



## **MINISTRY OF HEALTH**

# **PROTOCOL FOR CONTROL OF COVID-19 AT GROUND CROSSINGS AND ALONG THE TRANSPORT CORRIDORS**

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## FORWARD

The East Africa Community (EAC) has come together to deliberate on ways of containing the pandemic following the declaration of COVID-19 as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). Long distance truckers, who traverse borders, are identified as one of the high risk groups in the transmission of the disease due to their high mobility and interactions with diverse populations.

In an effort to control the pandemic without interfering with trade as guided by IHR 2005, the Ministers responsible for Health and East African Community Affairs issued a joint statement on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020 on COVID-19 response in East African Community Region.

Ministry of Health, as guided by the statement, has developed the following guidelines to be followed by the truckers and Port Health Officials at our Points of Entry and along the transport corridor. The truckers will be expected to have been tested, be in possession of COVID19 negative results and have an attestation letter 48 hours before travel.

The ministry calls upon all truckers and port health officers to ensure that the guidelines are adhered to.



Dr Patrick Amoth  
**Ag Director General of Health**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

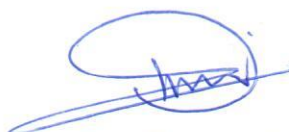
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## DEFINTION OF TERMS

**COVID-19:** Illness caused by a novel coronavirus now called SARS-COV-2

**EAC:** East African Community

**GROUND CROSSING:** These are land crossing points designated at border points between countries

**CREW/TRUCKER:** These are drivers and conductors of trucks

**IHR 2005:** International Health Regulations 2005, whose purpose and scope is to prevent, protect against, control and provide a public health response to international spread of diseases without interfering with trade

**Valid Attestation Letter:** A letter originating from **MOH** stating that one has been tested in the last fourteen (14) days and was COVID-19 negative at the time of testing. It should be authenticated by the Directorate of Public Health.

## INTRODUCTION

Following the declaration of COVID-19 as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), and as well as a pandemic, the East Africa Community (EAC) has come together to deliberate on ways of containing the pandemic without interfering with trade as guided by IHR 2005. At the same time, long distance truckers who traverse borders are identified as one of the high risk groups in the transmission of the disease due to their high mobility and interactions with diverse populations.

It is in view of this that the Ministers responsible for Health and East African Community Affairs issued a joint statement on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020 on COVID-19 response in East African Community Region and:

- i. Directed that all Partner States to continue implementing mandatory quarantine for fourteen (14) days for all travelers to the region, and avoid imported cases by implementing strict screening procedures at all border points;
- ii. Directed that all Partner States to implement 100% exit and entry screenings by applying the multilayer mechanism to all persons crossing the border point to avoid some loopholes, such as transit Passengers on-board the trucks;
- iii. Directed that the Partner States to establish a surveillance system to monitor crew health and enable contact tracing;
- iv. Resolved to strengthen information sharing through appropriate channels and link the national task forces to facilitate quick response, continuous reporting and to facilitate contact tracing for potential COVID- 19 exposed persons;
- v. Resolved to facilitate free movements of goods and services in the region;
- vi. Directed all Partner States to ensure that trucks / vehicles carrying goods:
  - i. Have only one (1) crew member per vehicle to facilitate smooth border crossing in the region;
  - ii. Crew members are in good health and are regularly screened for signs and symptoms of COVID-19.
  - iii. In the event that the crew are quarantined while in transit, truck owners / operators shall make necessary arrangements



for backup crew to ensure that goods are delivered to the intended destination;

- iv. Truck drivers will declare their final destinations and are urged to stop only at designated points/hotels (appendix of the hotels/designated points) along the transport corridors to limit chances of spread of COVID-19 virus during transit;

Ministry of Health has developed the following guidelines to be followed by the truckers and Port Health Officials at our Points of Entry and along the transport corridor.

## **OBJECTIVE**

The objective of this protocol is to give guidance on management of truckers crossing the border and along the transport corridors. This will enable MOH to curtail the spread of COVID-19 through testing and monitoring.

