



CHRISTIAN HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF KENYA

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12th May 2020

To: Medical Officer In-charge
Administrator
Health Facility In-Charge

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: CHAK LETTER TO MEMBER HEALTH UNITS ON COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE

We send you Christian greetings from CHAK Secretariat. It is our prayer and hope that your institution, staff and their families are keeping safe during these unprecedented times of COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on our normal lives.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has created immense demands and challenges for the health sector, education sector, the economic activities of our people and nation and the religious and cultural norms of our society due to the directives and strategies from Government towards COVID-19 prevention, surveillance and mitigation. The Health facilities have to prepare to effectively cope with these changes and to appropriately handle any COVID-19 cases. Guidelines have been provided by Government and the World Health Organization (WHO) on social distancing, hand washing, cough hygiene, screening, testing, isolation, quarantine, treatment and contact tracing. These have repeatedly been communicated through the daily media briefings by the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Health. We all have an obligation to follow these Government directives.

The Faith Based Health Facilities have an obligation to get well aligned with the National and County Governments COVID-19 response plan and strategies since we are dealing with a highly infectious global pandemic that is under global surveillance through MOH and World Health Organization. The Health facilities are expected to be working on the following measures;

1. Build the capacity of the staff and the Institution for COVID-19 case identification
2. Establish referral linkages with the County COVID-19 Response structure/system for sample collection and suspected cases referral to the designated Isolation Centres.
3. Have in place procedure for screening of all patients, clients, staff and visitors as they enter the facility
4. Triage and separately further assess those with cough, fever or difficulty in breathing
5. Provide facilities for handwashing with soap and water and make available sanitizers
6. Ensure adequate protection of health care workers by availing face masks for all and gloves, face shields and gowns as appropriate
7. Reporting any suspected cases to the COVID-19 surveillance contact number
8. Put in place effective Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) commodities and standard operating procedures (SOPs) and ensure they are being followed

Useful Contacts:

COVID-19 Emergency Operation Centre has provided the following contacts for use the public and health facilities;
Tel: 0729-471414; 0732-353535; 0800-721316 (Toll free)

COVID-19 Call Center - *719# (SMS only) and 719 (audio call)

NASCOP Hotline number for supporting Health Care Workers: 0800-724848



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Training Resources

1. There are several training Webinars on COVID-19 which are accessible free of charge from NASCOP, University of Nairobi and WHO. CHAK is also providing weekly Webinars of COVID-19 response every Friday targeting health workers in member health facilities. CHAK Secretariat can provide you more information if needed.
2. Tenwek Hospital has developed COVID-19 training materials for the community and for health workers which can be accessed through the following web-link; e-learning modules for the community (<http://bit.ly/COVID-19Education>). And education materials with e-learning modules for healthcare workers (<http://bit.ly/COVID-19HCW>)
3. The Ministry of Health has a website with various COVID-19 Resources: [Kenya Ministry of Health COVID-19 website](#)
4. Courtesy of SIM we wish to share a very practical demonstration of how to use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for health workers and how to make PPE out of commonly available items in low-resource settings. Dr Deborah Eisenhut of SIM from USA shares her vast experience from the Ebola outbreak in Liberia and the COVID-19 pandemic. The video is full of very helpful and practical advice and can be accessed from youtube through the following link: <https://youtu.be/D5s7O9zccA8>

CHAK Support:

1. CHAK has identified Posters which are useful IEC materials for COVID-19 which we are sharing with Member Health facilities electronically and in printed copies. Please put them up where they are visible to staff and visiting clients.
2. CHAK is pleased to share with you some PPEs which we have procured from MEDS. These will be delivered by MEDS directly to your Health Facility. We continue to source for partners who can provide more support.
3. CHAK has been advocating with MOH, COG, Private Sector and Development Partners for support with essential commodities for PPEs and infection prevention and control (IPC). We strongly encourage member health facilities to continuously engage with the County Government since PPEs and other resources from Government and Donors are being channeled through the Counties. Those with existing local and international partners should also reach out to them with appeals for supporting your priority needs.

CHAK is pleased to note innovative initiatives in some Member Health Facilities of producing face masks, face shields, hand washing soap and disinfectants. We need to innovate in order to cope with our limited resources.

Routine health services:

We should continue providing routine essential health services while exercising social distancing, facilitating handwashing/sanitization, wearing face masks and ensuring regular disinfection of work surfaces. And being people of faith, we should continue our prayers for God to keep us safe, encourage our health workers, sustain our families and health facilities and for COVID-19 control to be achieved soon to allow routine operations to resume.

May God bless you and protect you as you continue to serve faithfully during these challenging times.

Yours sincerely,

CHRISTIAN HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF KENYA

Dr Samuel Mwenda

GENERAL SECRETARY