COVID-19 preventive measures for the artisanal gold sector

If you do not feel well, stay at home!
Stay home and avoid close contact with others if you do not feel well. If you have typical COVID-19 symptoms and contact cannot be avoided, wear a medical mask. See a doctor, esp. if you have fever or difficulty breathing.

Protect yourself - Keep your distance!
Stay at least 1 meter (2 arms length) apart. Organize work conditions to avoid close contact with other miners. Outdoor settings are considered lower risk compared to indoor settings with limited ventilation.

Protect others - Wear a mask!
If physical distancing is not possible, wear a cloth mask at the mining and in public to protect others. Cover your face when you have to sneeze or cough (e.g., with your bent elbow). Do not spit!

Avoid touching your face!
Do not touch your mouth, nose or eyes with your unclean hands. Your hands might be contaminated with the coronavirus after touching a contaminated object. Avoid touching frequently handled objects. Do not share personal items.

Wash your hands!
Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds, especially before touching your face and putting on a mask and after touching shared objects or sneezing. Alternatively, use hand sanitizer with a minimum of 60% alcohol.

Keep it clean!
Disinfect frequently touched surfaces such as digging tools or generator switches. The virus can survive on objects for several days, esp. indoors and underground. Direct sunlight seems to be able to inactivate the coronavirus on objects.

Sources: World Health Organization*, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention *, **, planetGold ** (* info, **graphs)