEFT:**
Due to decreased availability and increased demands for masks, respirators and other medical supplies

**POPULATION UNREST:**
Due to the lack of supplies, material and equipment.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Beware of trends in thefts and shortages in medical equipment and material for public health interventions
- Coordinate with public health and national authorities.
- Apply social distancing measures even between colleagues.*
- Avoid touching your face (even while wearing gloves and mask).
- When dealing with uncooperative individuals, limit contact and practice hand and face hygiene as soon as possible.
- Clean/disinfect your duty clothes, work equipment, including shoes after your shift.
- Choice of Protective Personal Equipment should be based on task and risks. If social distancing cannot be relied on, wear gloves and masks when available and recommended by national public health authorities.

* Maintain at least 1 metre (3 feet) distance. The WHO recommendation is to stay at least one metre away from each other (some national guidelines recommend more).

Important: PPE such as gloves and masks protect you and others only if you know how to use and dispose of them properly.
PUBLIC MESSAGING

Public messaging is crucial for law enforcement officers to elicit proper behaviour and to protect oneself and others in a sanitary crisis. As first line responders, they play an important role in providing and retrieving information to and from the public.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- **Stay up-to-date** on the national public health control measures (and their legal basis).
- **Relay information** about preparedness measures and national advice to the public.
- **Coordinate with relevant agencies** to ensure consistent messages to the public.
- **Report rumours** to combat fake news and work with private industry to take down fake messages.
- **Inform the public on criminal activities** linked to the current outbreak.
While some people are trying to get better treatment outside of their health zone, some individuals are taking advantage of the fear and harmful potential of COVID-19 to threaten other people’s lives.

Beware of individuals that may deliberately move from affected areas to non-affected areas, despite their medical condition and potential travel restrictions.

Beware of cases of individuals spitting and coughing at law enforcement officers.

Instances of individuals claiming to sell contaminated samples of body fluids online have been reported.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Take particular care when approaching uncooperative individuals and wear PPE (when available and appropriate).

Specialized investigators in cybercrime or counter-terrorism should pay particular attention to online market places.

Law enforcement officers involved in public order or in charge of protecting prominent public figures should be made aware of these risks.

Border police officers should report any individual showing symptoms at border crossing points through the usual national arrangements.

Important: PPE such as gloves and masks protect you and others only if you know how to use and dispose of them properly.