



Kenya Medical Association

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

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28th FEBRUARY 2020

KMA Position on Corona Virus Threat in Kenya

The Kenya Medical Association (KMA) is a professional association bringing together registered medical practitioners and dentists in Kenya, with the twin mission of championing for the welfare of doctors and advocating for quality health care for all. KMA members have expertise in public health.

Coronavirus (Covid-19) is a viral disease that can cause respiratory symptoms ranging from very mild to very severe. Symptoms can include cough, fever and difficulty breathing. It was first identified in China and currently having over 83,000 cases globally and 1 case being reported in Africa. It has been noted to cause mortality. The World Health Organization has declared coronavirus (Covid-19) an outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International concern.

Kenya Medical Associations notes that Kenya may not be adequately prepared to tackle the coronavirus outbreak. Prevention of the index case is thus paramount. Healthcare workers will be at the front line of contact should any case of corona virus (covid-19) infection hit the country. Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) is critical and integral part of prevention and clinical management of patients. This should be initiated at the points of entry of the patient to hospital (typically the Emergency Department). Standard precautions should be applied in all areas, especially health care facilities.

KMA has been in constant communication with the Ministry of Health via the office of the Director General of Health. KMA supports the efforts by the ministry as outlined in their press conference on 27th February 2020. KMA welcomes the executive order no. 2 of 2020 on National emergency response committee on coronavirus by the president. KMA however notes that the appointed committee lacks adequate technical staff to carry out the task.

KMA thus recommends that the Government of Kenya employ strategic and serious approach to the spread of coronavirus and exercises maximum restraint in preventing an index case into Kenya by:

- Incorporating medical technical staff that KMA is ready to provide for this arduous task of the national emergency response committee
- Ensuring adequate screening for coronavirus at all points of entry.
- Restricting entry of travelers from areas with high risk of coronavirus
- Ensuring all our Health facilities are well equipped with adequate personnel and Personal protective equipment
- Fast track the training of health professionals to handle suspected cases.
- Provide a daily update of preparedness to allay the public anxiety

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