



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

GUIDELINES FOR PREVENTION OF COVID-19 IN PUBLIC PLACES (BANKS, OFFICES, SHOPPING MALLS, RESTAURANTS, MARKETS)

The world is currently faced with a pandemic of COVID-19, a new virus that spreads so fast through droplet infection especially in crowded places and causes illness. Since its new, there is no immunity against it. Therefore, it is important that we practice preventive measures.

Signs and symptoms of COVID-19 include;

- Fever
- Running Nose (flu)
- Cough
- General Weakness
- Difficulty in breathing if the patient develops pneumonia.

Public areas like banks, offices, shopping malls, restaurants, markets and other small businesses are areas of heavy human traffic and crowding. The Ministry of Health has developed the following guidelines to provide information to the general public in these areas to prevent infection with COVID-19.

Urban authorities, Employers, Managers and Owners of premises MUST adhere to the following;

- 1.** All individuals accessing the premises must undergo temperature screening.
- 2.** Ensure provision of adequate hand washing facilities with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub. Everyone **MUST** wash and sanitize before entry to these places and as frequently as possible. Handwashing facilities and alcohol based sanitizers should be placed at strategic points like security checks, entrances, bathrooms, toilets, conference rooms, kitchens/canteens, payment points, and ATMs.
- 3.** Ensure your work areas are clean and hygienic – regularly clean all surfaces with disinfectant (soap and water or JIK) (e.g. desks and tables, telephones and keyboards, kitchens/canteens) at least three times a day.

- 4.** Regularly clean and disinfect (soap and water or JIK) all communal places such as; bathrooms, toilets, floor surfaces; and frequently touched surfaces like doorknobs/handles, staircase, elevator rails and elevator buttons with disinfectant or soap and water. This cleaning should be done under close supervision, at least 3 times a day and 4 times in areas of extremely heavy traffic.
- 5.** Provide adequate waste management facilities (waste bins and bin-liners, cans) and ensure availability of properly protected/trained waste handlers with gloves, masks, aprons and protective overalls where necessary.
- 6.** Avoid overcrowding and body contact. Keep a distance of one meter between each other. All public places are advised to devise more innovative ways to avoid overcrowding.
- 7.** Ensure there is good ventilation and good respiratory hygiene in the workplace.
- 8.** Regularly update your employees with information on COVID-19 as provided by the Ministry of Health.
- 9.** Travel outside the country is currently banned unless extremely essential like ill health.
- 10.** Amend workplace policies to enable employees work from home in the event of outbreak.
- 11.** All persons who have recently traveled back into the country from the Category 1 countries will undergo mandatory institutional quarantine at facilities identified by Ministry of Health. Travelers **MUST** adhere to the guidelines provided for quarantine.
- 12.** Display posters with information and key messages on COVID-19 in different languages in places that are easily visible (offices, notice boards, doors, trees, kiosks, supermarkets etc).
- 13.** Provide guidelines on Do's and Don'ts to every customer who accesses your premises. These include the following;
 - a.** Cover your mouth and nose with tissue or a handkerchief when coughing and sneezing. The handkerchief must be washed and ironed by you daily. In case of use of disposable tissue, ensure it is disposed of in a waste bin or a designated area where it can be burnt on a daily basis. In this way, you protect others from any virus released through cough and sneezing.
 - b.** Wash your hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand rub immediately after using the tissue or handkerchief.
 - c.** Maintain a distance of 1 meter from anyone who is coughing or sneezing and remind them that they need to have a face mask to avoid infecting others.
 - d.** Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth at all times. Hands touch many surfaces including money which can be contaminated with the virus and you can transfer the virus from the surface to yourself.

- e.** **AVOID** hand-shakes and hugging at all times.
- f.** **DO NOT SPIT** in public. Identify secluded places like pit latrines or toilets for purposes of spitting and wash your hands immediately with soap and water.
- g.** Thoroughly cook meat, poultry and eggs
- h.** Avoid unprotected contact with dead animals. **Do NOT** eat meat of dead animals. Burn carcasses immediately an animal dies
- i.** If you suspect any person has developed signs and symptoms of COVID-19, immediately call the Ministry of Health toll free lines on **0800-100-066** or **0800-203-033** and alert them about the situation with full address of the suspected case.

The following mandatory facilities must be in place at all premises and accessible to everyone:

- 1.** Toilets/latrines: 1 stance for every 20 persons
- 2.** Hand washing facilities with running water and soap and a good drainage system
OR alcohol based hand rubs/sanitizers
- 3.** Waste management facilities (waste bins and bin liners, incinerators)

