



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

PRESS STATEMENT ON CORONAVIRUS DISEASE-19 (COVID-19) AS AT 27th FEBRUARY 2020

1.0 BACKGROUND

As of 26th February 2020, globally **81109** confirmed cases and **2762** deaths have been reported in China and 37 other countries.

2.0 PREPAREDNESS MEASURES

The Ministry continues to maintain a heightened surveillance system at all points of entry, health facilities and communities across the country. So far, the Ministry through its surveillance system, has been able to pick **SEVENTEEN** alerts and all tested negative for the disease.

Further, the Government has put in place the following interventions:

- i. **COVID – 19 Contingency Plan:** The country has developed a national contingency plan to guide implementation of priority preparedness and response activities in view of the threat posed by importation of COVID-19 into Kenya.
- ii. **Governance:** Adoption of a whole government and multi-agency approach, at two levels (policy and technical). Ministries, departments and agencies have been brought on board to deal with the threat of COVID-19.
- iii. **Activation of Emergency Operations Centre:** The Emergency Operations Centre has been activated and is closely monitoring the evolution of the outbreak across the world. In addition, the rapid response teams are on standby to investigate any alert in – country.
- iv. **Diagnostic Capacity:** The Government of Kenya through the Ministry of Health has the necessary capacity for in – country testing of COVID-19.
- v. **Screening: MANDATORY** screening is ongoing in all points of entry to minimize the risk of importation of the virus from affected countries. A total of **320,123** travellers have been screened across various points of entry since 20th January 2020 to date.

- vi. **Human Resources: 615** health workers in both public and private health facilities and at points of entry have been sensitised on how to deal with suspected cases. Additional health workers have been deployed at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA).
- vii. **Isolation Facilities:** The isolation facility at Kenyatta National Hospital continues to be used to isolate suspected cases while they undergo investigation. The National Government has taken over a new ward with capacity of 120 beds at Mbagathi District Hospital to increase isolation capacity. In addition, all the points of entry have isolation/holding facilities and prepositioned personal protective equipment. Further, the Ministry of Health has met with all the Chief Executive Officers for major 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. **Personal Protective Equipment:** The country has adequate personal protective equipment (PPE) sets and more are being mobilized.

The Ministry advises members of the public to remain vigilant as the risk is still high and to continue taking precautionary measures by maintaining basic hand and respiratory hygiene, safe food practices and avoiding close contact with people suffering from acute respiratory infections. In addition, anyone showing symptoms of respiratory illness such as fever, coughing, difficulty in breathing and sneezing with a history of recent travel to affected countries is advised to visit the nearest health facility for assessment and prompt management. Further, all non – essential travel to affected countries is discouraged.

We will continue to respond to any alerts as they are reported through the following hotline numbers **0800721316, 0732353535, 0729471414.**