



NATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMITTEE
ON CORONAVIRUS

UPDATE ON COVID-19 IN THE COUNTRY AND
RESPONSE MEASURES, AS AT JANUARY 29, 2021

DAY: 319

Brief No: 311

Good afternoon Members of the press, Fellow Kenyans, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Welcome to our daily briefing on the update of Covid-19 in the country.

Today we are delighted to be joined by officials from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) led by Ms Fathiaa Abdalla who have come to donate some Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) as well as gene

expert equipment used to detect Covid-19 virus. They are accompanied by the World Health Organization Country Representative Dr Rudi Eggers. The PPEs and detection kit will go a long way in aiding our healthcare workers in this fight against the Coronavirus disease. For this we are very grateful. On behalf of the government and the Ministry of Health in particular please accept our appreciations for these donations.

However, before we get into that event, allow me to give you an update of where we are as a country in terms of the war against this disease.

Fellow Kenyans,

In the last couple of weeks, we have made tremendous progress in combating the Coronavirus disease. I am sure most of you have been following our statistics that we have been sharing with you on a daily basis. Our positivity rate has been fluctuating between 3 and 10 per cent. I know

there has been a lot of questions as to whether or not we have now flattened the curve. We cannot say so for now.

Our modelling teams are still assessing the situation in all parts of the country. As you may recall, our children reported back to school early this month after close to a year at home. Whereas we have not received any alarming reports with regard to the situation in schools, our teams are still monitoring the situation. As we said last week at KEMRI, there was only one case of a pupil that has so far been reported and which has been contained. The ministry of education is also monitoring the situation and we shall be updating the country in due course.

Fellow Kenyans, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am aware that the matter that has now engulfed the minds of all Kenyans including the media is about the Vaccines. I shall strive to answer all the questions that have been bothering most of you.

Towards the end of last year different companies based in different countries started making announcements on the discovery of a vaccine to protect against Covid-19 disease. Prior to that, most countries joined hands under GAVI to participate in the COVAX facility. This facility is intended to ensure low and middle-income countries have access to these vaccines as they become available.

Most countries have already determined the beneficiaries of the vaccines in order of priority with frontline workers, particularly healthcare workers, security agencies, teachers and those working in care homes considered first. The priority list includes the elderly and those with underlying health conditions.

Kenya, through the Ministry of Health has established a taskforce under the chairmanship of Dr. Willis Akhwale an experienced health management professional, that is tasked to ensure an expedited introduction and deployment of the vaccines. This taskforce has identified key issues that

need to be addressed, to ensure an efficient deployment of these vaccines.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Kenya has resolved to adopt a vaccine whose Emergency Use Authorization has the approval of a Stringent Regulatory Authority like the World Health Organization.

Whereas the ultimate fight against Covid-19 is adherence to the laid down guidelines by the Ministry of Health, an effective vaccine presents a good opportunity to reduce the number of hospitalizations and deaths due to Covid-19, thereby contributing to the quick return to normalcy.

There are many misconceptions and misinformation out there on Covid-19 vaccines that may lead to vaccination hesitancy. It's important to note that any vaccines authorized for emergency use by SRA have already undergone trials and found to be safe for use. As part of its deployment plan, the Government has set up a safety

monitoring system and any adverse effects reported will be investigated and corrective measures taken up immediately, in consultation with the Pharmacy and Poisons Board.

Kenya is a member of the COVAX facility and has made an initial commitment to procure vaccines through this facility. With this commitment, the country will receive 24 million doses from the facility, and procure 11 million doses from other mechanisms to vaccinate nearly 16 million people (30% of the population) over a period of 18 months.

The vaccines are expected to be a mix of AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Johnson and Johnson and any other that will be included to the COVAX facility. Given the current global shortage of adequate vaccine stocks, the government is exploring procurement through other mechanisms like the Africa CDC, and plans commitment of doses to cover an additional 5million people over the same period, to achieve a vaccination coverage of 40%.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Fellow Kenyans,

The country has an established vaccination infrastructure with central storage facilities in Nairobi for vaccines requiring cold chain of up to -20° and some limited capacity for -70° in the major urban areas. This infrastructure has been developed primarily for the immunization of children below the age of 5.

Nonetheless, the infrastructure will be deployed for the needs of Covid-19 vaccines which for the first time place a requirement on the deployment of vaccines to the adult population on a large scale. Where this infrastructure will require enhancement, the Government plans to expand and enhance storage space by the end of 2021. This is important so that the saving childhood vaccination programs are not interrupted.

