

**From Dr Ahmed Al Mandhari, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean
Update 25 July 2020**

Your Excellencies,

As I share with you our regional updates for the last 24 hours, I would like to turn your attention to this important technical information:

WHO has released the third edition of the interim guidance on **“Infection prevention and control during health care when coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is suspected or confirmed.”** The rationale for this updated edition has been to expand the scope and structure of earlier guidance, bringing together other interim recommendations as well as considerations and advice from subject matter experts.

The main differences and additions compared to the previous versions include the following:

- all sub-sections in the section “Principles of IPC strategies” were expanded to include clarifications and additional recommendations;
- new guidance and practical advice for management of visitors;
- inclusion of a sub-section on ventilation;
- new guidance on IPC considerations for surgical procedures;
- considerations for dead body management in health-care facilities;
- practical advice and available tools to assess health-care facility IPC readiness and to monitor and evaluate IPC measures for COVID-19.

To access the full document go to: <https://bit.ly/3fYpwS0>