

# SOP for Temperature Screening

## Principles of screening

The aim of temperature screening is to identify people who have a fever which is a common symptom of COVID-19.

Temperature screening may be undertaken at any establishment admitting a number of individuals where there is potential for COVID-19 transmission. For example:

- Hotels
- Restaurants/bars/cafes/shops
- Hospitals
- Shopping centres/malls
- Stadiums
- Theatres
- Airports

Temperature screening devices include:

- Contactless devices (e.g. thermal scanners or handheld infrared skin thermometers): detect body temperature without having to have direct contact with the person being screened
- Contact thermometers (e.g. tympanic, oral, axillary): these type of devices are not recommended for screening because they increase risk of transmission.

## Preparation

### 1. Screening station

- An area should be set up at all entrance points. If there is more than one entrance consider a one-way flow with separate entrance and exit points
- Do not situate under direct sunlight as this could result in falsely elevated readings
- All people going through the entrance should have their temperature checked whether they are customers, visitors or staff
- The screening station should also be equipped with hand sanitiser or a hand washing station and people should be encouraged to sanitise their hands on entry
- Ensure that those waiting to be screened are maintaining social distancing.

### 2. Screening method

- Temperature screening alone using a handheld device is practical in most situations e.g. entering a restaurant/shop
- In situations where there is a high throughput of people, thermal scanners can be considered
- Additional symptom screening can be considered in settings where the person will stay for an extended time e.g. hotels. Screening should match the current case definition.

### 3. Personnel

- A dedicated person/s to do screening is required. This person does not need to have a health background but should be trained appropriately on infection prevention and control (IPC) measures
- Training should also be provided on policies determining whether entry will be denied to people who refuse to comply with screening or if someone is found to have an elevated temperature.

### 4. Signs

- Prepare a sign so that people are aware that screening is taking place. This is particularly important when a line of people are waiting.

### 5. How to assess temperature scan result

- Normal body temperature is between 36 degrees Celsius and below 37.5 degrees Celsius.
- If the temperature is below 36 degrees, it is likely that the device has malfunctioned. Take the temperature again to ensure you get a valid reading before admitting an individual
- If the temperature is 37.5 degrees Celsius and above, then the individual could have fever. In this scenario, follow instructions in step 5 below.

## Screening procedure

See flowchart.

### 1. IPC measures

The person doing screening must:

- wear a surgical mask
- maintain a distance of 1.5 metres from all people
- use hand sanitiser frequently.

### 2. Verbal information/consent

- Prior to taking the temperature the screener should inform the person that they are taking their temperature.
- If the person refuses to comply with temperature screening they should be denied entry.

### 3. Check the temperature

- For handheld scanners, **follow the instructions of your device.**
- If you are unsure of the best place to scan, the temporal area (side of the forehead) is recommended, rather than the neck, wrist or centre of the forehead.
- Ask the person to move anything that is covering their forehead except for religious head dress.

- Read the temperature to the person after you have taken it.

#### **4. Actions to take if elevated temperature (fever) is detected**

- If the temperature is above 37.5 degrees Celsius the person cannot enter the venue.
- As several factors other than infection can cause a slight elevation in temperature (such as spending time in the sun, consumption of hot beverages or alcohol, use of head coverings, pregnancy, menstruation, hormone replacement therapy, strenuous exercise), ask the person to wait in the shade for a few minutes, then re-check the temperature one more time, for example after removing a head covering with the consent of the individual
- If the temperature remains above 37.5 degrees Celsius the person cannot enter.
- Advise them that they have a fever and what the temperature is
- Advise them to consult with a healthcare professional or present to the nearest health facility for a COVID19 swab
- Advise them to maintain social distancing, wear a mask and to cough/sneeze into a flexed elbow.

#### For hotel guests only:

- Allow entry to the premises
- Advise them that they have a fever and what the temperature is
- Advise the person to immediately self-isolate in a hotel room
- Advise them to maintain social distancing, wear a mask and to cough/sneeze into a flexed elbow
- Arrange for an assessment to be done by a health professional.

## Temperature screening guideline for airports, shops and hotels

