

Safe Delivery of Nutrition Interventions in the Context of COVID-19

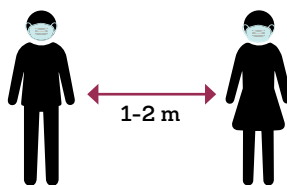
Why is it important to continue providing nutrition interventions during a pandemic?

Disruptions in food systems caused by COVID-19 make it difficult for pregnant women and preschool-aged children to maintain proper nutrition. All children aged 6 to 59 months and pregnant women — including those with suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 — should continue to receive supplementation services. However, because of the risk of COVID-19 transmission, distribution strategies and administration protocols must be adjusted to allow for infection protection and control (IPC) measures.

Key recommendations for service delivery safety



Screen service providers regularly for COVID-19



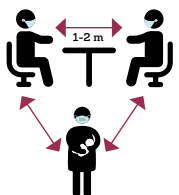
Maintain physical distance



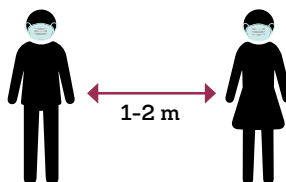
Wear a mask. Cover your nose and mouth.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS	FIXED SITE & MASS DISTRIBUTIONS	HOUSEHOLD DISTRIBUTION
Keep distribution outdoors or in a well-ventilated space	✓	✓
Wear a mask, preferably medical or N-95; if a medical mask is not available, wear a cloth mask	✓	✓
Alert pregnant women, caregivers and all those 5 years of age and older to wear a mask	✓	✓
Require all staff, pregnant women, caregivers and children to sanitize their hands before and after service delivery. Site should have handwashing station or sufficient quantities of alcohol-based hand rub	✓	✓
Screen pregnant women, caregivers and children for COVID-19 before providing services	✓	✓
Consider increasing the number of days and distribution sites for delivery to reduce crowding and the risk of cross-contamination	✓	
Consider organizing the catchment area into small groups. Assign each group to attend a distribution on specific days	✓	
Consider integrating delivery of vitamin A supplementation and deworming (VAS+D) and multiple micronutrient supplementation (MMS) with other interventions, such as immunization and growth monitoring or regular antenatal care visits	✓	

How to Maintain Physical Distance in a Crowd



Keep 1-2m between caregiver with child and service provider



Organize waiting area to have 1-2m between family groups



Ask that each child be accompanied by only one caregiver if possible

Screen service providers according to local regulations

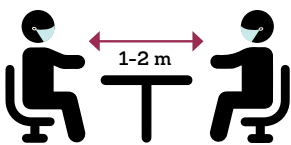


1. Screen prior to providing health services each day
2. Use local guidance and protocols
3. Self-screening can also be considered
4. Service providers experiencing symptoms of fever and/or respiratory illness should not participate in health services and should seek care, as recommended nationally

Screen pregnant women, caregivers, and children

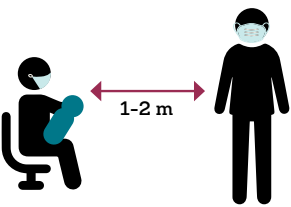
1. Before initiating any healthcare service, screen pregnant women, children and caregivers for COVID-19 symptoms.
2. COVID-19 should not prevent a child from being given vitamin A or deworming; all children aged 6 to 59 months, whether screened positive or negative for COVID-19, should be given twice-yearly VAS + D. However, if a child is experiencing respiratory distress or is unable to breathe properly, do not administer VAS+D and refer child immediately to nearest health care facility.

Keep close contact to a minimum during service delivery



For VAS+D, follow all of the steps in the Visual Checklist, but also include the following due to COVID-19:

1. Stand or sit 1-2m away from pregnant women, caregivers, children, or other family members except when administering VAS+D
2. Do not touch pregnant women, caregivers, or children during the visit unless other health services, such as antenatal care or growth monitoring, are being provided
3. For VAS+D, have the caregiver put the child's health card on the table. Without touching the card, check the name and age of the child and the last dose of vitamin A and deworming received.
4. For VAS+D, inform the caregivers that you will approach them very briefly to administer the doses to the children, then will return to a safe distance once they have been administered



Wash hands or use alcohol-based sanitizer



1. Before and after each new service delivery contact with the pregnant woman or child
2. After touching any other objects, such as scissors, pens, pencils or medical equipment

Note: Disinfect all supplies and equipment before beginning administration of VAS+D and after any tool comes into contact with any pregnant woman, caregiver or child.

