

# Coronavirus and Chronic Diseases

## An Extra Dose of Prevention

Adults with hypertension, diabetes, and other chronic diseases may be especially vulnerable to coronavirus. We all have a role to play in stopping its spread and protecting the health of our patients.

### TIPS FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS



- ✓ In areas affected by the coronavirus outbreak, encourage patients to avoid health care facilities unless they have symptoms or other urgent needs to avoid unnecessary exposure
- ✓ Observe standard, droplet, and contact precautions including appropriate personal protective equipment (eye protection, masks).
- ✓ For stable patients coming to your facility, dispense the longest-term prescription you can (90 days is ideal!)



- ✓ At your facility, use standard precautions, including disinfection of equipment, for all patients
- ✓ Triage and early detection of patients with cold and flu symptoms is important. Have them wait in a separate area if possible.
- ✓ Reach out to your hypertension, diabetes, and other non-communicable disease (NCD) patients by text or phone to check in and make a plan for care



- ✓ Consider setting up a mobile pharmacy or medication dispensing unit for chronic NCD patients in the community and away from facilities where patients with illness are accessing care

\*[https://www.who.int/publications-detail/infection-prevention-and-control-during-health-care-when-novel-coronavirus-\(ncov\)-infection-is-suspected-20200125](https://www.who.int/publications-detail/infection-prevention-and-control-during-health-care-when-novel-coronavirus-(ncov)-infection-is-suspected-20200125)

Resolve to Save Lives is working to prevent millions of deaths from cardiovascular disease and epidemics. For more information, visit [www.resolvetosavelives.org](http://www.resolvetosavelives.org) and [www.preventepidemics.org](http://www.preventepidemics.org).

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**TO SAVE LIVES**  
AN INITIATIVE OF VITAL STRATEGIES