The Ministry of Health intends to build the capacity of more than 23,000 healthcare workers including 8,000 health

volunteers in areas of vaccine administration, logistics management, data capture, reporting and monitoring.

Fellow Kenyans, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The vaccination program is divided into 3 phases.

Phase 1 - Kenya has prioritized the vaccination of 1.25 million people between February and June 2021 when it is expected that global vaccine stocks will be limited. The people to be covered in this period include frontline healthcare workers and all staff working in health facilities both in public and private sectors. Also prioritized are workers undertaking essential services in priority sectors like security and immigration.

Phase 2 - During this phase (July 2021 to June 2022) and as more vaccines become available the plan is to vaccinate 9.7 million more Kenyans, targeting persons above 50 years of age and those above 18 years of age with underlying health conditions.

Phase 3 - This phase could run concurrently with phase 2 depending on availability of adequate vaccines. We hope to target the vaccination of 4.9 million people who will include all other vulnerable populations like those on congregate settings.

It is important to note that if vaccines become available sooner than expected and resources are available the targets may change.

The Ministry of Health has already engaged the Council of Governors, and both levels of government are working towards a smooth introduction of the vaccine, by ensuring all logistical arrangements are in place for the expected delivery of vaccines before the end of February.

Fellow Kenyans,

Turning to our Covid-19 situation in the country, today **141** people have tested positive to the disease, out of a sample size of **5,644** tested in the last 24 hours. The total confirmed positive cases are now **100,563**. The cumulative

tests so far conducted are **1,177,811**. From the cases **124** are Kenyans while **17** are foreigners. **71** are females while **70** are males. The youngest is a **two-month-old infant** while the oldest is **100**.

In terms of **County** distribution; Nairobi **81**, Kilifi **14**, Kiambu **6**, Kajiado **6**, Siaya **6**, Kisumu **5**, Uasin Gishu **4**, Mombasa **3**, Lamu **3**, Nakuru **3**, Busia **2**, Garissa **2**, Bungoma **2**, Machakos **1**, Nyamira **1**, Kirinyaga **1**, and Turkana **1**.

In terms of **Sub County** distribution; the **81** cases in **Nairobi** are from Westlands (17), Lang'ata (13), Kibra (12), Dagoretti North (11), Kamukunji (4), Dagoretti South, Embakasi Central and Embakasi South (3) cases each, Kasarani, Makadara, Mathare, Roysambu, Ruaraka and Starehe (2) cases each. Embakasi East, Embakasi North and Embakasi West (1) case each. In **Kilifi**, the **14** cases are from Kilifi North (13) and Malindi (1).

In **Kiambu**, the **6** cases are from Ruiru (2), Juja, Kabete, Limuru and Thika (1) case each. In **Kajiado**, the **6** cases are from Kajiado North (4) and Kajiado East (2). In **Siaya**, the **6** cases are from Ugunja (4) and Alego Usonga (2). In **Kisumu** the **5** cases are from Kisumu Central (4) and Seme (1).

In **Uasin Gishu**, the **4** cases are from Ainabkoi (3) and Kesses (1). In **Mombasa**, the **3** cases are from Nyali (2) and Jomvu (1). In **Lamu** all the **3** cases are from Lamu West, while in **Nakuru** the **3** cases are from Nakuru East, Njoro and Rongai.

The **2** cases in **Busia**, are from Matayos, the **2** cases in **Garissa** are from Dadaab and the **2** cases in **Bungoma** are from Kanduyi and Webuye East (1) case each.

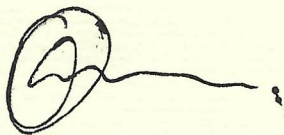
The **case** in **Machakos** is from Athi River, the **case** in **Nyamira** is from Borabu, the **case** in **Kirinyaga** is from Kirinyaga Central and the **case** in **Turkana** is from Turkana West.

Today, **64** patients have recovered from the disease. **44** from the Home-Based Isolation and Care while **20** are from our various health facilities. The total recoveries now stand at **83,821**.

Fortunately, today there are no deaths reported therefore our fatality remains at **1,753**.

There are **477** patients currently admitted in various health facilities countrywide, while **1,368** are on Home Based Isolation and Care. **27** patients are in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), **14** of whom are on ventilatory support and **13** on supplemental oxygen. Another **16** patients are separately on supplementary oxygen with **11** of them in the general wards. **5** patients are in the High Dependency Unit.

I thank you.



SEN. MUTAHI KAGWE, EGH

CABINET SECRETARY