



**Ministry of Health
The Republic of South Sudan**

PRESS RELEASE

Juba, 13th March 2020

Update on South Sudan's enhanced measures to Prevent Importation of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

The Government of the Republic (Ministry of Health) would like to inform the general public on the ongoing preparedness activities of the current Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak that started in China in December 2019. On 30th January 2020, the WHO declared a public health emergency of international concern. Due to the alarming levels of spread and severity, the WHO Director-General in his regular media briefing declared the COVID-19 Outbreak as a Pandemic on 11th March 2020.

Global Situation Update

As of 11 March 2020, a total of 125,048 cases and 4,613 deaths have been reported from 117 countries/territories/areas. The overall risk assessment of imprecating cases is 'very high'. In Africa, 12 countries have reported COVID-19 cases. These are: Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, South Africa, Nigeria, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Togo and Cote d'Ivoire.

Current Situation in South Sudan

Although there is no COVID-19 case reported in South Sudan yet, however, the Ministry of Health has received and investigated 3 alerts, and all have tested negative for COVID-19. However, to date, a total of 141 travelers, from China, Italy, South Korea, Thailand and Japan traveling back to South Sudan have been identified as high-risk and identified for purposes of follow up. A total of 85 travelers are under follow up.

South Sudan remains under high risk of importation of COVID-19 from the affected countries. This is mainly due to travel, trade, and social linkages



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with the affected countries as the country maintains an open-border policy. In order to reduce the risk of importation of COVID-19, the Ministry of Health is undertaking the following measures;

1. Screening of all passengers entering through Juba International Airport and this extended to Nimule, Wau, Yambio and other points of entry as the situation evolves.
2. In light of the current transmission of the disease, the Government of the Republic of South Sudan is temporarily suspending direct flights between South Sudan and all affected countries. The Ministry of Health also recommends restriction of movement of people/travellers, both South Sudanese and nationals of countries with local transmission of COVID-19. South Sudanese and foreign nationals resident in South Sudan wishing to travel abroad are advised to reconsider their plans. These restrictions may include directing South Sudanese Embassies accredited to the affected countries, **NOT TO ISSUE** new entry visas, **REVOKE** visas or **DENY ADMISSION** at the ports of entry. The list of these countries will be updated as the situation evolves.

The Countries with Local Transmission of COVID-19 are:

Africa

Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, Togo.

Asia

China, Republic of Korea, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, Philippines, Viet Nam, New Zealand, Cambodia, India, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Maldives and Bangladesh.



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Middle East

Iran (Islamic Republic of), Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan.

Europe

Italy, France, Spain, Germany, Switzerland, Netherlands, The United Kingdom, Sweden, Norway, Belgium, Denmark, Austria, Greece, Israel, San Marino, Czech Republic, Iceland, Portugal, Finland, Ireland, Slovenia, Russia, Romania, Poland, Croatia, Hungary, Serbia, Albania, Bulgaria, Belarus, North Macedonia, Slovakia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Territories**

Occupied Palestinian territory

Region of the Americas

United States of America, Canada, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Peru and Paraguay.

Advisory on Postponement of International Meetings and Conferences.

The Government would like to inform the general public that all international conferences slated to take place in South Sudan have temporarily been postponed due to the looming threat of COVID-19.



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Social Gatherings

The Ministry of Health advises the general public that all social gatherings like sporting events, religious events, social/cultural and political events must make adequate preparations before hosting an event to protect the participants from contracting COVID-19 as stipulated below.

1. Designate a competent person to liaise with the Ministry of Health
2. Ensure adequate handwashing facilities with soap and water/alcohol-based hand rub.
3. People with flu-like symptoms should keep away from social gatherings.
4. Organisers should provide adequate waste management facilities.
5. Provide information on prevention of COVID-19.
6. The best thing to do is to **"NOT DO IT ALTOGETHER"**

The Ministry of Health continues to emphasise the following preventive measures;

1. Always avoid Handshake and Hugging.
2. Regular hand washing facilities with soap and water/alcohol-based hand rub
3. Avoid close contact with people who are visibly sick with flu-like symptoms (fever, cough, sneeze)
4. When sick with flu-like symptoms, avoid going to public places, offices and public gatherings. Remain at home to avoid infecting others.
5. No need to wear medical masks if you do not have respiratory symptoms such as cough, sneezing or running nose.
6. Do not spit in public.
7. Avoid unnecessary and none essential travels and delay travels to countries with active transmission.
8. Avoid travel if you have flu-like symptoms.



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9. The best thing to do nowadays is "NOT TO TRAVEL"

The Government would like to caution the general public from spreading false rumors and misinformation. Always verify information with the Ministry of Health to avoid spreading false rumors, which may cause unnecessary anxiety and panic.

The Government urges the public to be vigilant and report all suspected COVID-19 cases and other strange deaths to the nearest health facility or by calling the toll-free hotline - 6666.

May God bless you, and may God bless South Sudan.

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