PROJECT

When a Varicella exposure was identified, WH IPC team conducted risk assessment and initiated post-exposure management (Refer to Figure 1) for over 500 residents who lived in the same hall with the confirmed index case. As they were mainly healthy migrant workers with unknown Varicella immunity status, the decision was made to offer Varicella vaccinations for all exposed residents. Post-exposure, they were monitored closely for up to 21 days in CCF EXPO or given a memo with monitoring advice if discharged before the end of the incubation period.

When a Clinical Scabies case was identified, WH IPC team initiated contact tracing and post-exposure management (Refer to Figure 2) swiftly. Contact tracing included all residents sharing the same cubicle (Refer to Figure 2 & 3 for the sharing cubicle and sick bay cubicle) as the confirmed case. Besides screening identified close contacts for any early signs and symptoms, post-exposure prophylaxis with Malathion was offered to all close contacts. Linens were changed after treatment and terminal cleaning were done for the affected cubicles. During this period, IPC team stepped up on their rounds to audit and reinforce on staff compliance with IPC measures, including hand rubbing and changing gloves in-between patients, cleaning of shared equipment and environment. All this helped to identify the gaps in IPC practices and allow active reinforcement to staff providing direct care to the affected residents.

RESULTS

During the 7-months operation in CCF EXPO, 1 Varicella with approximately 500 contacts and 7 Clinical Scabies cases with 8 contacts were identified episodically and managed safely. Hence, there was no secondary transmission. Despite the challenges posed by the improvised facility, the post-exposure management and control measures successfully prevented onward transmission of Varicella and Clinical Scabies in CCF EXPO. Implementing and ensuring strict compliance to IPC measures among multiple agencies involving many non-healthcare workers was extremely challenging but crucial to prevent the spread of Infectious Diseases.