



Kenya Medical Association

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

KMA CENTRE, CHYULU ROAD, P.O. BOX 48502 – 00100 GPO, NAIROBI - KENYA

Mobile: +254 722 275 695

Email: nec@kma.co.ke

Website: www.kma.co.ke

11th April, 2020

KMA COVID-19 RESPONSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (KMA-CRAC) MEETING RESOLUTIONS

At its meeting on Wednesday, 8th April 2020, the Kenya Medical Association's COVID-19 Response Advisory Committee reviewed the current state of the response and issued the following recommendations:

RESOLUTIONS OF MEETING.

A. RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT

KMA appreciates the efforts of government to restrict movement in Nairobi, Kilifi, Mombasa and Kwale but notes that this does not go far enough. We continue to urge broader movement restrictions accompanied by organised socio-economic protection for vulnerable Kenyans.

B. COVID-19 TESTING

In light of the movement restrictions in the four counties, KMA advises that government must increase testing for COVID-19 within the counties in order to understand the magnitude of community transmission, and conduct surveillance and random testing outside of these counties in order to identify new hotspots in good time. To accomplish this, we recommend that government must recruit the requisite health workers, including unemployed doctors who stand ready to serve their country.

C. PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

KMA recommends that the government and all employers in the health sector must provide personal protective equipment for all healthcare workers and other hospital staff who potentially come into contact with patients with COVID-19. Further, KMA advises all health workers to avoid any contact with patients suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 if they are not provided with the appropriate personal protective equipment. Health workers are a precious national resource and must be protected at all costs in order for them to protect the country from the damage COVID-19 is capable of causing.

KMA also demands that government must guarantee the quality of PPE being supplied to health facilities to avoid equipping staff with substandard materials that only put everyone at risk. KMA has communicated to members on the right PPE to use during care in line with WHO and Ministry of health guidelines on rational PPE use.

President
Dr. Jacqueline Kitulu

Vice-President
Prof. Lukoye Atwoli

Secretary-General
Dr. Simon Kigundu

Assistant Secretary-General
Dr. Joy Mugambi

Treasurer-General
Dr. Supa Tunje

On use of masks by members of the public, KMA continues to advise that government recommendations be in line with WHO guidelines on the same, and that PPE for health workers be prioritized at this point in time. We consider the health and economic risks attributable to incorrect use and disposal of masks by members of the public to outweigh any currently identified benefits during this pandemic. KMA shall continue to monitor the state of the evidence on this intervention and advise the government and members of the public accordingly.

D. HEALTH WORKERS PROTECTION

KMA urges the government to put in place mechanisms to protect health workers and their families during this period. Health workers taking care of COVID-19 infected patients should be accommodated in specified areas and not allowed to interact with the public for the period during which they are taking care of COVID-19 patients.

E. CONTINUATION OF ESSENTIAL HEALTH SERVICES

KMA Recommends that government must ensure that all essential health services such as HIV care and treatment, reproductive health services, mental health and other Non-Communicable Disease care and treatment continue to avoid unnecessary patient suffering.

KMA advises government to urgently set up specified COVID-19 hospitals for this pandemic and leave the other health facilities to continue with usual care for patients with other conditions without putting patients and staff at risk.

F. QUARANTINE FACILITIES

KMA advises that counties and national government ensure that the chosen quarantine sites meet the requirements for quarantine, at the very minimum allowing for each person to be held in their own room to reduce the risk of transmission in those facilities. It is our view that school dormitories are not suitable quarantine sites due to their design and construction.

The Committee will meet again on Saturday 11th April to review the situation and issue further guidance and recommendations.

Signed,



**Dr. Jacqueline Kitulu,
President.**