



COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

21st April, 2021

PRESS STATEMENT ON THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC

Today, the positivity rate as reported by the Ministry of Health in the Daily Situational Report is at **9.6%** from a sample size of **2,515** individuals tested. We however note that the decrease of the positivity rate is as a result of lack of testing kits in the Country. This poses a major challenge as the virus is spreading rapidly and could overstretch the county health facilities.

As County Governments, we have engaged the Ministry of Health to avail testing kits to the Counties to ensure proper documentation of the magnitude of the disease within the communities and proper reporting of the factual situation which will then lead to proper response measures.

In the last one week, County Governments have addressed themselves to the following critical issues:-

1. Status of bed capacity in 38 Counties

The bed capacity in 38 Counties is as follows:-

- There is a total of **7,751 beds** in **142** isolation centers out of which **6,890 beds** are available for patients;
- There are a total of **375 beds** in the ICU out of which **321 beds** are available for new patients; and
- There are a total of **167 beds** in the HDU out of which **107 beds** are available for new patients.

2. COVID-19 Vaccination

Cumulatively in 47 Counties, a total of **874,932 doses** have been received out of which **642,751 doses** have been administered as follows:-

- Healthcare workers – **136,084**
- Security – **52,603**
- Teachers – **97,786**
- Others – **356,278**

We note with concern that there is low uptake of the COVID-19 vaccine by the target population in phase 1. Therefore as County Governments we shall enhance advocacy measures to increase public confidence on the effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccine.

3. Economic Stimulus Package

Despite the difficult financial situation experienced by all the County Governments, the Council of Governors uploads the County Governments of **Nakuru, Embu, Lamu, Machakos and Nyeri** for having rolled out interventions geared towards supporting Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to grow the economies during this third wave of the pandemic.

Challenges

1. Testing of COVID-19 in the Counties

Testing of COVID-19 across all Counties has slowed down due to lack of testing kits. This therefore means that County Governments have no control over the increasing number of infections.

We therefore urge the Ministry of Health to avail rapid testing kits (antigens) and PCR COVID-19 testing equipment to all Counties to stem the spread of the virus.

2. Disbursement of County Equitable Share of revenue

As at **Thursday 15th April 2021**, the National Treasury disbursed a total of **Ksh.10.6 Billion** to County Governments. The current outstanding amount owed to County Governments is **Kshs. 83 Billion** as follows:-

- **Ksh 3.9 Billion** owed to Nairobi City County for the months of December and January
- **Ksh 26 Billion** owed to 47 Counties for the month of February
- **Ksh 25 Billion** owed to 47 Counties for the month of March
- **Ksh 28 Billion** owed to 47 Counties for the month of April

The Council of Governors will work with the County Assemblies to engage the National Treasury for the immediate release of these funds.

Conclusion

As County Governments strive to ensure compliance of the COVID-19 protocols, we also urge the County residents to follow the necessary protocols for their own safety and also to prevent the spread of the virus.

To flatten the curve, we need to behave better by always wearing our masks properly, practicing social distancing as well as washing our hands with soap and water. We shall not tire sharing this message. We need to come out of this pandemic stronger.

Asanteni Sana!



H.E Hon. Prof. Anyang' Nyong'o, EGH
Chairman Health Committee, Council of Governors