

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
UPDATE ON COVID-19



AS AT 6th MARCH 2020

The Government has stepped up preparedness measures through heightened surveillance system at all points of entry, health facilities and communities across the country to ensure that there is no importation of **COVID-19** into the country. Information from the World Health Organization (WHO) indicate that as at 5th March 2020, **95,333** confirmed cases have been reported globally and **3282** deaths majority from mainland China.

Kenya has investigated **twenty three** (23) alerts involving **thirty one** (31) suspected cases that have all tested **NEGATIVE** for **COVID-19**. Two of the cases investigated recently were both in Nairobi.

The following measures have been put in place to safeguard public health safety:

- i. **Establishment** of the National Emergency Response Committee through an executive order by H.E the President on 28th Feb 2020.
- ii. A **National Contingency Plan** to guide implementation of priority preparedness and response activities in view of the potential threat posed by importation of COVID-19 into Kenya. This has been cascaded down to all County governments.
- iii. **Activation of Emergency Operations Centre** that is closely monitoring the evolution of the outbreak in China and the rest of the world. In addition, trained rapid response teams are on standby to investigate any alert in – country.
- iv. In country diagnostic capacity at the National Influenza Centre and KEMRI laboratories to test suspected cases of COVID-19.
- v. **Mandatory screening** at all points of entry to minimize the risk of importation of the virus from affected countries

- vi. **Sensitisation and Training** of health workers in both public and private health facilities and at points of entry on how to deal with suspected cases. About one thousand one hundred (1100) health care workers have been trained and additional health workers have been deployed at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA). The sensitizations will be cascaded to the community level throughout the country.
- vii. **Isolation facilities** have been set up at Kenyatta National Hospital and Mbagathi District Hospital to be used to isolate suspected cases. There have been consultations with the private health facilities within Nairobi City to support provision of additional isolation facilities in the event that the country reports more cases than the capacity at Kenyatta National Hospital.
- viii. Procurement of additional 5,000 **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** with support from USAID. Following a consultative meeting with the Council of Governors, each county was with an initial 25 kits.
- ix. The Ministry of Health continues to collaborate closely with the World Health organisation (WHO), Africa CDC and US- CDC amongst others.

Members of the public are encouraged to remain vigilant as the risk is still high and are advised to continue taking the precautionary measures:

- i. Maintain basic hand and respiratory hygiene, and safe food practices.
- ii. Avoid close contact with people suffering from acute respiratory infections.
- iii. In addition, anyone showing symptoms of respiratory illness such as fever, coughing, difficulty in breathing and sneezing with a history of recent travel to China is advised to go to the nearest health facility for assessment and prompt management.
- iv. The Government has **temporarily** lifted the ban on Italian flights to Kenya, but only to **evacuate** Italian Citizens from Kenya. The flight(s) will only contain their cabin crew, who **WILL NOT** disembark while the passengers are being picked.
- v. The Government has, with **IMMEDIATE EFFECT** banned all meetings, conferences and events of international nature in Kenya
- vi. The Government has issued a **travel advisory** to all Kenyans to avoid **non-essential travel to high risk countries** for conferences/meetings or events where more than 15 people would be gathering

- vii. The Ministry of Health is **engaging Kenyans citizens**, sector by sector, in the management of both personal and public hygiene.
 - a. In conjunction with the **Ministry of Transport**, MoH is engaging the **public transport sector- Matatus, Bodabodas and Buses**, to practice proper hygiene
 - b. In conjunction with the **Ministries of Trade and Finance**, MoH is engaging the **Business community** on how best to **mitigate challenges** to the sector owing to the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak
- viii. The **County governments**, through their respective governors have been tasked to **ensure that necessary isolation wards** in all **Level 4 and 5 Hospitals** are set up and ready for use by **15th March 2020**
 - a. Additionally, the **National Government** has rolled out support to counties by **providing** and sending an **extra 5000 workers**, while **mobilizing mobile clinics** for faster response to any anticipated public health emergency, especially the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak
- ix. The MoH is also exploring the possibility of utilizing Kenyatta University Teaching Referral and Research Hospital to offer additional capacity for isolation and management of COVID-19 cases

Suspected cases in Kenya can be reported to the Ministry of Health through hotline numbers: **0800721316, 0732353535, 0729471414.**

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