



Republic of South Sudan (RSS)

The First Vice President

Ref: _____

Date: 5/4/2020

Communication from the Presidency No. Fifteen (15)

The High Level Task-Force on COVID-19 Pandemic

Sunday, 5th April 2020

Juba, South Sudan

South Sudan Confirms One Case of Coronavirus (COVID-19)

On behalf of the President and the Chairman of the High-Level Taskforce, I would like to inform the public that on Saturday 4th April 2020, the Public Health Laboratory tested and confirmed a case of COVID-19 in an individual. The suspect presented to the UN Clinic on 2nd April 2020 with fever, cough, headache and shortness of breath.

The Ministry of Health's Rapid Response Team (RRT) went to the clinic and collected samples the same day. The initial test came positive. A second run of the confirmatory test also returned positive.

RRT



The patient is a 29-year old female who arrived in the country from Netherlands via Addis Ababa on 28th February 2020. She has no history of underlying or pre-existing illness. She is currently in isolation and is in good health.

The Ministry of Health (MOH) is leading a full outbreak investigation with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) including identifying and following up all the possible contacts and next steps.

The Government of the Republic of South Sudan seizes this opportunity to reassure the public to remain calm. The High-Level Taskforce has put in place relevant public health measures over the past two weeks. Social distancing is the only way we can minimise the risk of contracting and transmitting the disease.

The Government urges members of the public to strictly observe the rules of social distancing:

- 1- No physical contact outside of household including no handshaking, no hugging, keep 2 metres (6 feet) distance between two individuals.
- 2- Wash hands regularly with soap and water.
- 3- Stay at home.
- 4- Employers, both public and private should encourage their employees to work from home.
- 5- Avoid crowds at any places including market place, tea stalls, and shisha places.
- 6- Night clubs and bars must remain closed.

RMTO



- 7- Restaurants will ONLY provide takeaway service until 6PM.
- 8- Shops and businesses selling non-food items must remain closed.

The government reinforces earlier resolutions on curfew starting from 8:00 PM to 6:00 am.

Additionally, the Presidency assures the community of the measures that are put in place and will continue to be reinforced. These include:

1. The government reinforces all social distancing measures made to date in the preceding High-Level Taskforce directives.
2. The government will effectively implement these measures in a community friendly manner engaging with the leaders at the local, community, county, state and national level.
3. The MOH will continue to rapidly increase and enhance community and household level hygiene capacity including hand washing stations with soap distribution particularly to high population density settings.
4. The government, as listed above, will ensure effective closure of locations that have population gatherings.
5. The MOH is expanding the bed capacity at the John Garang Infectious Disease Centre in the coming weeks.
6. The MOH is training more healthcare professionals.
7. The government directs postponement of weddings, festivals and other sporting and religious events.

RMTD



8. The government directs that funeral gatherings be limited to less than five (5).

The High Level Taskforce on Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic remains seized of the situation.


5/4/2020

H. E. Riek Machar Teny-Dhurgon, PhD



First Vice President
Deputy Chairman of the High Level Taskforce on
Coronavirus (COVID 19)