



THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN AFRICA (CUEA)

Date: Monday 16th March 2020

TO: CUEA Community

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION - SUSPENSION OF BUSINESS OPERATIONS AND PHYSICAL LEARNING AT THE UNIVERSITY WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT

Following the outbreak of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic globally, confirmed cases locally and the ensuing presidential decree that Universities should close by Friday, March 20, 2020, this is to hereby inform you that the University Management and Senate have resolved to suspend business operations and all physical teaching and learning with immediate effective until further notice. This decision is also informed by the fact that the University's Main Campus is located about 10KMs from Ongata Rongai where the first patient is said to have stayed and that most of the students and staff reside there as well.

The University notes that with confirmation of three positive cases of COVID19 in Kenya, His Excellency, the President of Kenya has ordered that;

1. Government suspends all inbound travel from countries with COVID19 Pandemic
2. Only Kenyan citizens and foreign residents with valid visas will be allowed into Kenya for the next 30 days.
3. All persons who made it into Kenya in the past 14 days must self-quarantine. If they have any symptoms such as fever and difficulty in breathing, they should go to hospital.
4. Learning is suspended in all learnings institutions.
5. Government offices, businesses and companies encouraged to let employees work from home except those in critical services.
6. Limit use of money; use online, money transfer and cards.
7. Citizens encouraged to avoid congregating in crowded places such as weddings, funerals, churches, shopping malls, entertainment premises, public transportation, limit visitors to hospitals.
8. Hospitals and shopping malls to provide water, soap and hand sanitizers plus disinfectants.

In view of the above, we wish to inform our stakeholders that only critical services at the University as listed below will remain operational supported by minimum staff during this period:

1. Registry
2. Dean of Students Office
3. Security Office

4. Procurement
5. Human Resources Office
6. Finance Office
7. Catering and Housekeeping Section
8. General Maintenance
9. Deans and Heads of Departments
10. Blended Teaching Office
11. Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Office
12. Communications, Switchboard and Students Recruitment Office

With about four weeks of teaching remaining before the examinations period and the need to ensure continuity in learning as per the University calendar, the University is working to ensure that lecturers post notes and assignments to students via the online platform. We request the lecturers and students to collaborate to ensure that the success of this initiative.

Further, we appeal to all staff, students and service providers in our Lang'ata and Gaba Campuses to be more vigilant and remember to take the following precautionary measures as prescribed by the Ministry of Health and World Health Organization:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or sanitize with an alcohol-based hand rub if your hands are not visibly dirty. We urge you and your family members to have your pocket sanitizer and use it frequently as a precaution measure;
- When coughing and sneezing, cover your mouth and nose with flexed elbow or tissue. Discard the tissue immediately into a closed bin and clean your hands with clean water and soap/hand wash or sanitize;
- Maintain at least 1-meter (3 feet) distance between yourself and others particularly those who have flu-like symptoms. We urge our community members to avoid crowded places, handshakes, kissing and hugging close contacts for safety reasons;
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth;
- If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical care early;
- Avoid direct, unprotected contact with live animals;
- Cook food thoroughly, especially meat and eggs, before eating;
- Avoid close contact with animals;
- Cancel all non-essential travel;
- Self-quarantine and reach out to any of the listed health facilities should you develop any symptoms

Key contacts

We wish to encourage all our staff and students and by extension their significant others that should you experience any of these symptoms; shortness of breath and difficulty in breathing or suspect that someone around you is infected, get in touch with any of the following hospitals or reach out to the Ministry of Health – Disease Surveillance Division in advance as you make your way to the hospital: Kindly note and keep these contacts: **Ministry of Health Disease Surveillance Division** - Toll Free Line (in Kenya): 0800 721 316, Tel Hotline: +254 729 471 414/+254 732 353 535, **Mbagathi Hospital:** +254 020 272 4712, +254 0721 311 088, **Kenyatta Hospital:** +254 020 272 6300, **Aga Khan Hospital:** +254 366 2020/22 +254 374 0000, **Nairobi Hospital:** +254703 082 000, +254730 666 000.

International Students and staff

We urge all our International Students and Staff to not only observe all the above measures but also keep their family and guardians updated on their safety and health status to avoid any form of distress. We discourage intercountry travel but if you must travel then you need to confirm on the safety of your travel and entrance requirements back into your country. The Dean of Students, Security and HR Offices will be at hand to assist where they can. **Dean of Student – Mr. Samwel Wakanywa - 0722750701. Security issues** will be handled by **Mr. Samuel Makori - 0722816336**

Liturgical Masses and spiritual guidance

All Priests are requested to abide by guidelines issued by the Office of Chaplaincy as follows:

1. The Weekday Morning Masses at the Hostels and Holy Trinity Chapel shall continue as usual while all other Masses remain suspended.
2. All members of the CUEA Community are highly urged to avoid disseminating information that can potentially cause public panic. The message of hope is critically needed by all including our brothers and sisters who are either infected or affected.
3. All Christians and persons of goodwill are urged to recite Hail Mary and Our Father at least five times in a day as we pray for our brothers and sisters who have tested positive of COVID19 and their families evoking the intercession of Our Lady Health of the Sick.

We wish to inform all our stakeholders that the University is closely monitoring the situation as we await further communication from the government. As the situation continues to change, we shall do what we can to ensure that the CUEA community is informed so as to remain safe and healthy.

Thank you.

Very Rev. Prof. Stephen Mbugua NGARI

RECTOR/VICE CHANCELLOR
