

FINAL DRAFT International Standard

ISO/FDIS 6763

Healthcare organization
management — Pandemic response
— Guidance on social distancing
and source control

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ISO/TC 304

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| Foreword Introduction | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|---|------|-------------------|---|
| | | | | 1 | Scon | oe | 1 |
| | | | | 2 | | mative references | |
| 3 | | ns and definitions | | | | | |
| 4 | | al distancing during pre- and post-vaccinations | | | | | |
| 5 | | General Proper use of the medical face mask and face shield | 2 | | | | |
| 6 | Social distancing and source control in everyday life | | 3 | | | | |
| | 6.1 | General | | | | | |
| | 6.2 | Public transit | | | | | |
| | | 6.2.1 Public transit passengers | 3 | | | | |
| | | 6.2.2 Public transit authority | | | | | |
| | 6.3 | Healthcare organization | | | | | |
| | | 6.3.1 Users | | | | | |
| | | 6.3.2 Organization | | | | | |
| | 6.4 | Educational facilities | | | | | |
| | | 6.4.1 Learners | | | | | |
| | | 6.4.2 Organization | | | | | |
| | 6.5 | Restaurants and cafeterias | | | | | |
| | | 6.5.1 Customers | 8 | | | | |
| | | 6.5.2 Organization S. S. S. La M. C. S. L. L. C. S. L. C. | 8 | | | | |
| | 6.6 | Shopping | 9 | | | | |
| | | 6.6.1 Customers 6.6.2 Organization | 9 | | | | |
| | | 6.6.2 Organization | 10 | | | | |
| Bibl | iograpl | hy | 11 | | | | |

https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/iso/9ab27906-d5b3-44e8-ae1c-28124cf9f423/iso-fdis-6767

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 304, *Healthcare organization management*.

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Introduction

Controlling the spread of infectious diseases involves both pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical measures. The pharmaceutical measures involve vaccination. The most effective non-pharmaceutical measures involve social distancing and source controls.

Vaccination reduces the risk of infection but does not eliminate the possibility of reinfection or of asymptomatic transmission of the virus to others, nor does it provide immediate protection to the vaccinated. Herd immunity has been elusive despite vaccination campaigns for several reasons:

- a) vaccination protection is less effective over time;
- b) it is possible that vaccinations do not protect against emergent variants;
- c) pre-existing health conditions, including immunosuppression can make certain individuals more susceptible to infection;
- d) individuals can choose not to receive vaccinations.

In times of increased incidence of active cases, non-pharmaceutical infection control measures are helpful. For individuals who are most susceptible, personal protective equipment such as respirators can provide additional protection.

Health authorities around the globe have made available various generic guidance for social distancing. However, as the number of the vaccinated increases, social distancing should reflect the changes in social behaviours of people with three levels of vaccination (the fully-vaccinated, the partially vaccinated and the unvaccinated) when they engage each other in daily activities. This new challenge in social distancing is dealt with as complementary, generic guidance to the existing sets of guidelines published by various authorities for social distancing. This document is intended to be applicable as long as individuals and organizations find themselves exposed to or interacting with people with varying vaccination levels.

This document is intended to provide guidance to individuals and organizations and to standardize guidance from various authorities. Organizations using recommendations of ISO/PAS 45005 for workplace safety should use this document to refine governance and management essential to the safe operation of the organizations during vaccinations, and to actively engage with changes in safety requirements.

By familiarizing themselves with this document, individuals can: 4e8-ae1c-28124cf9f423/iso-fdis-6763

- understand revised social distancing practices in places where they find themselves;
- feel secure in places such as public markets where individuals with differing vaccination levels are present;
- understand the dynamics of the preventive measures during vaccinations;
- plan and adapt social distancing practice when engaged with others in changing disease situations.

By implementing this document, organizations can:

- put in place social distancing policies and safety messages, for both workers and visitors/customers/ patrons, commensurate with vaccination levels in the population;
- establish a framework that facilitates pre-emptive adaptation to evolving disease situations.

The recommendations in the document can be subject to change, depending on the trend of the infectious disease or other circumstances.

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