## **CREW/TRUCKERS' REQUIREMENTS BEFORE TRAVEL**

Ensure they have been tested and are in possession of COVID-19 negative results and an attestation letter 48 hours before travel. Ensure that every time they are on road, they are holding a valid COVID-19 attestation letter. They will be required to undertake another test after every fourteen (14) days.

All truckers crossing the border into Kenya should be in possession of a valid COVID-19 Negative attestation letter from their country of origin. Samples will be obtained from them for in-country verification, and they will be allowed to proceed with their journeys as they await results. However, those without an attestation, will be required to have their samples taken for testing and will be required to wait for their results before crossing the borders into Kenya.

Testing/sample collection facilities will be available in Lunga-Lunga, Taveta, Namanga, Busia, Malaba and Isebania, Moyale Points of Entry. All truckers operating along the transport corridor in Kenya regardless of whether they will cross the border or not, will be required to hold a valid attestation letter and will be monitored at established checkpoints.

Inland testing/sample collection facilities will be available in the under-listed counties and it shall be the responsibility of all truckers to present themselves for sample collection 48 hours before commencement of the journey;

- Mombasa (Public Health Department –Mwembe Tayari)
- Nairobi (Lady Northy Health Center & South B Clinic)
- Kisumu (Ahero County Hospital)
- Migori (Migori County Referral Hospital)
- Eldoret (Mobile testing call 0532027027 or MTRH)
- Nakuru (PGH Nakuru & Mai Mahiu Health Center)
- Kilifi (KMTC Kilifi)
- Kwale (Kwale Sub County Hospital, Msabweni County Referral Hospital, Kinango Hospital)
- Machakos (Mlolongo mobile sample collection Centre)
- Wajir (Wajir county Hospital)
- Marsabit (Marsabit County Referral Hospital)

and get results prior to commencement of their journeys. Once results are out, they will be relayed to the Emergency Operations Centre, MOH headquarters. They will further be relayed to the Port Health Office in the Directorate of Public Health, who will filter, prepare attestation letters for all the COVID-19 negative results, and relay both negative and positive results to specific points of entry for action. MOH HQ Port Health Office will further track positive truckers and link them with the respective counties along the transport corridors for further action.

## **CREW/TRUCKERS' REQUIREMENTS AT BORDER CROSSING**

The crew has a valid COVID-19 negative attestation letter and exhibits no fever, cough, sneezing and difficulty in breathing.

The crew will then fill self-quarantine declaration and register for online monitoring and be allowed to proceed with the journey.

In case the crew develops signs and symptoms along the way, then they will be linked to the County Rapid Response Teams (RRTs). The crew will be expected to comply with the monitoring process.

The crew will be required to rest/lodge at designated hotels at the designated stop-overs and update the relevant data in the quarantine declaration form. (Attached please find a list of designated hotels).



Trucks will only be allowed to stop at the designated stop-overs during the entire journey.

Truckers will be required to use face masks, and have hand sanitizers (alcohol based hand rub).

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE**

- i. Supervise testing and dissemination of results and attestations.
- ii. Monitor validity of truckers' attestations
- iii. Routinely monitor screening and retesting of truckers if necessary.
- iv. Ensure that crew and truck owners are adequately trained on COVID19
- v. Ensure truckers compliance in use of face masks and sanitizers
- vi. Liaison with other stakeholders/ agencies in control of COVID19

## **PORT HEALTH RESPONSIBILITIES**

- i. Ensure primary and secondary screenings are undertaken to all crew members, Kenyans, and others with Kenyan permanent residency permits. (Note that non Kenyans who are not truckers are not allowed into the country until further notice).
- ii. In the event that upon screening, the trucker is at high risk for COVID-19 disease, the truck will be decontaminated before it's allowed to continue to its final destination and the crew members will be quarantined for 14 days according to the set national guidelines.
- iii. Ensure that no truckers gain access into the country without a valid COVID -19 negative attestation letter.
- iv. Ensure that samples are taken for COVID-19, for truckers who do not have valid attestations of negativity, or those whose attestations are questionable.
- v. If for whatever reasons sample analysis is not done at the border point, then the laboratory technologists on the ground will facilitate transport of the samples to the nearest regional laboratory authorized to run the tests. (Refer to SOP on packaging and transportation of samples)
- vi. Ensure that test results are communicated on time, and proper documentation takes place.
- vii. Ensure that all truckers sign the quarantine declaration, and that they are registered for online monitoring.

