

COVID-19 PANDEMIC: BED PLACEMENT IN CONGREGATE SETTINGS IN UN DUTY STATIONS

24 April 2020

Background

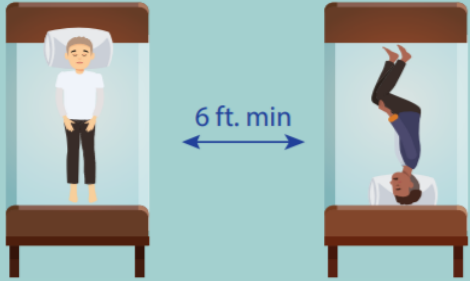
Physical distancing involves increasing distance between individuals in settings where people commonly come into close contact with one another. To reduce spread of COVID-19, and to ensure the safety of those in congregate settings (e.g. troops contingents), **this guidance provides instructions for bed positioning on all open sides of the bed in such settings.** Three options are listed below with **Option ONE being the preferred option whenever possible.**

Recommendations on Bed Placement in Congregate Settings

Option ONE: this is the preferred option whenever possible

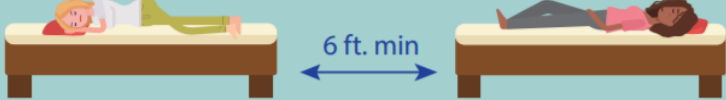
For single beds positioned next to each other (side-to-side):

- At least 6 feet apart AND patient's laying position is head to toe



For beds positioned across from one another (end-to-end)

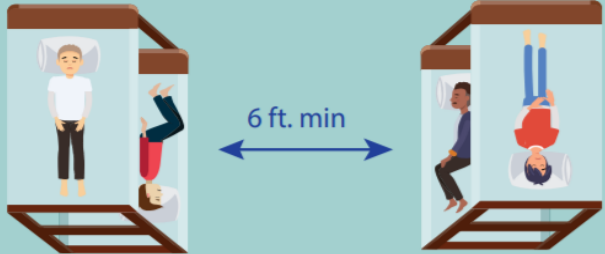
- Feet of beds are at least 6 feet apart AND patient's laying position is toe to toe.



Option TWO: If single beds are not available and bunk bed are utilized

For bunkbeds that are positioned next to each other or across from one another:

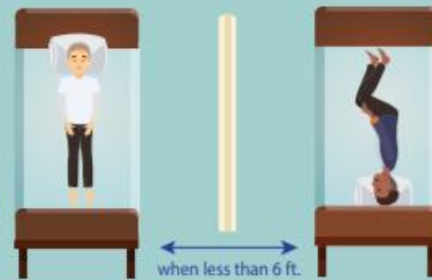
- Position beds at least 6 feet apart.
- Ensure the patient's laying position is head to toe **on each separate bunk bed**, so positioning allows for the least transmission risk as possible. This includes laying position that is head to toe with adjacent bunks.



Option THREE: In the event that there are severe operational difficulties in positioning beds 2 meters (6 feet) or more:

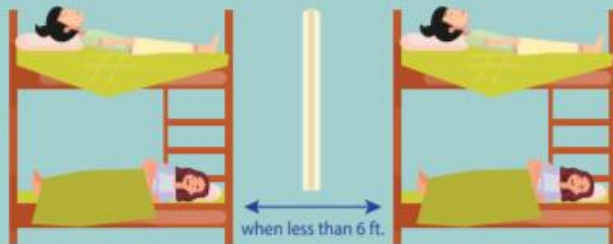
For single beds:

- Position beds at least 3 feet apart.
- Consider placing partitions (e.g., nailing string from wall-to-wall and hanging sheets or blanket, using dressers or cardboard boxes as a barrier, etc) between beds.
- Ensure patient's laying position is head to toe.



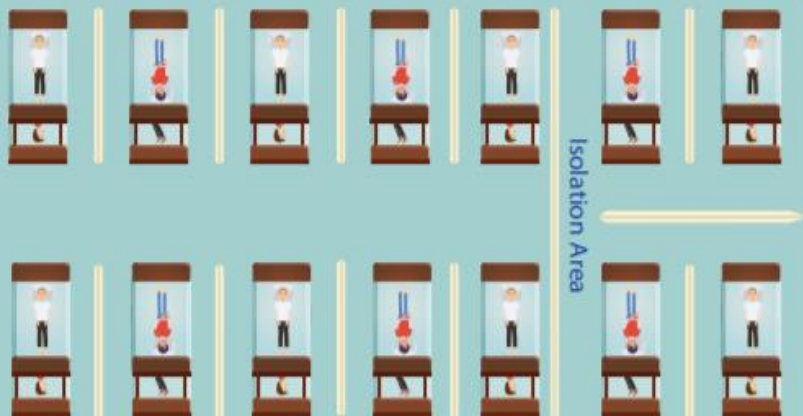
For bunkbeds:

- Position beds at least 3 feet apart.
- Consider placing partitions (e.g., nailing string from wall-to-wall and hanging sheets or blanket, using dressers or cardboard boxes as a barrier, etc) between beds.
- Ensure the patient's laying position is head to toe on **each separate bunk bed**, including positioned head to toe on adjacent bunks.



For rooms with more than 10 beds:

- Include partitions to separate beds to the fullest extent possible.



Symptomatic Individuals & Further Guidance

Please note that any individuals who show symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath... etc) must immediately put a mask on and be put into medical isolation, and prevented from interacting from other non-symptomatic individuals.

Detailed guidance on routine quarantine of non-sick uniformed personnel / contingents is available at https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/coronavirus_pre_and_postdeploymentquarantine.pdf

For any questions, please contact dos-dhmosh-public-health@un.org