POSSIBLE UPPER RESPIRATORY TRACT INFECTION

Supportive Management

For cough

- Drink clear liquids all day (e.g. water, tea, broth, water with lemon). Drink around 8 glasses (or 2 liters total) of fluid per day. Avoid juices with high sugar content.
- Take immune-boosting food, like food rich in Vitamin C (e.g. orange, pineapple, grapes, and broccoli).
- Have plenty of rest. Sleep for 7-8 hours every night in a dark room, as melatonin – a powerful anti-oxidant that promotes healing through boosting the immune function – are found to be produced in higher amounts when sleeping in darkness. If sleeping in a dark room is not possible, wear an eye patch instead.

For fever

- Apply cool, wet towel on the forehead, groin, and armpits.
- Have a warm bath or a tepid sponge bath using comfortably warm water (43° C 46° C). Perform sponge bath for 20-30 minutes. Avoid using cool water, ice, or alcohol for the bath as they may cause shivering, which, in turn, may further increase body temperature.
- Dress in light clothing and remove excess clothes. Sleep with a light layer of blanket.
- Keep room well-ventilated, and at a moderate, comfortable temperature. If the room feels warm, place a fan nearby.
- Keep self hydrated.
 - Drink around 8 glasses (or 2 liters total) of fluid per day.
 - Avoid dehydrating drinks such as caffeinated drinks (e.g. cola, coffee, tea, energy drinks), as well as alcohol.

For sore throat

- Chew on ice chips
- Consume soft foods which are easier to swallow.
- Take warm calamansi or lemon juice to soothe the throat (see herbal medicine section below for preparation).



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POSSIBLE UPPER RESPIRATORY TRACT INFECTION

Supportive Management

For nasal congestion and runny nose

- Drink around 8 glasses (or 2 liters total) of fluid per day.
- Take warm drinks.
- Use saline nasal wash.
 - Ingredients:
 - 1 cup warm water (if using tap water, sterilize first by boiling, and let it cool until lukewarm)
 - ➢ ½ teaspoon of salt
 - ½ teaspoon of baking soda
 - Instructions:
 - 1. Prepare the home-made saline nasal wash.
 - 2. Fill the nasal bulb (bulb syringe) with the saline solution.
 - 3. Insert the tip of the nasal bulb into one nostril, and gently squeeze.
 - 4. Aim the flow of saline solution toward the back of the head.
 - 5. Allow the solution to drain back out through the other nostril or through the mouth.
 - 6. Gently blow nose to remove excess mucus and solution.
 - 7. Follow the same process with the other nostril.
 - 8. Repeat this process a couple of times daily until condition improves.
 - 9. Clean the nasal bulb after each use.
- Use steam Inhalation (using eucalyptus extract, Vicks vaporub, or sea salt)
 - Don't use for children under 12 years old.
 - Instructions:
 - 1. Place a bowl in the sink (where it will have less chance to tip over).
 - 2. Pour boiling water in the bowl.
 - 3. Add any of the following three:
 - ➢ If eucalyptus extract: add 2-3 drops
 - If Vicks vaporub: add two teaspoons
 - ➤ If sea salt: add ½ cup
 - 4. Cover head with a towel and lean carefully over the bowl. Keep face 12 inches away from the boiling water.
 - 5. Deeply inhale steam for 5-10 minutes, and then, blow nose thoroughly.



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POSSIBLE UPPER RESPIRATORY TRACT INFECTION

Herbal Medicine

• Luya (Ginger) Decoction – Salabat

 Boil three middle-finger-sized luya in 3 glasses of water. Boil in low heat for 15 minute. Strain and serve. May add calamansi and honey for flavor.

Strong Ginger Tincture

- This is intended to be used only by adults only. Keep it away from children.
- Fill a jar with 50 gram peeled fresh ginger. Pour 90% of alcohol (e.g. tuba) over the top to make 100 mL. Shake the jar well. Keep the jar stored in a dark cabinet and shake periodically for two weeks. After two to three weeks, strain and store the ginger tincture in a cool, dark place. For use, take 0.25 to 0.5 mL.

Lagundi Leaves Decoction

- The amount of lagundi leaves to be used corresponds to the age of the person the decoction is intended for. For a person aged 2-6, use either 1 tablespoon of dried leaves or 1 ½ tablespoons of fresh leaves; for a person aged 7-12, use either 2 tablespoons of dried leaves or 3 tablespoons of fresh leaves; and for those older than 12, use either 4 tablespoons of dried leaves or 6 tablespoons of fresh leaves. Boil the leaves in 330 mL water for 15 minutes or until the water is halved. Strain. Divide the decoction in 3 doses, and take each dose 3 times a day.

Calamansi or Lemon Juice

- Squeeze out the juice from the calamansi or lemon, add warm water and sugar or honey to taste. Drink as tolerated.

Garlic Syrup

- Mix a pounded clove of garlic in a glass of thick sugar water or honey. Take three to four times a day.
- Garlic can be irritating to the gastrointestinal tract. Do not take on an empty stomach.

• Saha ng Saging (Balat ng Punong Saging)

- For elevated temperature (fever)
- Take as many fresh saha as needed. Wrap the fresh saha around the neck, armpits, and groins of the person with fever. Replace the used saha with a new one as needed (e.g. when the saha has become warm).



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