



UGANDA BUREAU OF STATISTICS



UBOS STAFF COVID_19 INFORMATION SERIES NO. 1 (2020)

In response to the growing global threat of the Corona virus pandemic and hence the dire need for factual information to manage the emerging situations, the UBOS Executive Director established a COVID_19 Taskforce through which, the Division of Communication and Public Relations has established an information desk to provide and share regular information to staff. The information desk hence started off this Bulletin namely: **UBOS STAFF COVID_19 INFORMATION SERIES.**

ABOUT CORONA VIRUS (COVID_19)

COVID_19 is an infectious disease caused by the most recently discovered corona virus. Until its outbreak in Wuhan, China in December 2019, the virus / disease was unknown. Corona viruses are a large family of the viruses that cause illness in animals and humans.

The most common symptoms of COVID_19 are:

- Fever
- Tiredness &
- Dry cough.

In some patients, it may manifest with body and pains, nasal congestion, running nose, sore throat and / or diarrhoea. The symptoms begin as mild but may gradually become complicated. However, some patients may remain asymptomatic (showing no symptoms).

It is reported that:

- About 80% of infected patients may recover from the disease without needing special treatment.
- 1 out every 6 people who get infected with COVID_19 may experience breathing difficulties and gradually become ill.
- Notably, older people and those with underlying medical problems such as high blood pressure, heart problems or diabetes are at a high risk developing serious illness.

HOW COVID_19 SPREADS

COVID_19 may be transmitted from person to person through contact with persons who are infected. This may arise through contact with small droplets from the nose or mouth of an infected person that are ejected either by coughing or exhalation, through the touching or being in contact with common user surfaces or objects then in return, touching one's eyes, nose or mouth. To fight this, people are advised to maintain a social distance of 3 metres. *Research is on-going to ascertain whether COVID_19 positive patients who remain asymptomatic can transmit the disease to other persons.*

GLOBAL INFECTION RATES

According to the latest World Health Organisation (WHO) Situation Report #63 (as of 23:59 CET March 23, 2020), there are 332,930 COVID_19 victims and a death record of 14,510 (4.4%) deaths so far. Of this, the European region accounts for 171,424 (51%) victims and 8,743 (60%) deaths followed by the Western Pacific region with 95,637 (29%) victims and 3,473 (24%) deaths. The region of the America's has so far recorded 37,016 (11%) victims and 465 (3%) deaths. The African region has so far recorded the least i.e 990 (0.3%) victims and 23 (0.15%) deaths.

THE UGANDA SITUATION

To date, Uganda has nine (09) confirmed cases of COVID_19. The victims are all Ugandan nationals who travelled from Dubai between March 20-22, 2020 aboard Emirates and Ethiopian Airlines. Government has since called upon all travellers who have been to Dubai to Dubai in the last two weeks to contact the national health desk for medical screening.

Going forward, all public and private schools, Universities and other tertiary institutions, places of Worship, bars and night clubs have been closed, initially for 32 days. NIRA and Immigration premises are closed to public for the next 30 days with immediate effect. All national borders on land, sea and air have also since been closed.

Citizens have also been advised to keep children at home, limit their usage of public transport means and stay away from crowds to limit the transmission of the disease.

HOW TO STAY SAFE

At UBOS, a number of measures have been put in place to be followed by staff and all occupants of statistics House (Refer to ED's circulars to staff). Staff are advised to consistently use the available sanitizing facilities. A taskforce is also in place to ensure continuous management and monitoring of possible risks.

In general however, staff are advised to ensure safety and keep possible the spread of the virus at bay in the following ways:

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water.

- Avoid touching your nose, mouth and eyes.
- Cover your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Avoid crowded places / Social distancing.
- Stay at home if you feel unwell- even with a slight fever and cough (UBOS -A&HR will give guidance on the modalities).
- Seek medical care if you develop fever, cough and breathing difficulties.

REFERENCES:

- *Ministry of Health Daily Reports on COVID_19*
- *The National Presidential Directives on COVID_19*
- *UBOS Executive Director's Guidelines on COVID_19*
- *World Health Organisation Situational Reports on COVID_19*

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This leaflet is a publication of the UBOS TASKFORCE ON COVID_19

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