

KENYA:

PHASES OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Containing the Spread and Reducing the Impact

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THE COVID-19 PHASES IN KENYA

PHASE 1: Latent Phase

- COVID-19 still out of the country. Still a distant threat.
- Additional measures, mostly public health and surveillance at border entry points, are taken to ensure COVID-19 does not enter the country.

PHASE 2: Germinal Phase

- COVID-19 enters the country. 1st known case is identified, quarantined, isolated and treated
- Those infected by 1st 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.

PHASE 3: Incipient Phase

- COVID-19 Virus spreads to specific localities within a country such as Nairobi, Mombasa, and Kisumu. More cases identified.
- Tracing and isolation of contacts using all available tools including phone and credit card records of locations.
- Stricter measures are put in place, with partial lock-down, dusk to dawn curfews.
- Mandatory quarantine required for travelers from outside country. Non-essential services are disrupted.

PHASE 4: Metastatic Phase

- COVID-19 Number of identified cases continue to rise, breaks away from few counties to cover more. Extensive community transmission
- Economic slowdown is accelerated, joblessness and desperation rise among vulnerable populations.
- Incidents of crime and public disorder in chokepoints (informal settlements and slums) likely to rise.

- Initial pressure on the health system. Rise in hospital admissions. Initial surge capacity by government is stretched

PHASE 5: Emergency Phase

- COVID-19 infection spreads freely to communities (full-scale community spread established).
- Number of cases substantially higher, spreads to whole or most of the country.
- Complete national lockdown in place for a specific period of time, perhaps 2 – 3 weeks.
- Country's social safety net stretched beyond limit. Economy is in critical stage.
- National security in danger, situation critical. Military called in.

PHASE 6: Resignation Phase

- COVID-19 now spreads freely.
- Hospitals and all public services overwhelmed.
- Government and authorities unable to do much about it.
- Only identified pockets, communities secured, isolated and protected.
- Those that survive, live, those that die, die. Pandemic takes natural course with very high mortality rates.
- Herd immunity from high infection rates takes shape leading to natural flattening, then downward curve and ultimately a reversal, at great cost. Nation at its weakest point

PHASE 7: Recovery Phase

- Those that survived work on recovery. Traumatized. But live to tell the story.
- Government struggles to restore normalcy. Society still in shock. Country's systems still weak.
- State of emergency lifted. Law and order prioritized. Long road to social and economic recovery ahead.

PHASE 8: Reconstruction Phase

- Post-pandemic reconstruction characterized by social disquiet resulting from economic slowdowns and societal breakdown.
- Expanded law and order enforcement still necessary
- Massive societal mobilization required combined with infusion of capital into businesses and the economy.
- This phase may last few years.