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higher education
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Protocols For Student Volunteer Training

1. PREAMBLE

The severity and rapidly expanding epidemic of COVID-19 has placed significant need for a screening protocol at each campus. HIGHER HEALTH is supporting DHET and Maluti TVET College in its efforts to combat COVID-19. HIGHER HEALTH will be supporting campus efforts to ramp up education on COVID-19 as well as COVID-19 screening for all students and staff entering the campuses post lockdown. Further to this, HIGHER HEALTH is also putting infrastructure in the form of clinical services towards increasing testing for students and staff who are screened positive or considered high risk for COVID-19. This being a notifiable disease, quick isolation of students and staff that are screened and tested positive is critical towards limiting further spread. HIGHER HEALTH has developed this protocol which serves as a guideline for student volunteers within the Maluti TVET College to adhere to strictly. The operational measures outlined herein are to assist and guide both Maluti TVET College and HIGHER HEALTH management on the student volunteer programme across all campuses. Student Volunteers will engage in screening, education and advocacy (SEA) and referral for testing around COVID-19.

2. WHO CAN BE CONSIDERED AS A STUDENT VOLUNTEER?

- HIGHER HEALTH and Maluti TVET are calling upon all registered students (aged 18 and above) to enrol in the student volunteer programme.
- Any student who is willing to volunteer their time to support their peers towards daily education and screening programme combating COVID-19 within their respective campuses.
- International experience shows that certain people are higher risk for severe disease. Thus, a student should not volunteer if they have any underlying medical conditions that compromise their health or immunity.
- Students should also not volunteer if:
 - ✓ They are pregnant
 - ✓ They are living in the same home with a compromised family member (aged 60 years and older or with underlying conditions)
- Students with underlying conditions as outlined above will not be considered as volunteers for COVID-19 screening.

3. FUNCTIONS OF A STUDENT VOLUNTEER

- Student volunteers will be required to support their institutions with health education information that will be given to students about COVID-19, using the Health Promotion and Prevention Strategy.
- Student volunteers will carry out screening of students in designated areas, using the verbal screening tool.
- Student volunteers will work under the guidance of their team leaders (CHWCs) where present, Peer Mentors or other Maluti TVET campus assigned staff.
- Volunteers would have to follow strict institutional protocol with regards to students and staff that may report or present with COVID-19 symptoms.
- Should the student volunteer want to withdraw from the programme, they are free to do so at any time.

4. PROTECTIVE PERSONAL EQUIPMENT (PPE) PRECAUTIONS & PREVENTION FOR STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

- Strict PPE precautions to be observed by student volunteers:
 - Maintaining social distancing by keeping 2 meters from any person at all times.
 - No physical contact with other people i.e. No hand shaking and ensure that you sneeze and cough into your elbow or a tissue (safely discard the tissue immediately).
 - No hand to hand contact through the exchange of paper, cellphone devices, or any other material or commodity.
 - Mandatory use of face masks at all times.
 - Continuous use of hand sanitizers.
 - Screen shields to be used at all workstations and triage to minimize direct contact between student volunteers and students and staff.
- PPE will be provided to the teams that will be screening students at campuses, in keeping with the national guidelines on PPE.
- Student volunteers will be provided with hand sanitizer and a facial mask/cloth by the team leader.
- On a daily basis, all student volunteers will self-screen using the screening App which will be confirmed by their team leader.

5. BENEFITS FOR STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

- There are no immediate benefits to you for volunteering your time outside of being a socially responsible person, and the point below.
- A token of appreciation will be given to all student volunteers, that will include 1GB of data, on a monthly basis by HIGHER HEALTH.
- However, we hope that your efforts will help us in saving many lives of students and staff in Maluti TVET Campuses.

6. STUDENT VOLUNTEER CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

- HIGHER HEALTH will capacitate student volunteers through education and onsite mentorship, coaching training and routine monitoring (with further training through provision of data free links to curriculums on COVID-19), prevention, screening protocols, PPE, linkage to care, mental health, environmental cleaning, and disinfection, among others.
- Student volunteers are expected to carry out duties in accordance with the skills received.
- Each aspect of the work (screening, education and advocacy) may have overarching or specific requirements that volunteers will be guided on.
- No volunteer will commence activities without the necessary capacity development and training.

