



## COVID-19 CLINICAL SOLUTIONS

### **What did you do?**

We studied the progress of COVID-19 and monitored it from the first confirmed case in Qatar, population 2.8 million, to the flattening of the curve and its eventual decrease in the community at large.

### **Who are you?**

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### **What was the problem?**

To see if the government's prepared contingency plan for coping with disasters, with a structured level of management, was effectively applicable to a viral pandemic situation.

### **What was the solution?**

Qatar's response for its outbreak from March 2020 first activated primary health care centres equipped with laboratory facilities, short stay beds, and radiology that included X-ray and ultrasound. Four pre-designated health centres under primary care and four dedicated tertiary hospitals processed and received admissions. The Ministry of Public Health quickly implemented its plan for managing all suspected COVID-19 patients. Emergency disaster teams were activated, and three regional command centres directed the primary care centres. Four of the largest community health centers became nodal testing and holding venues. Patients underwent thorough COVID-19 investigation with PCR and blood tests, radiology, and ECGs. Patients proving positive at a centre were either sent to a specified tertiary care hospital or quarantine facilities depending on the severity of symptoms. Frontline health care workers were routinely screened by a swab test every fifteen days.

Random test sampling of the public, by invitation, was done by drive-thru swab collection in specific health centre locations. Active home swabbing teams visited patients after contact tracing. By 5 August 2020, only 77 patients remained in ICU, and 108,831 had recovered. Total cases were 39,922 per one million. The fatality rate remained low, with 178 recorded deaths in a population of 2,807,805. The Minister of Public Health stated that 'The safety of the population is important,' and no facilities would open unless the level of safety was acceptable.

Solidarity, teamwork, containment, and consistent leadership guidance were some of the lessons learned from effectively handling the pandemic.

### **Where can we find out more?**

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