

# IHF 'Beyond Covid-19' Task Force

## Terms of Reference (Version 2.0)



### Overview

The International Hospital Federation (IHF) is uniquely placed to bring together hospital and health care associations and act upon their critical concerns regarding Covid-19. In response to the ongoing global coronavirus pandemic, the IHF has established a 'Beyond Covid-19' Task Force to support its members in overcoming this health crisis.

### Purpose of the Task Force

The purpose of the IHF's 'Beyond Covid-19' Task Force is to produce a set of pragmatic recommendations for health service organisations in support of their preparations and readiness for a post-pandemic, 'new normal' scenario.

The recommendations' intended audience will be hospital executives, and will focus on three thematic areas:

#### **Healthcare Delivery and Access**

During the coronavirus pandemic, it has been necessary for many hospitals to postpone non-urgent care (particularly operations with extended recovery times) and to repurpose staff to better manage the overwhelming influx of COVID-19 cases. Flexing to meet the demands of the coronavirus crisis has been the challenge of a generation for many healthcare systems, with many hospitals moving beyond their 'walls' and into cross-sector collaborations with local governments, etc.

#### **Supply, Logistics, and Infrastructure:**

Hospitals and healthcare service organisations will need to work closely working with suppliers and partners to assess the impact on core health product supplies as the Covid-19 pandemic impacts global health product supply chains, affecting key materials and ingredients, finished health products, shipping and logistics. Moreover, hospitals will have to examine how their physical environments and technical infrastructures be adapted to enable greater flexibility in responding to exceptional healthcare situations in the future.

#### **People:**

As the COVID-19 pandemic places huge pressures on the ability of health systems to deliver safe, high-quality care, leaders will have to sharpen their focus on meeting the core needs of their staff, ensuring their wellbeing and sustained motivation to help them deal with this rapidly changing situation. In parallel, hospitals will need to regain trust amongst the communities they serve, to ensure patients have confidence in their services for non-COVID-19 health matters. Going forward, patient-empowerment will need to continue, to ensure that they are engaged in decision-making processes not only concerning their health, but also more broadly on healthcare services.

### Composition and Membership

Members have expertise in health service delivery, healthcare leadership and management, representing the various stakeholders (academia, research groups, non-governmental

organisations, health and care leaders, hospital associations, etc.) involved in the aforementioned areas of focus

Diversity in opinion and perspective is recommended within the Task Force, therefore membership of this group is limited to two members per organisation. As individuals on the taskforce attend in a personal and professional capacity, the delegation of attendance to colleagues is not encouraged.

## Governance

The Task Force will be accountable to the International Hospital Federation Executive Committee and is responsible for reporting to the IHF Secretariat.

In the first instance, it is anticipated that the taskforce will be operational for an initial period of six months from April 2020 to September. The taskforce's objectives and membership will be reviewed as necessary (i.e. when a member of the groups steps down).

The Task Force will remain flexible to the needs of IHF. Going forward, it is envisaged that the Task Force will evolve into a 'Beyond Covid-19' Advisory Group to support the Federation's future work on transformations made within hospital systems as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, and the consequences of these changes for long-term health service delivery. Membership of the future Advisory Group is not mandatory for current members of the Task Force.

## Meetings and Communication

The IHF Secretariat will organise the meetings of the Task Force and oversee the general management of the group. The working language of the Task Force is English; therefore, English is a requirement for the membership.

The quorum for any meeting of the Task Force shall be two-thirds of its membership. The meeting frequency of the Task Force will be determined by the group at its first meeting.