Hand washing and temperature screening at camp entry points during COVID-19
(Interim guidance, 16/04/2020)

Some of the mitigation actions that can be taken to reduce the likelihood of rapid viral transmission of COVID-19, are regular hand washing, symptom checking, and social distancing. Having an appropriate number of strategically placed hand washing stations, with IEC materials on proper hand washing technique, mode of transmission, respiratory hygiene, physical distancing and proper mask use can assist both in reinforcing messaging to the community, and providing increased frequency of hand hygiene. The ability to carry out temperature screening can identify those who are febrile, allowing for early interventions including referral for further assessment or instruction on home care. In this way, proactive identification of illness can be made to ensure that potentially ill persons maintain strict social distancing, refrain from engagement with others, and wear a mask.

Given the context of the camp setting which currently host more than 800,000 forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals (FDMN), and the high volume of traffic in and out of the camp, it is recommended that at the points of entry to the camps, hand washing and temperature checks be maintained to control the potential of infected persons entering to the camp or exiting to the host community.

For this to be operational, the following will be necessary:

Dedicated persons trained on IPC measures and basic health messaging musts be posted to the points of entry / exit between the host community and the camps to direct all vehicle occupants to the hand washing station and for temperature screening. The personnel must be easily identifiable (visibility).

Dedicated personnel should set up hand washing stations and screening points not immediately inside military check points, but within the natural stopping area. This will ensure neutrality of the intervention is not hampered, but that the vehicle stops but once.

Support to the staffing, training and cost of supplies can be managed by an INGO / NGO health partner with support from the WASH sector partners.

Given that the hand washing station must be maintained throughout the day, access to water and soap must be made available and the screener(s) must understand how to maintain a continuous supply. Adequate drainage must be provided at hand washing stations (via existing drainage or via water container to be placed under the tap and frequently emptied in existing drainages).
An infrared thermometer should be used to take the temperatures of those both entering and exiting the camp; anyone who is found to have a temperature of 37.5°C* or more

- should be refused entry to the camp (applicable for persons not residing in the camp)
- must be provided with health advice and appropriate infection prevention and control (IPC) measures with tips on home care for illness and when to seek medical care (see “Home care for respiratory illness and fever during COVID-19”)
- should be told to wear a mask prior to re-entry into the vehicle; where possible, a supply of masks should be maintained at the hand washing station

Trained and easily identifiable persons with the thermometers should maintain at least a one-meter distance during temperature screening; additional PPE is not warranted (per WHO Rational use of PPE guidelines: https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/331215)

Contacts for IOM DRU should be readily available if there is an emergency.

*Those with temperature over 37.5°C can be asked to sit and wait for 10 minutes for recheck. If the temperature remains > 37.5°C they should be returned home, and must not wait at the screening area.