



BAFP & BIFMR Personal Protective Equipment Position Statement

Family Physicians are the first contact for most patients within the health care system of the country and provide care to all people regardless of age, sex, religion or social status. Family Physicians are at the frontline of screening and triage for COVID-19 in chamber and outpatient settings. Many Family Physicians are managing their patients at home through telephone or video call.

It is very important, during pandemics, that healthcare workers have adequate protection to decrease personal harm and the spread of the disease to the patient and family members. This is especially true when limited test availability masks the true prevalence of COVID-19. Family Physicians should not be required to see patients face-to-face when adequate Personal Protective Equipment [PPE] is not available.

If the primary care workforce becomes ill with pandemic COVID-19, the healthcare system will become overwhelmed, or even collapsed, resulting in significant harm to the population. The BAFP and BIFMR strongly supports the use of PPE for Family Physicians based on their clinical judgement.

Bangladesh Academy of Family Physicians

Bangladesh Institute of Family Medicine and Research

- *This statement is prepared in the light of the statement of
The American Academy of Family Physicians*