



Contingency Plan (SARS-COV-2)

Gruta do Carvão

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1. FRAMEWORK

The following contingency plan for the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) establishes the preventive measures to ensure the safety and health conditions of our workers and their visitors.

In order to ensure that all customers can have access, the plan will be available on the official page of Gruta do Carvão and through a QR code.

In addition, we will provide information regarding the prevention of coronavirus COVID-19 through the display of health care department posters.

2. PREVENTION AND CONTROL PROCEDURES

2.1. Organization

2.1.1. Physical conditions

- Install an acrylic protection with an opening on the service counter;
- Signs at the service counter to encourage payments with bank cards;
- Remove all the reception chairs not to crowd people;
- Place banners on the reception floor in order to mark the safety distance between visitors;
- Define new schedules with less simultaneous employees;
- Renew the air regularly by opening windows and exterior doors.

2.1.2. Visitation Rules

- Guided tours by appointment only (phone or e-mail), when the reservation is by email, the contingency plan is attached;
- Reduce the number of visitors per visit (10 people maximum, including the guide);
- Suspend indefinitely the speleological long tours.

2.1.3. Sanitation

- Create a hygiene plan for daily filling/record/log;
- Everyday, before opening to the public, it should be done an intensive and complete cleaning as well as disinfection of the space with a proper solution;
- Desinfect at least three times per day the common spaces and objects, including light switches, door handles, handrails, toilets and so on.
- Desinfect all the electronic equipments after each use (ATM, computer, telephone) according to the rules applied to each type of equipment.
- Provide a garbage container at the exit for placing disposable protective materials (gloves, face masks and hairnets);
- Provide a carpet with disinfectant for shoes;
- Provide alcohol-based antiseptic solution dispensers in the three critical points of the Cave (Reception, Helmets area and entrance to the Cave);
- Provide liquid soap for hand washing and paper towels in the toilet facilities;
- Use preferably single use cleaning cloths;
- Provide vacuum cleaner with water tank;
- Implement a quarantine system (24H) for t-shirts and books before being exposed again;
- Only one person is responsible for cleaning the entire space and for this reason he must change the PPE (individual protection equipment) in the transition from clean the general areas to the WC.

2.2. Collaborators and visitors

2.2.1. Use of PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)

- Collaborators: Mask (minimum 4 - 6 hours) and waterproof apron and disposable gloves for cleaners.
- Visitors: All visitors must wear a face mask (children up to 9 years old, it is up to the parents). People without it are not allowed to come in. For that reason we will have them on sale for 1€ each.

2.2.2. Personal and social hygiene

- Greet without physical contact;
- Consider as a suspicious case people who have symptoms such as fever, cough or breathing difficulties;
- In case of symptoms or suspicions contact Azores Health Line: 808 24 60 24;
- Respect the physical distance measures;
- Wash your hands regularly and it's mandatory to disinfect them when entering and leaving the cave.

3. PROCEDURES IN CASE OF SUSPICION

3.1. Proper isolation site

In Gruta do Carvão, the surrounding area around the public toilet was defined as an isolation site equipped with:

- A chair so that the COVID-19 suspect can rest while he waits the validation of the case or an eventual transportation coordinated by the Azores Health Department;
- Bottle of water (1.5L);
- Trash bags;
- Alcohol-based antiseptic solution;
- Paper wipes;
- Surgical masks;
- Disposable gloves;
- Thermometer.

3.2. Suspicious Case Definition

Clinical Criteria	Epidemiological Criteria
Fever OR Cough OR Breathing Difficulty	Travel history on the previous 14 days before the beginning of symptoms to areas with active transmission of COVID. OR In touch with a confirmed or a probable case of COVID-19 infection 14 days before the beginning of symptoms. OR Professional health care or someone who has been to an institution where COVID-19 patients are treated.

*Áreas com transmissão comunitária ativa: Norte de Itália (regiões de Emiglia-Romagna, Lombardia, Piemonte, Veneto), China, Coreia do Sul, Singapura, Japão e Irão.

3.3. What to do when a suspicious case is identified

- Contact the Azores Health Line. This must be done by the worker designated to provide assistance, (according to the work team);
- The infected suspect must remain in the isolation area and wait for further instructions from the Regional Health Care;
- The access to the isolated area is prohibited;
- Any contact with the suspect must be made with protection.

3.4. Isolation site decontamination

- Clean and disinfect the isolation area;
- Reinforce the cleaning and disinfection especially on the surfaces most used by the confirmed infected.

- Duly store the waste produced by the infected and send it to a licensed operator for its treatment (hospital waste with biological risk)