

KENYA:

PHASES OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Containing the Spread and Reducing the Impact

Background

In December 2019, a new strain of coronavirus – now COVID-19 – originating from Wuhan City, China was discovered. COVID-19 infections have since spread all over the world. Stretching of medical and health resources, economic shocks, social upheavals, and insecurity will become the inevitable consequences of this pandemic that may disproportionately affect poorer nations especially in the global south. Many vulnerable countries, Kenya included, may not be sufficiently prepared. They should understand the various phases of COVID-19 in order to respond effectively with the limited resources in hand.

THE COVID-19 PHASES IN KENYA

PHASE 1: Latent Phase

- COVID-19 still out of the country, threat still remote.
- Usual measures, mostly public health and surveillance at border entry points, are taken to ensure COVID-19 does not enter the country.
- National Epidemic threat perception still low.
- Country still largely unprepared, population largely ignorant of the epidemic

(Kenya was in this Phase before and including March 3rd 2020).

PHASE 2: Germinal Phase

- COVID-19 enters the country.
- First known case is identified, quarantined, isolated and treated
- Those infected by the first known case identified, tracked, quarantined and tested.
- A few more individuals carrying COVID-19 jet in. Spreads in few locations as they travel home or check-in hotels as tourists.
- Initial containment measures instituted.