MAY 2020

INTERPOL

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.**

ON DUTY

Apply these precautionary measures whenever possible:

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.

When removing

Do not touch the front of the mask when removing it.

Discard gloves appropriately.

Wash your hands.

When available, it is recommended that law enforcement officers who are in contact with the general population and unable to maintain social distancing **wear masks and/or gloves.**

AFTER YOUR SHIFT

Law enforcement duties can potentially expose officers to COVID-19, either by contact with contaminated surfaced 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).

Wash duty clothes in warm water with laundry soap as soon as feasible.

Take a shower or wash exposed skin with soap and water.

Self-monitor for signs of illness.

Clean or decontaminate your work equipment, including shoes, avoiding the spread of particles or dust.

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

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LAW ENFORCEMENT IN SUPPORT OF COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES

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).

Report rumours to combat fake news and work with private industry to take down fake messages.

Relay information about preparedness measures and national advice to the public.

Inform the public on criminal activities linked to the current outbreak.

Coordinate with relevant agencies to ensure consistent messages to the public.

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COVID-19 RECOMMENDATIONS ON INTIMIDATION AND DELIBERATE CONTAMINATION SPREAD

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).

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

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.