

## The Besroun Centre for Global Family Medicine

Dr. Patrick Chege Memorial Research Award Poster Presentation

### **Application and Disposal of Face Masks and Proper Hand Washing in**

#### **Hospital Pre-Triage Areas**

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**Background-** Corona virus disease 2019 (COVID-19), is an infectious respiratory disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome corona virus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). It is a serious global health problem costing the lives of many people. While all health care workers are at higher risk of contracting the virus, non-clinical health care staff face an even bigger risk due to their lack of clinical background. Pre-triage area staff are among those non-clinical health care staff who had no medical training and were assembled from different departments when the pandemic struck making them and their families more susceptible to contracting COVID-19.

**Statement of the problem-** Staff members working in the pre-triage area at the “Fever and Cough” clinic in Black Lion Specialized hospital have inadequate knowledge on the proper application, use, and disposal of personal protective equipment in addition to proper technique of hand washing leading to increased risk of contracting the virus.

**Objective-**To reduce the risk of Covid 19 virus transmission to pre triage area staff by improving the knowledge through training session on the proper techniques of hand washing and face mask utilization between July 1st – July 31st 2020.

**Method-** Pre/post descriptive study of observed hand washing and mask donning. The staff was initially observed while hand washing and mask donning and given a score according to steps followed in the WHO hand washing and mask donning procedure. After a month-long training on the topic they were observed again and given scores accordingly.

**Results -** Pre-intervention data- Pre triage staff collectively scored a collective average of 51.2% in the proper hand washing process. They scored an average of 30% in the proper application, use and disposal of face masks.

Post intervention data- After training on proper hand washing techniques and proper use of face mask the staff was able to score an average of 81.2% and 72.5% respectively.

**Conclusion -** Providing pre triage area staff with adequate training on precautionary measures can have positive impacts resulting in improved infection prevention.