



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

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STATEMENT ON THE MANAGEMENT OF THE PREVAILING 4TH WAVE OF THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC

The Kenya Medical Association is the professional association of registered doctors in Kenya, with the twin mission of championing for the welfare of doctors and advocating for quality health care for all.

The Association has noted with great concern the steady increase of Covid 19 positive cases country wide over the last few weeks. According to the data released by the Ministry of Health yesterday, we recorded a high of **1259** positive cases, with a positivity rate of **15.6%**.

This increase in the patient load is putting immense pressure on our already constrained resources. Of particular note is the severe shortage of ICU beds, medical oxygen, PPEs and medical personnel. **185** patients are currently in Intensive Care, **43** of whom are on ventilatory support, and **86** on supplementary oxygen. Another **445** patients are separately on supplemental oxygen with **399** of them in general wards and **46** of them in High Dependency Units.

KMA calls upon the government to secure the health and wellbeing of front-line healthcare workers, by facilitating access critical care services, vaccines and psychosocial support. We insist on further investment in nationwide testing, robust research and increased human resource as stipulated in the Ministry of Health HRH guidelines for management of Covid 19.

KMA urges the county governments to ensure they have functional isolation and Intensive Care Units to cater for the increasing demand, provide sufficient PPEs to all healthcare workers, and prioritize so that these key workers receive their remuneration and other benefits on time.

Our frontline health workers are tirelessly giving of themselves to the nation, to help manage this pandemic. We laud their generous efforts and thank them for their selflessness.

KMA urges all frontline health workers to ensure that they protect themselves with high quality PPES while at work. Use of technology like telemedicine, and the reduction of elective surgeries and procedures will also be helpful.

As we combat this 4th wave, we urge all Kenyans to strictly adhere to the Covid 19 protocols issued by the Ministry of Health. In particular, we emphasize the need to stop attending crowded public gatherings like political rallies, weddings and funerals, to wear suitable masks correctly and consistently, and to wash hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based sanitizer as often as is necessary. We need to reduce the strain on our healthcare facilities by reducing the number of infections.

KMA urges all education institutions to increase their surveillance and strictly adhere to the protocols issued by the Ministry of Education and of Health, in order to protect our learners, teachers and administrative staff, and provide a safe learning environment.

KMA highly discourages self-treatment and medication at home for respiratory infections. All treatment should be initiated and supervised by qualified medical personnel.

KMA urges the Ministry of Health to accelerate the acquisition and deployment of vaccines in the country. These vaccines should be issued to as many health facilities as possible, public, private and faith based, to ensure increased access by the public. We encourage all Kenyans who qualify to present themselves for vaccination when the vaccines are made available.

Kenya Medical Association is committed to collaborating and supporting all stake holders in the management of this 4th wave, and the pandemic into the future.



Dr. Were Onyino
President