

10 Respiratory infections

Transmission

- Droplets of saliva/mucus from one person to another, mainly while coughing or sneezing

Symptoms

- Wide range of symptoms
- Look for fever, cough and difficulty breathing

Prevention

- ➔ Identification of patients before they spread the disease to other people
- ➔ Health promotion
- ➔ Good shelter

- ➔ Reduction of overcrowding
- ➔ Improving the nutritional situation, especially of children
- ➔ Respiratory etiquette

Vulnerable people

- Everyone in the community can get respiratory infections
- People are more at risk in overcrowded and displacement situations

In case of epidemic

- ➔ Rapid identification of sick people
- ➔ Referral of sick people to health facilities
- ➔ Improvement of shelter and reduction of overcrowding

- ➔ Detection and referral of new and suspected cases to health facilities
- ➔ Health promotion
- ➔ Community mobilization

Volunteer actions

See the following **action tools** for more information on what actions to take against respiratory infections:

31	29	32	28	30	33	4	27	2	3
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Community-based assessment questions

Make a map of the community and mark the information you gather on the map.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• When did the epidemic start?• How many people live in the affected community?• How many children under 5 years of age live in the affected community?• What is the shelter situation in the community? How many people live in each household?• Who and where are the vulnerable people? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How many people have died from respiratory infections and where?• How many people have fallen sick with respiratory infections and where?• Are there any health services and where?• Is there a health promotion programme in place? |
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