



**THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**Update on Uganda's Enhanced Measures to Prevent Importation of Novel  
Corona Virus Disease COVID – 19**

**13<sup>H</sup> MARCH 2020**

The Government of the Republic of Uganda would like to update all international partners and the Ugandan community abroad on the progress of the country's enhanced measures to prevent the importation of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) into the country.

1. As of today 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020, Uganda has no confirmed case of COVID-19.
2. However, Uganda remains at high risk of importation of COVID-19 from the affected countries and this is mainly due to continued travel, trade, and the social linkages with the affected countries as Uganda maintains an open-border policy.
3. In order to reduce the risk of importation of the COVID-19, the Government of the Republic of Uganda is undertaking the following measures;
  - i. Screening of all passengers entering through Entebbe International Airport and the other border points of entry.
  - ii. All travelers coming from the COVID-19 affected countries are required to undergo mandatory self-quarantine for 14 days
4. To further strengthen the prevention measures, the Government of the Republic of Uganda has reviewed the evolution of the outbreak in the affected countries, categorized them and recommended measures for the different categories:

**Criteria for categorization:**

- i. The total number of (cumulative) cases in that country, namely; the higher the cumulative cases the greater the chances of exportation of COVID-19.
- ii. The number of cases in the last 24 hours. This signals how active the transmission of COVID-19 is in that country.
- iii. The exponential increase in cases in the last 7 days. This is an indication of the rate of community transmission of COVID-19 in that country.

**NB.** Countries that have a cumulative number of confirmed cases of more than 100

and/or more than 10 new cases of COVID-19 in the last 24 hours were ranked using the criteria mentioned above.

**Category 1:** All persons currently resident in the following 16 countries: Italy, San Marino, Iran, South Korea, France, China, Germany, Spain, Belgium, USA, the United Kingdom, Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, Austria and Malaysia are advised to consider postponing non-essential travel to Uganda. This includes Ugandan nationals currently resident in the listed countries.

However, the advisory above notwithstanding, any person who opts to travel to Uganda will, for preventive reasons, be subjected to self-isolation or institutional quarantine for at least 14 days on arrival, even if they do not exhibit symptoms of COVID-19.

**Category 2:** All travelers from the following 4 countries: Finland, Philippines, Indonesia and Pakistan will be medically observed and continuously assessed on arrival in Uganda. The evolution of the outbreak of COVID-19 in these respective countries will also be monitored and appropriate travel advisory will be given.

**Category 3:** All other travelers arriving in Uganda, including those from the categories above, will undergo routine screening upon arrival and will be advised accordingly on measures to undertake while in the country to prevent infection, and where to report should the need arise.

**For Note:**

- i. This travel advisory will be updated weekly.**
- ii. Countries in categories 1 and 2 that successfully contain the outbreak will be removed from that list after 14 days of no new cases.**

5. **SELF QUARANTINE:** This has been defined as the transparent self-restriction of a person's activities when they are not ill with COVID-19 for the purpose of protecting unexposed members of the communities around them from contracting the disease.

**NB.** A self-isolated or self-quarantined individual will have to stay at his/her home, hotel room or any identified accommodation without mixing freely with family members or the general public for a period of at least 14 days.

6. The Government of the Republic of Uganda would like to inform all international partners and the general public that, as a preventive measure, all international conferences slated to take place in Uganda during the months of March and April 2020 have been temporarily postponed due to the looming threat of COVID -19.

However, this position will continuously be reviewed and the international partners and the general public will be advised accordingly subject to the global evolution of the COVID -19 epidemic and the risk assessment.

This decision was reached following extensive consultations with key experts from the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uganda, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the US Center for Disease Control (CDC).

7. For all visitors and returning residents, the Government of the Republic of Uganda continues to emphasize the following preventive measures:

- i. **AVOID HAND-SHAKING AND HUGGING AT ALL TIMES.**
- ii. Avoid close contact with people who are visibly sick with flu-like symptoms (fever, cough, sneeze).
- iii. When sick with flu-like symptoms avoid going to public places, offices and

- public gatherings. Remain at home to avoid infecting others.
- iv. You do not need to wear medical masks if you do not have respiratory symptoms such as cough, sneezing or running nose.
  - v. Don't take self-medication such as antibiotics.
  - vi. **Do NOT spit in public.** Find a secluded place like toilets or pit latrines in which to spit.
  - vii. Delay travel **to countries that currently have many patients with COVID -19.** If you MUST travel, please follow the protective measures
  - viii. Avoid travel if you have flu-like symptoms.
8. The Government of the Republic of Uganda advises against relying on unverified information and rumours which may cause unnecessary anxiety.

**Reports of any suspected cases of COVID-19 in Uganda should be reported to the nearest health facility or call the following Ministry of Health toll free lines: 0800-203-033 and 0800-100-066, or contact the following officers - Mr. Atek Kagirita 0782 909 153, Dr. Allan Muruta - 0772 460 297.**

**Any confirmed cases of COVID-19 of Ugandans living abroad should be reported by the authorized offices of the host country to the nearest Uganda Mission whose contacts can be obtained at: [www.mofa.go.ug](http://www.mofa.go.ug)**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
**KAMPALA**

13<sup>th</sup> March 2020