



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

UPDATE ON COVID-19 AS AT 19th FEBRUARY 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.

Kenya has investigated thirteen (13) alerts that have all tested **NEGATIVE** for **COVID-19**. Two of the cases investigated yesterday in Mutomo, Kitui and Kilimani Nairobi did not meet the WHO case definition criteria.

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

- i. **A** multi-agency approach, at two levels (policy and technical) involving relevant Ministries, departments and agencies to deal with the threat of COVID-19.
- 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.
- 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 of health workers in both public and private health facilities and at points of entry on how to deal with suspected cases. Five hundred (500) health care workers have been trained and additional health workers have been deployed at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA).
- 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

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. **We are advising Kenyans against non-essential travel to affected countries.**

Information from the World Health Organization (WHO) indicate that as at 18th February 2019, **73,332** confirmed cases have been reported globally and 1,870 deaths majority from mainland China. Further information in this regard can be obtained via <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>

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

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