



COVID-19 Outreach Protocol

- I. This protocol is to be reviewed with the host institution administrator, lead surgeon, and head nurse, in advance of the outreach.
- II. The decision to conduct a cataract outreach event should be preceded by a risk/benefit discussion with the relevant local stakeholders including the National Cataract Outreach Program (NCOP), the District Health Office, the host institution administrator, and the lead surgeon. COVID case data for the catchment area under consideration should be reviewed.
- III. **All national COVID-19 protocols** (as endorsed by Ghana Health Services) are to be reviewed and followed.
- IV. **Target Volume**
 - a. The lead surgeon / medical director / host institution administrator are to confer in advance of the screening to discuss the number of patients that will be targeted for the outreach. These stakeholders will ensure that following safety protocols can be maintained for the targeted volume of patients. If there is any doubt, the target number will be reduced.
- V. **Pre-Event Screening**
 - a. Integrate campaign messages with **COVID-19 prevention and control messages**.
 - b. Engage local government and other leaders in community mobilization activities.
 - c. Community mobilizers must receive an orientation on COVID-19 preventive measures.
 - d. **Avoid gatherings larger than the government-recommended maximum.**
 - e. Maintain **physical distancing of 2 meters/6 feet** between individuals.
 - f. Provide alcohol-based hand **sanitizers** and **face mask** for community mobilizers.
- VI. **Outreach Event**
 - a. **Daily temperature checks / screening questions** –
 - i. All clinical staff, patients, family members are to have their temperature checked with a non-contact thermometer prior to entering the clinic each day. Anyone with a **temperature greater than 38 degrees C** (100.4 degrees F), will not be admitted to the clinic grounds.
 - ii. All clinical staff, patients, family members are to be screened for COVID symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat) each day. Anyone with positive symptoms will not be admitted to the clinic grounds.
 - iii. Any person that fits the **suspected case** definition for COVID-19 should immediately be referred to the nearest appropriate facility where such cases are managed. After attending a suspected or confirmed case, cleaning of the room to disinfect all surfaces that may have come in contact with the patient or any members of the treating surgical team is required.
 - b. **Hand sanitizing facilities must be available at the entrance of the outreach site** (hospital/clinic) so that clinical staff, patients, and family members can clean their hands on arrival. The hand sanitizing can be done using:
 - i. Soap and water
 - ii. Alcohol based sanitizers (> 60% ethanol or > 70% isopropyl alcohol)
 - c. **Masks** worn by all patients, family members, and staff at all times - including throughout clinical screening, removing bandages, etc.

- i. With appropriate distancing (6ft or 2m), a patient may momentarily lower their mask for a photograph, but must replace it immediately thereafter.
 - d. **Six feet or 2 meters of social distancing** at all times, including while sleeping and eating (chairs are preferred over benches, to facilitate distancing). Meals are to be served outdoors to facilitate distancing.
 - i. When distancing is not possible (such as when a surgeon is operating on a patient), the duration of these encounters will be limited to only the time that is absolutely necessary.
 - e. Clinical staff are to **sanitize hands and equipment** between each patient contact.
 - f. Each patient may be accompanied by **one family member**.

- VII. All **international participants** will be fully vaccinated and will have undergone a negative PCR test within 72 hours of travel to Ghana, as well as a second negative test on arrival at Kotoka International Airport. All international participants will be subject to the precautions and requirements outlined in this protocol.

- VIII. At the conclusion of the outreach, the host institution administrator must fill out the **Post-Outreach COVID Compliance Report** (*Annex A*). This must be submitted via email to Dr Akwasi Ahmed (akwasi@daybreakvision.org) within **72 hours** of the event.

I agree on behalf of my organization to comply with above requirements on all Daybreak-supported outreaches.

Host Institution Representative

Name:
 Organization:
 Date:

Name: *Akwasi Ahmed, MD - Medical Director – Ghana, Daybreak Vision Project*

Date:
Signature Denotes Confirmation of Review With Partner

ANNEX A - Post-Outreach COVID Compliance Report

Implementing Institution/Entity:

Event Dates:

Event Location:

Total Surgeries Provided:

I attest that compliance with the Daybreak Vision Project COVID-19 Protocol was maintained throughout the duration of this outreach event.

Host Institution Representative

Name:

Organization:

Date: