



NATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMITTEE
ON CORONAVIRUS

UPDATE ON COVID-19 IN THE COUNTRY AND
RESPONSE MEASURES, AS AT APRIL 24, 2021

DAY: 404

BRIEF NO: 396

**Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen and
Welcome to our daily briefing on the status of
Coronavirus in the country.**

Fellow Kenyans,

Vaccination remains a crucial weapon in the war against COVID-19. The whole world is focused on rolling out the vaccine and in countries where the vaccine is more readily available, its success is apparent in controlling the virus

from spreading. Kenya is doing everything within its power to continue vaccinating as many people as possible. Yet the reality is, like the rest of the world, we are struggling to source for the vaccine.

Fellow Kenyans,

The Ministry of Health, World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF would like to thank Kenyans for their interest and positive response to the COVID-19 vaccination exercise which began on 5th March 2021. As of 23rd April 2021, we have thus far vaccinated **822, 651** persons against COVID-19. This number comprises of targeted groups including health care workers, security personnel, teachers and people aged over 58 years. Out of **208,418** health workers targeted for vaccination, **152, 469 (73%)** have received their first dose while out of **330,671** teachers targeted **126,322 (38%)** and **66,677** security personnel have so far been vaccinated.

We continue to urge those who are in these target groups and have not yet been vaccinated to do so at the various

centers across the country. Vaccination provides vital protection from COVID-19, including hospitalization and death.

We have noted the concerns from a number of Kenyans who have already received the first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine and are worried if they will receive their second dose as scheduled. Similar concerns have also arisen in other countries due to delays in shipment of the AstraZeneca vaccine.

Fellow Kenyans,

The Government of Kenya and the COVAX Facility (a coalition led by WHO and Gavi that aims to help countries get equitable access to vaccines) want to assure Kenyans that we are doing everything possible to address these delays in delivery and to ensure that the second dose is administered as soon as possible. The COVAX Facility's current forecast is that additional doses will be available in May, pending further confirmation from India. So far,

1,020,000 doses out of the planned **3,564,000 doses** have been delivered to Kenya.

Guidance from WHO and the current evidence, shows that taking the second dose at 12 weeks provides a higher immune response and better protection. With this evidence and considering the ongoing global supply constraints this shift is justified. As a result, the Ministry of Health has now revised the duration between the administration of the first dose and the second dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine from **8 to 12 weeks**.

Fellow Kenyans,

The first recipients of this second dose are therefore expected to receive it during the first week of June. Similar shifts have indeed been made by other countries like the United Kingdom. It should be noted that global vaccines shortages are beyond Kenya and there is an international effort to deal with it.

We will continue to roll out the vaccine as it becomes available, and the rollout will gain momentum as we proceed. I would like to urge the counties not to slow their pace of administering the vaccines they have received. I encourage them to sensitize the people on the importance of being vaccinated. We would also like to clarify that there are protocols for vaccination and they do not include the mixing of different brands.

We wish to commend all Kenyans for their patience as we deal with this unprecedented global supply situation. The Government of Kenya is committed to providing the required vaccines for those most at risk from COVID-19. We also call for Kenyans to continue adhering to the existing safety protocols – **washing hands, wearing masks and keeping social distance** – to ensure that yourself and others are protected from COVID-19. As we wait for the vaccine, discipline will be our savior.

Today **1,153** people have tested positive to the disease, from a sample size of **9,316** tested in the last 24 hours. Our positivity rate is at **12.4%**. From the cases **1,128** are Kenyans while **25** are foreigners. **705** are males and **448** are females. The youngest is a **nine-month-old-infant** while the oldest is **101** years. Total confirmed positive cases are now **156,318** and cumulative tests so far conducted are **1,641,015**.

In terms of **County** distribution; Nairobi **190**, Nakuru **107**, Kisumu **90**, Bungoma **72**, Uasin Gishu **66**, Nyeri **62**, Migori **58**, Kakamega **52**, Baringo **48**, Kiambu **44**, Laikipia **34**, Nyamira **33**, Busia **28**, Machakos **27**, Nandi **22**, Kisii **21**, Mombasa **19**, Kitui **18**, Turkana **14**, Homa bay **14**, Siaya **13**, Embu **13**, Kajiado **12**, Mandera **12**, Meru **10**, Trans Nzoia **10**, Marsabit **9**, Taita Taveta **8**, Murang'a **8**, Kilifi **7**, Nyandarua **6**, Makueni **5**, Vihiga **5**, Kericho **4**, Bomet **3**, Elgeyo Marakwet **3**, Narok **3**, Garissa **2** and Tharaka Nithi **1**.

Today **191** patients have recovered from the disease, **109** are from Home Based and Isolation Care while **82** are from various health facilities countrywide. Total recoveries now stand at **106,284** of which **77,417** are from Home Based Care and Isolation while **28,867** are from various health facilities.

Sadly, **20** deaths have been reported in the last 24 hours with **1** having occurred in the last 24hrs, **5** having occurred on diverse dates within the last one month, while **14** are late deaths reported after conducting facility record audits. This now pushes cumulative fatalities to **2,603**. Our sincere condolences to families and friends of those who have lost their loved ones.

A total of **1,453** patients are currently admitted in various health facilities countrywide, while **6,832** patients are on Home Based Isolation and Care. **210** patients are in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), **49** of whom are on ventilatory

support and **130** on supplemental oxygen. **31** patients are on observation.

Another **163** patients are separately on supplementary oxygen with **151** of them in general wards and **12** in High Dependency Units (HDU).

Thank you.

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WHO representative Kenya

Maniza Zaman
Unicef Country Representative