

CARE OF VULNERABLE POPULATION DURING COVID-19



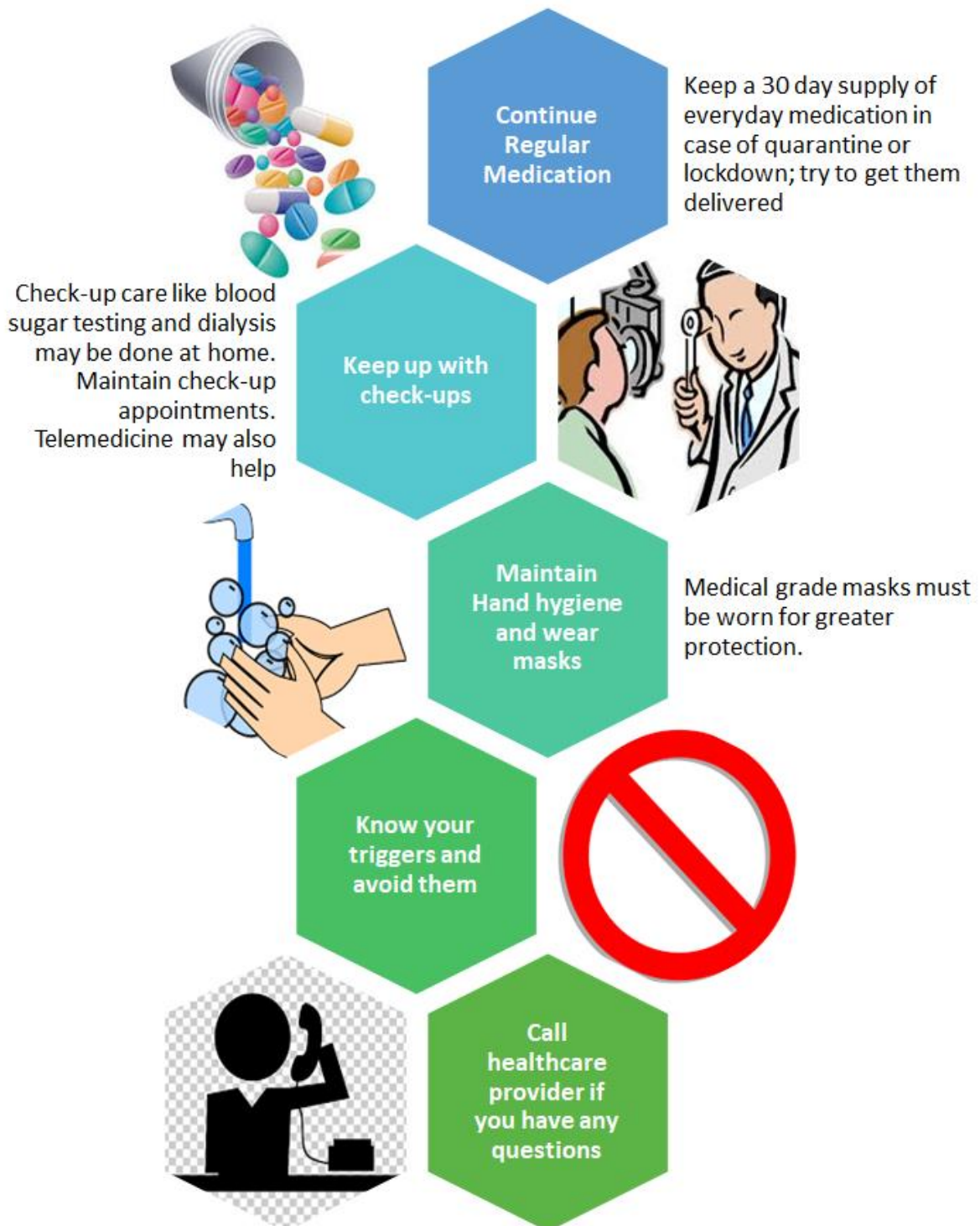


People at a higher risk of severe COVID-19

Diabetes	Long standing Kidney Disease	High Blood Pressure
Long standing Lung Diseases	Long standing Liver Diseases	Cancer
Stroke	Obesity	HIV and diseases causing low immunity
Substance Use disorders	Heart Conditions	Smokers
Organ Transplant and on medication	Dementia	Down Syndrome



Preventive measures for people at a higher risk of COVID-19





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Care of people experiencing homelessness

Refer to safe temporary shelters with water and good hygiene

Repurpose convention centres, community centres as temporary facilities for isolation and treatment

Make products like masks, sanitizers, facial tissues, waste bags and menstrual products available

Continue all essential services, including immunization, even during lockdowns

Ensure access to mental health services

Pay attention to individuals suffering from addictions and long term diseases.



Care of individuals with disabilities

Ensure that helpful information is available over many resources that can be accessed by individuals with disabilities

Local organizations and support groups should provide information and group support

The caregiver must be educated and should try their best to maintain hygiene, social distancing and mask wearing by the individual at risk.

Caregiver support groups and access to mental health services must be available

Masks and hygiene products must be adaptable for use by individuals with disabilities.



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Care of people in overcrowded areas and slums

Consider isolation of areas with large number of cases to prevent further transmission

If possible, individuals with mild symptoms should stay in a separate room

At least 1 metre of social distancing should be maintained between the caregivers and a person with symptoms

If separate bathroom is not available, pit latrine might be considered. Or the seat must be sanitized before and after every use

Gloves and protective clothing like masks, plastic aprons must be worn by the caregiver

Limit the number of caregivers for an individual with symptoms

Use separate bedding and utensils for unwell persons. They must be washed with soap and hot water regularly

People must avoid exposure to contaminated items from their immediate surroundings and must not share items that they use for hygiene or eating.



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Care of people in remote locations

Alternative water sources (e.g. boiled water from cooking/seawater) may be used if there is difficult access to freshwater.

Locally available methods can be used to maintain hand hygiene as long as they produce friction for adequate scrubbing and cleaning (e.g. sand, ash, local plants, coconut husk or tree bark)

Mobile outreach clinics, community health volunteers and eHealth methods can be used to provide quality and timely healthcare

Organize systems to connect patients with severe COVID-19 symptoms with medical care (e.g. deployment of doctors or nurses and partnerships with local taxi/auto/ cab services).



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References

- <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/333043/WPR-DSE-2020-021-eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>

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