



NATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMITTEE ON
CORONAVIRUS
UPDATE OF CORONAVIRUS IN THE COUNTRY AND
RESPONSE MEASURES, AS AT 20TH APRIL, 2020

Fellow Kenyans,

Defeating coronavirus will require agile execution of testing and prompt management of confirmed cases. Indeed the world over, countries have adopted the mantra, test, isolate-treat- trace.

Kenya has adopted this mantra and today, we want to share with you progress made in the execution of this approach.

With regard to testing;

The Kenya Medical Laboratory Technicians and Technologists Board (KMLTTB) together with Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB) are facilitating the introduction of new molecular testing technologies for covid -19 in line with existing laws. The said platforms are undergoing the requisite validation and certification in fast-paced regulatory approvals before being introduced for use by medical laboratory professionals in Kenya. Using this approach, they have authorized the deployment of four test kits for detecting the virus which are as follows;

1. COBAS SAR-COVID-2 TEST KIT by Roche Diagnostics
2. Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV-2- by Cepheid
3. Biofire Covid-19 Test by Biofire Defence LLC
4. Abbott by Abbot Molecular Inc

With this approach, our capacity for testing will be expanded from our current ten (10) to cover at least one laboratory in each county. This is expected to take place in the next two weeks.

We request that incoming applications are uploaded along with the requisite documentations to the PPB portal;

**www. prims.pharmacyboardkenya.org or
info@pharmacyboardkenya.org**

As shared in past briefings, the current phase involves deployment of targeted testing with a focus on frontline healthcare workers, identified hotspot clusters in Nairobi, Mombasa, enhancing community-based surveillance and screening truck transit drivers.

With regard to isolation and quarantine;

We have **33** Quarantine Centres that are currently active. We have closed down a good number of sites. At the moment, we have **483** individuals in the various centres across the country. We have also quarantined **455** other persons for defying the national curfew regulations.

With regards to treating;

Our success on treatment is highly dependent on our ability to protect our frontline healthcare workers and heroes in this fight.

To this end, we have distributed 4,759 complete Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) kits and 237,047 assorted components (Goggles, surgical masks, N95 masks, gloves, gowns, rubber boots, shoe covers etc).

All quarantine sites and port health facilities have also received assorted protective gear. We have also trained 30,000 healthcare workers and training is still ongoing. The target is to re-sensitize 100,000 more in the next few weeks.

1000 Police Officers have also been trained, particularly those manning roadblocks, 1000 National Youth Service (NYS) officers, 300 Prison Officers, and 53,000 Community Health Volunteers, using an online based module by Red Cross, AMREF and MoH.

Further to this, we are here today to launch a special designated isolation and treatment facility, for our healthcare workers. This facility will be able to offer both

critical care and basic care services for our healthcare workers. All costs incurred during treatment shall be met by the Government. This centre is a product of collaboration between the MoH, the Rockefeller Foundation and AMREF. We thank them for this kind gesture.

Still on treatment, adequate supply of oxygen is crucial in the management of COVID-19 disease. Towards this, I am appealing to National and County health facilities to settle any debts owed to oxygen suppliers. Those holding oxygen cylinders should also make plans to return them to suppliers, so that we can have them filled up. I am aware we also have a number of Oxygen plants of our own. Facilities with such plants should make haste and repair what is not functional, but also do a quick cost-benefit analysis to ensure we get value for money.

With regards to tracing;

Eleven (**11**) more persons have tested positive for Coronavirus disease, bringing to **281** the total number of

confirmed cases in the country. Seven (**7**) are Kenyans from Bondeni Old Town in Mombasa County and four are (**4**) foreign nationals from Ruaka, Nairobi. None have a recent history of travel. Five (**5**) are females and six (**6**) males.

Seven (**7**) are from our quarantine centers and four (**4**) were picked up by our surveillance teams from various parts of the country. They are aged between **11** and **80** years.

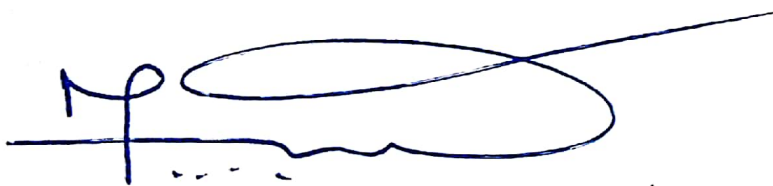
Two (**2**) patients have since recovered and discharged. We now have a total of **69** recoveries. The number of people we have lost to the virus remains at **14**.

A total of **2,778** contacts have been monitored, out of which **2,102** have been discharged. **676** contacts are being followed at the moment. A total of **13,872** samples have been tested so far.

Today, I want to make a special appeal to the people in the counties of Machakos, Kajiado, Kiambu and Murang'a. As Nairobi Metropolitan Counties, you have a special

responsibility to guard against the spread of Corona virus from Nairobi County. Already, a number of your residents have contracted the virus, and we have isolated them for treatment. In Machakos for instance, we have seven **(7)** cases; Syokimau **(2)** and one **(1)** each in Athi River, Kamulu, Rubi Garden Estate, Kithunguni and Viraji. In Kiambu, we have a case in each of the following estates; Githurai, Githurai 45, Ndongoru, Thindigua, Tinganga, Waithaka and Wataalam. Kajiado too, we have cases in Kitengela, Matasia and Ongata Rongai. In Murang'a, we have two cases in Gatanga and Lumumba Drive. All these cases are being treated in our various hospitals and we hope they will be the last of the cases in your Counties.

I thank you

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'M' followed by a large, sweeping loop and a horizontal line underneath.

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