

MUNI UNIVERSITY

EFFORTS IN FIGHTING COVID19

Background information

According to the World Health Organization, the SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, also known as the Corona Virus Disease most likely leapt from animals to humans through an emissary animal in the Wuhan City of China on 31st December 2019. By 11th May 2020, it had been declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization. Uganda registered her first case of Corona virus on the 21st of March 2020 and this was a 36-year-old male Ugandan from Dubai aboard Ethiopian airlines. Since then the statistics of confirmed cases have been rising and by 23rd July 2021, the Ministry of Health cumulative cases were at 92,490 and out of these, there were 75,790 recoveries and 2,557 deaths.

General effects of Covid19 on education institutions

The pandemic has had unprecedented impacts on all education institutions including Muni University. To curb the spread, HE the president of the republic of Uganda on 18th March 2020 directed the closure of all education institutions effective 20th March 2020 with a partial resumption of some classes in October 2020. All education institutions were reopened on 1st March 2021 till 6th June when they were reordered to close. WHO and MoH Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were adopted to safeguard the public against the novel Corona virus.

To forge business continuity, creative measures in health policy, re-planning of courses, embracing myriad changes in the school calendar had to be adopted.

Muni University Covid 19 taskforce was promptly instituted to take lead in harmonizing efforts in fighting the disease.

MUNI UNIVERSITY COVID 19 TASKFORCE

The University Covid 19 taskforce chaired by the Vice Chancellor, is a multidisciplinary team drawn from the various departments and faculties to guide on the administrative and environmental measures for effective prevention and control of the spread of the novel Corona virus in the University.

Health team

The health sub team of the taskforce is headed by Dr. Jimmy Odaga,

The Covid 19 guild team

Working closely with the University Covid 19 taskforce, the health committee of the students' guild also offers support by reaching out to students to immediately present themselves to nearby health facilities in case they experience signs and symptoms typical of covid 19.

Free testing of staff

On June 15th, the taskforce organised a free testing for Covid 19 for the 30% staff running operations during the nationwide lockdown following the Presidential directive of 6th June to close schools and the suspend non-essential travels between districts in an attempt to stem out a worrying trend in the rise in Covid 19 cases in the country. Institutions and organizations were asked to keep a 30%of staff at the workplace although this was later revised to a further reduction to 10% in non-core Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) as contained in the presidential address of June 18th.

The staff are urged to stand together, show compassion to one another and avoid stigmatization on the basis of the Covid 19 test results.

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOPS) ON PREVENTION OF COVID19 ON CAMPUS

In line with the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES); and Ministry of Health (MoH) guidelines and SOP's, the University taskforce has instituted a set of customised Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and measures for operations within the University.

1. At least 70% of staff work from home and use online facilities for teaching, communication and consultations.
2. Visitors into the University are strictly restricted
3. Practice WASH (at the University gate, wash your hands thoroughly with detergent before proceeding to your various offices).
4. Sanitise frequently (sanitizers are available at the reception and various offices.
5. All incoming correspondences shall be left at the gate and signed for by security.
6. Avoid meetings, if you must, attendance shall not exceed 10 persons who shall maintain a distance of 4 meters from each other.
7. Stay at home, avoid unnecessary movements, especially to crowded areas (Bars, markets etc).
8. Avoid distant travels by public means.
9. Avoid handshakes, kisses and hugs at all times.
10. When filled with the urge to cough and sneeze, kindly use a clean handkerchief. Sneezing and coughing in the open is strictly prohibited.
11. When you realise any signs of fever, dry throat, cough and flue, kindly seek immediate medical attention.
12. Do not forward and circulate unverified information about Corona virus as this may cause more fear and panic.
13. Have a budget and stock enough food in your homes as prices of items are already escalating in the markets.
14. Use of protective gears by front officers is a must.

15. Report to Management, any person showing signs of Covid 19 and unwilling to seek help on the following contacts;
0782717945/0772467112/0772531902/0779847286/0772820348
16. Any staff member travelling from outside countries shall be quarantined for 14 days.
17. The library will only be opened on designated days that will be communicated by the Library management.
18. Most importantly, observe the Standard Operating Procedures issued by the Ministry of Health.

During these challenging times Heads of Departments (HODs) and Faculty Deans are still available to help you. Every unit must develop efficient and effective means of online teaching and learning and other communication. The Office of Dean of Students is open to any queries or concerns of students. Feel free to call **0414666239** during working hours and on **0772-824-870** for emergencies outside working hours.