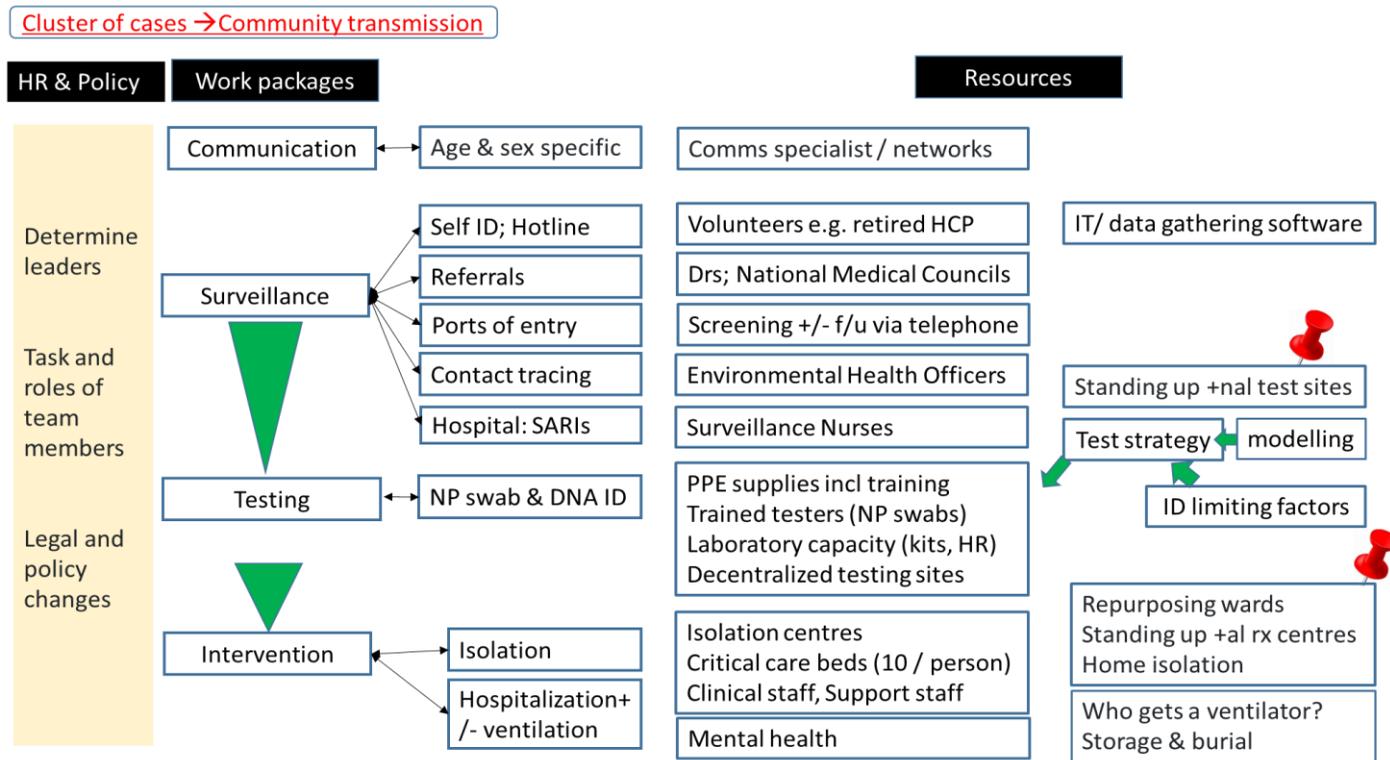


Disaster Management Conceptual Framework: Caribbean COVID-19

The Disaster Management Conceptual Framework can be used to map the preparation and response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This document highlights the “cluster of cases” and “community transmission” phases (as defined by the WHO) as this is the transmission status of most Caribbean islands. For the four work packages of communication, surveillance, testing and interventions, we explore policy recommendations, needed resources and any special considerations. Specific and concise **communication** at all phases is necessary for compliance; age- and sex- specific messaging should be considered. **Surveillance** should occur every available point, from self-identification via the hotline to aggressive contact tracing. Human resources are key as frontline workers become ill; a database of available personnel is paramount. An electronic database for real-time capture and analysis of data should be considered; and algorithms and triggers for centre- and home- quarantine should be concise. **Testing** requires clinical and laboratory personnel, personal protective equipment and various reagents. The testing strategy will be impacted by limiting factors e.g. funds, available test kits and laboratory capacity. If the #1 limiting factor is identified, then, if possible, capacity can be increased in that area or contingency plans can be put in place. **Treatment** is isolation +/- supplemental oxygen and mechanical ventilation. This requires available isolation centres, critical care beds (10 per person), clinical staff including mental health personnel, and a wide range of support staff. Triggers for standing up additional treatment centres, repurposing hospital wards, and the allowance of home isolation should be identified. Collaboration with the Ministry of Health and clinical colleagues should begin regarding ventilation priorities. Similar conversations regarding the readiness for storage and burial should also be explored with the requisite agencies.



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