

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

NATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMITTEE

ON CORONAVIRUS

**UPDATE ON COVID-19 IN THE COUNTRY AND
RESPONSE MEASURES, AS AT MARCH 11, 2022**

DAY: 722

BRIEF NO: 712

Good morning members of the Press and welcome to our briefing on the current status of COVID-19 in the Country.

Fellow Kenyans,

Tomorrow, 12th March, 2022, the Country will mark exactly two years since the first case of Coronavirus disease was detected and reported in the Country. Immediately after and since then, the Government through the leadership of His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, CGH, undertook a raft of measures to contain the spread and management of the disease in the Country. I can now say without any fear of contradiction that the measures we put the Country through in a bid to contain this disease have paid off.

When I look back, I am happy as I stand here this morning to report with confidence that the National Government, working in conjunction with our County Governments and many of our collaborative partners has managed to save the lives of majority of our people from this pandemic. Nonetheless, we mourn the lives of **5,641** people and we know that although this is regrettable, ours has been a better story compared to hundreds of the thousands of lives lost in some other Countries. Apart from

the measures we put in place, we also have to thank God for showing His mercies and love to our beloved Country Kenya and saving us from a catastrophe. This however, is not to say that we are already completely out of the woods.

Fellow Kenyans,

The Ministry of Health has been conducting periodic reviews of COVID-19 outbreak containment measures ranging from quarantine, isolation, travel restrictions, restrictions on gatherings and enforcement of wearing of masks in public places based on guidance from the World Health Organization (WHO), on Public Health considerations and the evolving epidemiological situation globally. Because of these measures, our positivity rate has remained below 5% over the last few months. Particularly for the last one month, that is since 10th February, 2022, our positivity rate has been 1% and below.

This has been realized as a result of the cooperation of Kenyans particularly in taking up vaccination.

In keeping with guidance from the World Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the

epidemiologic situation prevailing globally, the Ministry of Health has therefore revised the measures as follows;

1. We urge all Kenyans to continue to adhere to the Public Health and Social Measures and exercise personal responsibility. Kenyans are encouraged to ensure frequent hand washing with soap and water, use hand-sanitizers at all times and generally make a movement of being clean and hygiene Nation.

2. Wearing of face Masks;

There has been a lot of debate and discussions on the continued use of face masks as one of the containment measures. The mandatory wearing of face masks in open public spaces is now lifted. Nonetheless, people are encouraged to maintain social distancing and avoid crowding even in public spaces to ensure risk of spread is limited. We however encourage the use of masks in all indoor functions.

3. On Gatherings;

A. All in-person worship to resume at full capacity as long as all the congregants and worshipers are vaccinated. The Interfaith Council is urged to develop protocols to facilitate resumption of full congregational worship, with full capacity of venues where all congregants are vaccinated. Kenyans are encouraged to wear their face masks while inside indoor functions. Sanitizing and handwashing should be made normal practice.

B. All other in-person indoor meetings to resume at full capacity of the venue as long as all the participants are vaccinated. All attendees should be encouraged to wear facemask at the meeting venues as noted. Event organisers are required to ensure this is followed as they will take responsibility for events at which unvaccinated people are present.

C. It has been noted that majority of COVID-19 cases present without fever. As such, the use of temperature

screenings at public spaces has little utility in current epidemiological scenario. In this regard, the practice of temperature screenings at public spaces can be stopped. However, more emphasis should be placed on increased sanitary and hygiene measures by increasing hand washing stations and sanitization points.

4. On Sporting Activities;

The Ministry of Health issues the following guidelines;

- a. To the Ministry of Sports, for resumption of Sports, protocols be revised for spectators to be allowed back into the sporting venues as long as they are vaccinated.
- b. To the Ministry of Education, develop and implement protocols to allow for the full resumption of sporting activities in learning institutions.

