



NATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMITTEE
ON CORONAVIRUS
UPDATE ON CORONAVIRUS IN THE COUNTRY
AND RESPONSE MEASURES, AS AT 19th June 2020

DAY: 99

Brief No: 93

Good afternoon, and welcome to today's COVID-19 media briefing.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, we join our brothers and sisters globally, in marking the World Sickle Cell Diseases Day, which is commemorated on June 19th every year. The United Nations General Assembly, established the World Sickle Cell Day in the year 2008, to increase public knowledge and raise awareness of Sickle Cell Disease. This year's theme is "***Break the silence: and Shine the light on Sickle cell disease.***"

This day is meant to highlight the struggles of living with sickle cell disease sufferers and their care givers.

Sickle Cell, is a genetic disease characterized by a mutation in the shape of a red blood cell, from a smooth circular shape, to a crescent shape, which can result in the blockage of small blood vessels. Individuals with sickle cell disease are likely to experience chronic, debilitating pain, risk of recurrent infections, and other serious complications.

Persons Living with Sickle Cell Disease (PLWSCD), are at a higher risk of getting infected with COVID-19, and more likely to get severe illness if they get infected. This is due to their impaired immunity resulting from blood disorder. PLWSCD should therefore, strictly observe the precautionary preventive measures for COVID-19. During this period of Coronavirus pandemic, persons living with sickle cell disease are advised, to ensure they keep a minimum of one-month supply of medication at all times. In addition, they should consult their healthcare providers should they experience COVID-19 symptoms.

At least 240,000 children in Africa, are born each year with Sickle Cell Disease (SCD), while here in Kenya, it is estimated that 6,000 children are born with the disease. Sadly, between 50 to 80 per cent of these children die before their fifth birthday. The recurrent pain and complications caused by the disease, can interfere with many aspects of the patient's life, including education, employment and psychosocial development.

Interventions to control the disease include; early diagnosis, provision of prompt and effective management, advocacy, communication and social mobilization for screening, and genetic counseling, during premarital courtship.

I am glad to note, that the Ministry together with stakeholders, have developed guidelines for managing the disease to be rolled out soon. This will help to improve the quality of care offered at our health facilities and community levels.

I want to thank all stakeholders and partners who have supported the Ministry of Health to commemorate this day, particularly the Sickle Cell Federation of Kenya, and Novartis. We are grateful to Public Health Club medical students at the University of Nairobi, who have mobilized their colleagues to donate blood for the management of sickle cell disease.

Fellow Kenyans,

As pertains to our Covid-19 situation, we have **117** people who have tested positive for Coronavirus disease, from a sample size of **3,043**, that was tested in the last 24 hours. The new positive cases pushes our confirmed cases to **4,374** in the country. The total tests carried out so far are at **133,541**.

From the positive cases, **112** are Kenyans, and **5** are foreigners, while **83** are males and **34** are females. The youngest is **11** years while the oldest is **75**.

The distribution of the cases by Counties is as follows; Nairobi **51** cases, Mombasa **(22)**, Kajiado **(18)**, Kiambu **(6)**, Nakuru **(5)**, Garissa **(5)**, Machakos **(3)**, Kericho, Busia and Uasin Gishu have **(2)** cases each, while Wajir, one **(1)** case.

By sub counties, the distribution is as follows; in Nairobi, the **52** cases are from; Kibra, **(8)**, Langata, **(8)**, Makadara, **(6)**, Dagoretti North, **(6)**, Kamukunji, **(4)**, Embakasi East, **(4)**, Embakasi North, **(3)**, Embakasi South, **(3)**, Mathare, **(2)**, Ruaraka, **(2)**, Embakasi Central, **(2)** while Embakasi West, Starehe and Kasarani, one **(1)** case each.

In Mombasa, the **(22)** cases are from Mvita, **(8)**, Kisauni, **(5)**, Changamwe, **(4)**, Likoni, **(3)**, while Jomvu and Nyali have one **(1)** case each. In Kajiado, the **18** cases are from Loitokitok, **(12)**, Kajiado Central and Kajiado East two **(2)** cases each, while Kajiado North and Kajiado West have one **(1)** case each. In Kiambu, the **6** cases are from Thika **(3)**, Kiambu Town, Limuru and Lari have one **(1)** case each. In Nakuru all the five **(5)** cases are

from Naivasha, while the five **(5)** cases in Garissa are all from Daadab refugee camp. In Machakos, the three **(3)** cases are from Athi River. In Kericho the two **(2)** cases are from Ainamoi, while in Busia, the two **(2)** cases are from Teso North and Matayos. In Uasin Gishu, the two **(2)** cases are from Kapseret and soy, while the case in Wajir is from Wajir West.

I am delighted to inform you that, we have discharged **91** patients from our various hospitals, bringing the total number of recoveries to **1,550**. I want to once again thank our healthcare workers for the good work that they are doing.

However, on we have unfortunately lost two **(2)** patients to the disease bringing the total fatality rate to **119**. My condolences to the families and friends of the departed.

Finally my Fellow Kenyans,

As you can see clearly from the numbers above, the spread of the virus is concentrated in some areas. This could be attributed to information that we have received

about groups of young people who are organizing house parties in areas of Westlands, Lavington, Kileleshwa and Hurlingham. These activities are being conducted with little regard to social distancing requirement. I want to remind Kenyans that avoidance of social gatherings is among the containment measures of coronavirus disease. I therefore, want to appeal to our people to take individual responsibility, in observing the measures that have been advocated for by the Ministry, failure to which this disease will be difficult to contain.

Inbox

I thank you all.

**SEN. MUTAHI KAGWE, EGH,
CABINET SECRETARY.**