

SOP for use of shared bathroom/toilet in Basti

As suspects/patients also use shared bathrooms and washbasins with all persons of the family and community, there is a high chance of virus transmission.

The primary way of transmission in bathrooms and toilets is through coughing, spitting, clearing throat, brushing, washing mouth, etc. The second way is through touching commonly used items and surfaces, such as taps, buckets, mugs, etc.

Bathrooms and toilets are enclosed spaces, with poor ventilation, and if the virus is in the air it can stay dispersed for a long duration when it does not have a chance to **move out**.

Therefore everyone has to take special precautions in using shared wash basins, bathrooms and toilets.

1. Keep the bathroom and toilet well ventilated as far as possible. Keep the window open, and/or use a fan.
2. After the patient uses the bathroom, the next user should enter after 20-30 minutes. If there is less gap, then use a mask.
3. Everyone should try to wear a mask especially, suspects and patients, while using the toilet so there are less chances of spreading the virus in case of coughing, etc.
4. Commonly touched surfaces (toilet, flush handle, washbasin, mugs, taps, etc.) should be washed before & after each use with soapy water.
5. Mix one teaspoon bleaching powder in one litre of water and keep it in the bathroom/ toilet to clean the floor.
6. When pregnant women, physically challenged, the infirm, or small children are using the bathroom/ toilet, they may need additional assistance to ensure all these safety precautions. A companion to help and guide them would be desirable.
7. Keep a diluted liquid of one teaspoon bleaching powder in one litre of water in a spray bottle, for spraying the masks of patients before disposing off in a garbage bin.