7. SCREENING

- Student volunteers will be expected to be part of the HIGHER HEALTH team triaging students on campuses in a safe and responsible manner.
- Ideally students will be expected to self-screen off campus using the HIGHER HEALTH Screening App which will be deployed to student phones prior to them entering the campus. The App will advise on whether students should proceed to campus or not.
- In the case where students may not be able to access the App for whatever reason, the trained student volunteers on campus will screen these students before they enter learning spaces within the campus i.e. preferably at campus entrances or car parks.
- Students should be informed that there is a screening station (at a designated area) and that they are encouraged to present at these stations if they do not have access to the screening App.
- Student volunteers will engage in screening that involves no physical contact (“no touch”), maintains social distancing, ensures wearing of a face mask/cloth and preferably each volunteer will be behind a makeshift booth/cubicle/shield that separates the student volunteer from the person being screened.

- Two points of control for walk-ins and drive-ins is suggested.
- Student volunteers, along with campus security, can ensure all students maintain social distancing, wear face masks/cloths and get hand sanitizer on entry and exit of the campuses.

8. EDUCATION

- Student volunteers will assist in the distribution of pamphlets on campus to educate students on COVID-19 (pamphlet distribution should be accompanied by other health promotion information).
- The volunteers will also encourage and assist students to access the self-screening App regularly to ascertain whether they should seek further medical attention in relation to any symptoms displayed.
- Student volunteers are to assist the SLOs & CHWCs with displaying the educational posters on COVID-19 supplied by HIGHER HEALTH.
- Constant dissemination of authentic information is required.
- Once capacitated, student volunteers will be immediately required to empower fellow students on the importance of hand hygiene, social distancing and other measures.

9. ADVOCACY & STIGMA

- Student volunteers will play a crucial role in advocating against COVID-19 associated stigma.
- HIGHER HEALTH will capacitate all student volunteers on the myths vs realities of the Coronavirus.
- The information transferred to student volunteers should also be relayed to the larger student population through the volunteers.
- Disseminate the message that COVID-19 associated stigma cannot be tolerated as it can negatively affect the willingness of people, especially students, from getting screened and ultimately tested.

10. GENERAL

- Every Student Volunteer is required to sign a consent form prior to joining HIGHER HEALTH'S COVID-19 Programme. See Annexure A.
- Duration of this intervention: The student volunteers will serve in the Maluti TVET campuses as long as the college are open.
- Multi-Sector Coordination: HIGHER HEALTH will partner and coordinate the response on COVID-19 with the Department of Higher Education, Department of Health, together with Maluti TVET Management as well as Student Leadership.



STUDENT VOLUNTEER CONSENT FORM

SCREENING AND CONTACT TRACING WITHIN THE POST SCHOOL EDUCATION & TRAINING SECTOR

This consent must be completed by all student volunteers

I, _____ (name & surname) I.D Number _____, wish to be considered for volunteer work through **HIGHER HEALTH'S COVID-19 SCREENING & TESTING PROGRAMME** at TVET Colleges and/or Higher Education Institutions from May 2020 onwards. I am a student at _____, _____ Campus.

I understand that I will be provided with the best available information and Personal Protective Equipment necessary for the safe and responsible performance of my volunteer assignment. I understand and accept the conditions and precautions laid out in the student volunteer protocol. I also indemnify HIGHER HEALTH and my campus against any liability as a result of my voluntary participation. I will also maintain strict confidentiality and professionalism whilst undertaking duties and responsibilities as a volunteer.

I understand that I will not receive any monetary compensation for my services but may receive an incentive of some sort.

Emergency Contact:

In an emergency please contact my next of kin using the following details:

Name of Next of Kin: _____

Home Phone Number: _____ Cell: _____

My next of kin home address is: _____

In the unfortunate event of an accident or an illness, during the voluntary work, which needs immediate treatment, I agree to receiving First Aid and/or medical treatment.

Signature of volunteer:

Name & Surname: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

