



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
PRESS STATEMENT ON THE UPDATE OF CORONAVIRUS
IN THE COUNTRY AND RESPONSE MEASURES AS AT 24th
MARCH 2020

Members of the Fourth Estate, fellow Kenyans

Welcome to the daily updates on the current status of Coronavirus disease outbreak in Kenya.

In the last twenty four hours, a total of **eight two (82)** samples from suspected cases of Coronavirus have been tested in various laboratories, namely the National Influenza Center, KEMRI Nairobi, KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Kilifi and Aga Khan Hospital Nairobi.

Out of the 82 samples, we have received confirmation of **Nine (9)** people who have tested positive for Coronavirus Disease. This brings the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Kenya to **twenty five (25)**. These confirmed cases are spread out in four (4) counties namely, Nairobi, Mombasa, Kilifi and Kwale.

Out of the nine new confirmed cases, seven are Kenyans while two are foreigners. And of the seven Kenyans, three have contracted the virus from close contacts of previously confirmed cases, while the four others contracted the same from countries that are affected with the virus.

The new patients have already been taken into isolation in our facilities, and are being monitored by our medical personnel, together with others who previously turned positive.

Tracing of contacts for the new patients, as well as those of the previous patients is ongoing. The total number of close contacts that we have so far been monitoring stands at **745**. Out of this number, **98** of them have been discharged after completing the 14 day follow up period. We are now remaining with **647** close contacts that our tracing teams are monitoring. **Fifteen 15** individuals are currently admitted at Mbagathi Hospital awaiting test results.

Following our directive on 22nd March, 2020, all international travelers arriving through our entry points are undergoing mandatory quarantine in selected hotels, and Government designated facilities, at their own cost.

I want to state that, there has been challenges at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, as well as the designated hotels and government facilities, where we are taking the travelers for mandatory quarantine. This was bound to happen, because of the huge numbers that are coming in while at the same time we do not want to leave anything to chance.

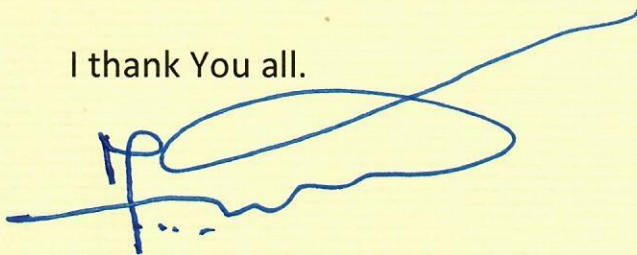
However we have streamlined the process and this has been sorted out. Infact we intend to introduce a further measure that will speed up the process. I want to once again appeal to ALL travelers to bear with us as we continue to undertake this process. This intervention is aimed at stopping further introduction of the virus into the country.

Today we have received a donation of 25,000 testing Kits for the Coronavirus from the Chinese business magnate Jack Ma. On behalf of the government, I want to thank this gentleman for his generosity, as this will go a long way in helping us fight this disease.

We shall be carrying out mandatory testing for all the contact cases. At the same time, we shall also carryout testing for all persons in mandatory quarantine, who are coming in from overseas as well as those already here.

As I conclude, I would like to urge ALL Kenyans to fully support the measures being undertaken by the government to deal with this deadly disease, as this is the only sure way to cut off transmission of this virus in our country.

I thank You all.



Hon Mutahi Kagwe, EGH

CABINET SECRETARY