- viii. Work in liaison with the county disease surveillance team for referrals to quarantine, testing and isolation of crew members and walk-in citizens.
- ix. Ensure infection prevention and control measures are undertaken at the point of entry and appropriate PPEs are readily available.
- x. Work closely with other border agencies (Border Management Committee) to ensure that this protocol is fully implemented.
- xi. Work closely with cross border counterparts for information sharing and problem solving.
- xii. Ensure proper data management at the POE for ease of contact tracing, and onward transmission to the MOH HQ.
- xiii. Ensure that all the equipment are maintained in good serviceability state.
- xiv. Update stakeholders on law enforcement in relation to COVID-19.
- xv. Undertake any other responsibility as stipulated in the general procedures.
- xvi. Ensure proper management of general and infectious wastes at the POE. (Refer to MoH IPC guidelines on healthcare waste management)
- xvii. Ensure provision of separate washrooms for truckers, and staff.

#### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF HEALTH PERSONNEL AT CHECK POINTS**

- i. Take temperature readings for all truckers and record in the quarantine declaration form, and check for any other signs and symptoms.
- ii. Confirm online registration status of the truckers.
- iii. Work closely with the county RRTs for referrals.
- iv. Generate daily reports on the truckers who have passed via their check points.
- v. Compliance with quarantine regulations for truck drivers as indicated in the quarantine declaration form
- vi. Monitor compliance with use of masks and sanitizers

#### **RESPONSIBILITIES FOR TRUCK OWNERS / KENYA TRANSPORTERS ASSOCIATION**

- i. Ensuring that their crew are duly registered and insured
- ii. Ensure that all crew they engage have a valid COVID19 negative attestation letter
- iii. In a situation the crew in their truck is quarantined or get into treatment the owners/company should work in liaison with MOH to ensure disinfection of the truck



- iv. The Owners/company should ensure that they have a standby crew to take over the truck in case of quarantine or isolation
- v. Ensure that the crew should have basic knowledge on COVID19
- vi. Ensure truckers have face masks and sanitizers.

#### DESIGNATED CHECKPOINTS AND HOTELS ALONG THE TRANSPORT CORRIDORS

NO	ROUTE	CHECKPOINTS	NAME OF HOTEL	HOTEL CONTACT
1	Busia – Mombasa	Busia	Keren guest House Dasah Guest house,	Mary 0713507441 0722367446
		Gilgil	Balkiza Lodges Yu Mwema Lodges	0721358828 0721637407
		Mlolongo	Hotel Connections Ltd Caphill Hotel	Patrick Makau 0722175922 Mercy Mbuba 0722335530
		Mariakani	Mariakani Guest House Paradise Lodge Metrometa Guest House	Joseph Abala 0727317235 Mohamud 0721410749 Abdilahe 0713679159
2	Malaba – Mombasa	Malaba	Wajir Guest House Wananchi Guest House	Effitin 0722604066 Samuel Ndungu 0771770980
		Gilgil	Balkiza Lodges Yu Mwema Lodges	0721358828 0721637407
		Mlolongo	Hotel Connections Ltd	Patrick Makau 0722175922
		Mariakani	Mariakani Guest House Paradise Lodge Metrometa Guest House	Joseph Abala 0727317235 Mohamud 0721410749 Abdilahe 0713679159
3	Namanga – Nairobi	Mlolongo	Hotel Connections Ltd Caphill Hotel	Patrick Makau 0722175922 Mercy Mbuba 0722335530
4	Isebania/Kisumu – Nairobi	Mai Mahiu	Ndakajawa Lodgings DM Lodgings Guthera Lodgings	To be availed on site
		Total Junction (Mau Summit)	Leopard Hotel Sultan Lodge	0722284754 07180899516
5	Malaba-Nairobi	Webuye	No Sleeping	-