



## REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

### Statement on New Measures to Prevent COVID-19 Coronavirus Transmission

14 March 2020

Following assessment by the Ministry of Health, the following measures shall be observed for an initial period of two weeks in order to further strengthen the country's ability to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 coronavirus transmission:

- Places of worship are closed from Sunday 15 March 2020, with prayers to be conducted from home
- Schools and higher education institutions (both public and private) shall close on Monday 16 March 2020
- Employees should be permitted to work from home wherever possible, in consultation with their employers
- Large gatherings such as weddings and sporting events are to be postponed, and the number of people attending burial ceremonies should be minimised
- Businesses and restaurants continue to operate, but adequate distance between customers must be maintained (at least 1 meter)
- Unnecessary movements should be avoided, and public transport must not be overcrowded

Hand hygiene and social distancing are the only effective methods of preventing transmission of coronavirus. Citizens are therefore reminded of the critical importance of frequent hand washing and of avoiding unnecessary physical contact with others. Ordinary soap is the most effective product for hand-washing, followed by alcohol-based sanitizer. The use of face masks is only recommended for patients and those in direct contact with patients.

Any person with the classic symptoms of COVID-19 coronavirus (dry cough, high fever) should stay at home and call the toll-free number 114 for further guidance, or consult a Community Health Worker.

By carefully following these instructions, every single one of us is making an invaluable contribution to protecting our country and our people.



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

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