



## Interacting with Local Communities During Public Health Containment Activities

### CHECKLIST

Workers involved in health education, surveillance, case-finding, contact-tracing, ambulance driving, and other community health measures become the face of an outbreak response to affected communities. Through interactions with community members, these frontline responders can influence people's perception of the overall response. This checklist is designed to provide reminders of every day acts of respect and compassion that can and must be infused into response work. Integrating these considerations into technical aspects of containment helps contain the outbreak.

**Directions:** Review this checklist while planning for and initiating public health containment activities.

- Go with local leaders into communities to understand how to appropriately **demonstrate respect**.
- Establish a **local task force or other formal mechanism** for community members to regularly communicate with local, national, and foreign leaders in a decision-making role.
- Inform communities** about when, why, how, and for how long containment activities will be implemented.
- Communicate the team's role, scope and limit of** their authority with local leaders and community members.
- Provide actionable information** about the steps community members should take to protect themselves.
- Develop a strategy that **protects confidentiality**.
- Include **psychosocial support** workers on the response team.
- Listen to community members' concerns** and make notes to inform decision-makers of on-the-ground challenges.
- Use short fact sheets to **regularly update the local media** on disease transmission, prevention and where to go for care and treatment (if available).