

## **Operational Plan for FSTP under COVID19 Emergency: Interim Guidance**

### **Daily measures to be adopted at sites for continued operations:**

#### **A. Routine cleaning**

1. All frequently touched surfaces in the workplace, such as workstations, pumps and valves, tools, toilets, floor, countertops, switchboards and door handles must be frequently cleaned using disinfectants.

#### **B. FSTP operators' health and hygiene**

1. Usage of disinfectants (hand sanitizers, handwash etc.) at frequent intervals.
  - a. Employees should wash hands regularly with an alcohol-based hand rub or with soap and clean water. If hands are visibly dirty employees should use only soap and water<sup>1</sup>.
  - b. Ensure that adequate supplies of PPEs, handwashes and hand sanitizers are maintained at the site.
  - c. All employees should cover their noses and mouths with a tissue/ hand kerchief when coughing or sneezing (or elbow or shoulder if no tissue is available).

#### **C. Encourage sick employees to stay home and ensure health care access**

1. Employees who have fever, cough, tiredness, difficulty in breathing and any other symptoms should be encouraged to stay home and not come to work until they are free of fever or any other symptoms for at least 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing or other symptom-altering medicines (e.g. cough suppressants). Employees should notify their supervisor and stay home if they are sick.
2. Employees who exhibit any of the symptoms mentioned above (upon arrival to work or become sick during the day) should be separated from other employees, their supervisor notified. Based on the advice of a healthcare provider the employee should be sent to health care facility or home immediately.

#### **D. PPE usage at sites**

1. Work cloths must be worn at the changing area before starting the day's work. Always use mask, gloves, footwear and appropriate clothing (like long sleeved shirt, long trousers and apron).
2. Site In-charge will be responsible for sharing pictures 3-4 times in a day ensuring PPE usage at site.
3. Ensure that masks, gloves sanitizers, handwash, tissues, etc. and made available at site for all the visitors. However, looking at the current situation of limited supplies available in the market, take appropriate measures to inform the visitors beforehand to carry their own masks, if possible.
4. Insist the incoming desludging operators to use PPE.
5. Change into appropriate work clothing in a changing area (long sleeved shirt, long trousers, shoes, gloves, apron and mask) before starting maintenance of the system.

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<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization. (2020). *Water, sanitation, hygiene and waste management for the COVID-19 virus. Technical Brief*. 3 March 2020.

6. Wash clothes, gloves and footwear daily. The human resources should change into off-duty clothes in the changing area, on completion of daily tasks and wash and disinfect the clothes used before the next use.

#### E. Garbage disposal<sup>2</sup>

1. Put the waste like scum, waste from screening units, used gloves, masks and paper towels in suitable garbage bags.
2. Ensure that the waste from the O&M tasks are collected at least 10 meters away from any wells or other water bodies, so that it cannot leach into the ground and water.
3. Ensure that the garbage cannot be ransacked by animals.
4. Bring the garbage from O&M tasks to an official collection facility, where it is disposed of in a safe way.
5. Do not wait longer than one day to dispose off garbage.
6. Do not dispose garbage at unofficial dumping locations.
7. Do not burn garbage.
8. In case there is a spillage, the spill has to be cleaned by the operator either by sucking up the spill by the vacuum pump into the tank or if that is not possible to cover it with lime. In case that is not possible, then the spill should be washed and the wash water should be directed to a covered drain and chlorine should be sprayed on the spilled area.

#### F. Other Steps

1. Do not empty/desludge from health care facilities and HH with suspected cases unless full tanks are full
2. Do not allow more than 5 visitors (or as specified from time-to-time by the Government) at a time in the site.
3. Physical distance (1 meter) should be maintained among the site staff and visitors as well.
4. Ensure access holes are suitably covered or supervised when no operation and maintenance activity is being performed.
5. ID card and necessary pass from ULB should be issued to the FSTP operator.
6. FSTP operator should always carry pass for movement during lockdown period.

#### **Situations when FSTP operations will be required to be shut down for an agreed time period**

1. Septic tank desludging is discontinued by the existing operators.
2. Site staff is not willing to continue operations further.
3. Government orders for complete shutdown.
4. Rapid increase in the number of COVID cases in the region.

<sup>2</sup> Government of Odisha. *Safety measures to prevent spreading of COVID-19 during desludging operation*. March 2020.

5. In case COVID-19 positive case is identified among any of the site workers / their family members / their residing community. All the site staff will be sent for immediate testing to the nearest hospital.
6. In case where PPE is not available for the operators/ staff at FSTP.

### **Procedure for Shut Down**

In any of the above indicated situations, a communication proposing site shut down with applicable explanation will be shared with all stakeholders. Necessary action will be undertaken within 24 hours after the mutual consensus among all the stakeholders. Official communication update will be shared with site staff, desludging operators in this regard. Suitable security shall be deputed at the plant and the guard will be provided with all the necessary PPE. During shut down period, health situation of the site staff shall be monitored, so that necessary arrangements can be done accordingly for resuming FSTP operations.

### **Resuming the FSTP operations**

Based on the situation of COVID-19 spread in the regions and with the mutual consensus of the Desludging operator and other stakeholders, appropriate date shall be agreed upon for resuming the FSTP operations. Official communication update will be shared with site staff, desludging operators in this regard. More details will be shared by ULB in this regard at least 2-3 days before the decided date so that operations can be resumed smoothly.