

## Myanmar Medical Association (MMA)

MMA's response to Covid 19

7 December 2020

The first case of Covid 19 was diagnosed in Myanmar on the 23rd of March 2020. He was a Myanmar national living in USA, who came back to his village in the Chin States on a social visit. In the first three months following this case - less than 200 cases were identified. Most were imported cases, people traveling from different countries. There were a few local cluster outbreaks in Yangon but they were all contained within a few few days after being diagnosed.

The second wave of transmissions started from mid August 2020. The first few cases were noticed in the Rakhine State. But by Mid September cases started to rise in Yangon. Since the end of September the daily average cases detected is about 1000. Now the total case land is about 90,000 infected people with nearly 2000 deaths .

Myanmar MoHS has been the lead organization in the control of the pandemic. National level commitment is present from the highest political levels.

### Training and Donations

MMA started to convene Covid 19 related medical educational symposiums, panel discussions and skill development training workshops for health care workers since the third week of January, even before the lockdown of Wuhan. Public health talks and public awareness campaigns were conducted by MMA members. MMA also liaised with other National Medical Associations (such as China Medical Association, India Medical Association etc) and conducted several panel discussions and symposiums inviting speakers from other countries in experience and knowledge generating sessions.

MMA raised funds from its members and donated directly to the National Covid Prevention and Control committee as well as organized donations of medical equipments, PPEs, infection control related material from the public, local charity organizations, business sector and the Myanmar diaspora. These materials were donated to various health care settings both in Yangon and in other Regions and States.

#### Volunteer Drs recruitment and advisory work

Because of the urgent need of more Drs to work in Covid centre and hospitals , MMA recruited volunteer Drs through the social media. A total of more than 400 Drs responded. As of early December 2020. More than 70 Drs are working in Covid Treatment centres, more than 250 are working in Community Fever Clinics. Some 70 GPs are providing free telephone consultations to people with non-Covid health problems, while 20 volunteer Drs are joining hands with Drs from Department of Medical Research in a toll free hot-line 2019, answering queries from the public about Covid. There is also a group of 40 MMA Drs, who after receiving training from mental health specialists, have formed MMA CCC, which provides Community Covid Counseling service.

Senior members of MMA are also involved as advisory roles in Convalescence Plasma treatment research, Covid vaccine deployment and National Covid prevention and Control work. They take part in various committees advising the Ministry of Health and Sports.

#### Future plan

MMA will continue to seek opportunities and assess needs of the public in this difficult times. MMA will continue present activities and plan to assist people having long term complications caused by Covid 19. MMA will also search for better care for people with non-Covid related medical conditions that need care.

Image 1 . Facebook post of MMA GP Society Tele Consultation Service



**Myanmar Medical Association**  
**General Practitioners' Society**

**TELE CONSULTATION**  
**of health Issue during Covid Era**

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Image 2 Volunteer MOs at Hands on PPE training in Mynamar Medical Association Office



Image 3 . Myanmar Medical Association Volunteers in Public Education on facial masks



Image 4 . Myanmar Medical Association organized donations for Covid 19 Control activities