5. On Quarantine and Isolation of confirmed cases of COVID -19;

- a) All quarantine is to be stopped with immediate effect. This applies to both vaccinated and unvaccinated contacts.
- b) Positive asymptomatic cases need not isolate but shall observe 5 days and return to work thereafter without need for further testing.
- c) Return to work after isolation for those who may have been symptomatic must always take into consideration the individual's clinical status. Only those patients declared well enough to work by a qualified healthcare worker should resume work.

6. In Country Transport;

All passenger service vehicles, train and domestic air flight services may resume at full conveyance capacity. However, the passenger service vehicles, train and air flight operators are to ensure their staff are fully

vaccinated while all travelers should have their facemasks on at all times during the course of travel.

7. International Travel;

- a. Travelers who are fully vaccinated shall be exempted from the requirement of a PCR test.
- b. All eligible unvaccinated travelers arriving at any port of entry into Kenya, must have a negative COVID-19 PCR test result conducted not more than 72 hours before departure, regardless of the route of entry. Those below the age of five (5) years are exempted from this testing requirement.
- c. Unvaccinated travelers arriving at any point of entry shall be subjected to rapid antigen test at their own cost of 30 USD. Any person who tests positive on antigen RDT will be subjected to entry PCR test at their own further cost of 50 USD and self-isolate. Travelers below the age of five (5) years are exempted from this testing requirement.

- d. All travelers arriving at any port of entry into Kenya will be required to fill the passenger locator form on the 'Jitenge' platform.
- e. Truck drivers and travelers from Eastern Africa Community Countries who are fully vaccinated will not require a COVID-19 PCR test for entry into Kenya. Unvaccinated truck drivers shall be required to be in possession of a negative COVID-19 PCR test with a validity of a maximum 14 days prior to travel
- f. Persons traveling out of the Country will be required to abide by the particular travel, health and COVID-19 related requirements of the destination country.

8. Vaccination;

To date, the Government has managed to administer over **17.8** million vaccines across the Country. We are however scaling-up countrywide COVID-19 vaccination campaign through a whole-government whole-society approach leveraging on National Government Agencies, County Governments, Faith Based Organizations, and the Private Sector. It is only through these efforts that we shall ensure a return to normalcy as

vaccination is the proven long-term measure for halting the pandemic.

Fellow Kenyans,

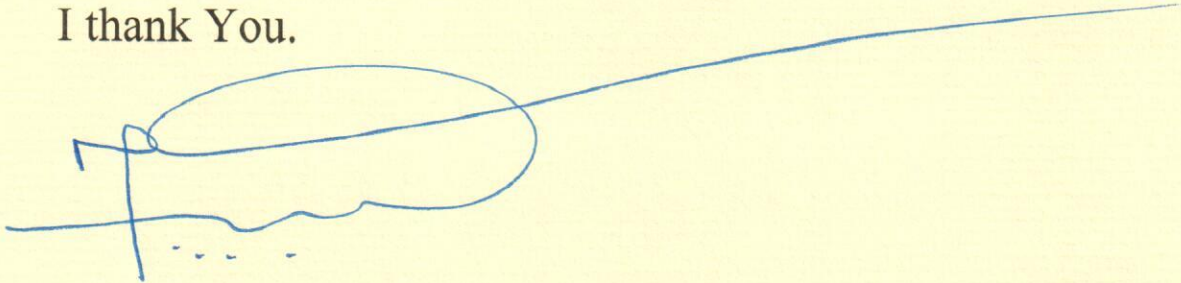
The measures I have announced today may be reviewed at any time, and the Ministry of Health can administer ad-hoc measures, including arrival testing based on the prevailing pandemic situation, and epidemiologic situation of the Country of departure.

Finally, as I conclude, I want to take this opportunity in a special way to thank our health workers across the Country for the selfless commitment and dedication that they have showed during the two years of the pandemic.

I also take this opportunity to appeal to our fellow Kenyans who have not been vaccinated to get vaccinated. I cannot belabour on the benefits of the vaccination, but I want to appeal to you to consider the people whom you love that surround you and think

whether it is worth putting their lives at risk. We have enough doses of vaccines for all eligible Kenyans.

I thank You.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, loopy initial 'M' followed by a long horizontal stroke that extends across the page.

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