BACKGROUND

• Since it’s onset, the COVID-19 Pandemic has had a significant impact on global health. Kenya has experienced periods of accelerated COVID-19 infection with multiple waves representing worsening infection rates.

• COVID-19 is caused by the virus SARSCOV2 virus which is primarily transmitted by droplet spread just like other respiratory viruses. Most cases of infection are notably asymptomatic. Public health measures such as use of face masks, physical distancing and regular hand hygiene are known to be effective in reducing the spread of COVID-19 infection in the community.

• The public health threat of COVID-19 remains significant in Kenya. Even as COVID-19 vaccination is being rolled out in Kenya, the consistent compliance with COVID-19 preventive measures remains important for individuals, groups and communities in the fight against COVID-19.

• Even as COVID-19 vaccination continues, consistent compliance with COVID-19 preventive measures remains important for individuals, groups and communities in the fight against COVID-19. This is equally applicable in the context of UN gatherings and meetings.

• UN meetings have now resumed with application of stringent COVID-19 precautions as advised in the latest Host country guidance issued to UNON in September 2021.

• The UNON Joint Medical Service is committed in supporting in-person meetings through collaboration with other meeting stakeholders.

• This health information pack aims to sensitize the meeting participants on the importance of personal vigilance to facilitate safe, in-person meetings in the context of the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic. These health guidelines are useful for arranging safe UN meetings within Gigiri and other locations.

• This health information brief should be read in conjunction with other reference documents such as the UNON Conference service guidelines and host country COVID-19 updates.

• The preventive measures described in this health brief are linked to the current pandemic situation and are subject to review and updated guidance from the office of the UNON Director General.

o The information provided here is a synopsis of the JMS COVID-19 health information available from the JMS Website Additional COVID-19 information and resources can be also be accessed through the following links: WHO website; Video- Correct use of Fabric Mask WHO IEC Resources

Prepared by UNON Joint Medical Service, Nairobi. Adapted from UNMD,WHO and UNON COVID-19 meeting guidelines
A. Avoid exposing yourself and others to COVID-19:
  • Practice Physical distancing. Avoid close contact with other participants (Keep at least 1-meter distance).
  • Wash your hands with soap and water or sanitize your hands frequently with alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
  • Wear a well-fitting mask (cloth face covering or face mask) that fully covers your mouth AND nose. The mask should be worn before, during and after the meeting in line with public health requirements.
  • Stay at home if you develop a fever or if you become unwell in any way.
  • Cover your cough with a disposable tissue or with your elbow.
  • These COVID-19 preventive measures are applicable to all persons regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status.

B. Prepare yourself before the meeting:
  • Appraise yourself with the current COVID-19 situation at the host country.
  • Carefully read the COVID-19 health information package provided by UNON Joint Medical Service (JMS) and the UN Meeting guidelines prepared by UNON Division of Conference services (DCS).
  • Ensure that you carry your health insurance card as you attend the meeting. This will be important in case medical assessment or hospitalization is required in the course of the meeting.
  • Take your temperature in the morning & evaluate your health closely for possible COVID-19 Symptoms. If your temperature is more than 37.5C or if you have any of the symptoms described in the link above, stay at home (OR in your Hotel room) & inform the assigned medical focal point or your personal physician. You will also need to excuse yourself from further meetings until medical guidance is sought.
  • Do not attend the meeting if any of the following applies to you:
    ❖ You are currently living with someone on isolation for COVID-19.
    ❖ You have recently (≤ 14 days) been in contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19.
❖ You have evaluated your health and personal risk and determined not to attend the meeting in person (e.g. based on age > 60yrs, COVID-19 vaccination status, underlying medical conditions or advise from your personal physician).
❖ You have recently been ill from any cause and are still recuperating.

HEALTH & SAFETY MEASURES TO EXPECT DURING YOUR MEETING

C. To enhance the health and safety of meeting participants, you can expect the following measures to be in place:

• The meeting organizers will designate a COVID-19 Meeting coordinator who will be introduced to the participants at the beginning of the in-person meeting. Health-related queries and concerns relating to COVID-19 measures are to be directed to the COVID-19 meeting coordinator who will be present on site. The COVID-19 Meeting coordinator will liaise closely with the UNON Joint Medical Services in Gigiri complex to address any emerging health concerns.
• You can expect to undergo temperature screening at the points of entry in Gigiri complex: the non-touch temperature measurement will be available at the UN pavilion entrance and at the entrance door to the meeting venue. You may be asked to step into a separate area for further evaluation in case your temperature is noted to be above 37.5°C (Fever).
• Meeting participants will be expected to continue wearing their face masks during the meeting session. Proper use and disposal of face masks into designated bins with lids will be crucial in limiting exposure of participants to COVID-19. Wash your hands with soap and water or use alcohol hand sanitizer after handling or disposing your face mask.
• Hand washing facilities and Alcohol hand sanitizers will be available at the meeting venue.
• You will be required to share your contact information with the COVID-19 meeting coordinator in advance of the in-person meeting. This information will include your full names, cell and email contact details and your residential location. The information will be confirmed during the meeting registration at the set venue. This information will be treated confidentially by the meeting coordinator and will be used for the sole purpose of registration and contact tracing if a participant is diagnosed with COVID-19 infection during or soon after the in-person meeting.
• Posters and signage displaying COVID-19 related information will be placed visibly in and around the meeting venue. Meeting participants are expected to follow the instructions in the posters and signage including those on mandatory Face mask use. Compliance with instructions on physical distancing and movement will be expected.
• Seating arrangements for the meeting will reflect the principle of physical distancing. This means a minimum distance of 1 Meter will be maintained between participants in line with the signage and markings prepared for the meeting.

• Meeting participants are expected to exercise prudent personal responsibility to maintain physical distancing during the meeting and during any mutual interactions outside the meeting venue. There should be no handshakes, hugs, or other high-risk contacts during the duration of the in-person meeting.

• Meeting participants are also expected to inform the COVID-19 meeting coordinator if they fall ill during the meeting or are diagnosed with COVID-19 in the course of the meeting.

• You are discouraged from sharing common gadgets during the meeting. This applies to items such as microphones, pens, or other similar objects. Inadvertent sharing of such items should be followed by immediate use of Alcohol hand sanitizer or handwashing with soap and water.

• The COVID-19 meeting coordinator will ensure that prior cleaning of the meeting venue is completed before the date of meeting. Subsequent regular cleaning of high-touch surfaces will be arranged for the duration of the meeting. Avoid touching your face to limit contact with potentially contaminated objects.

• Windows and doors at the meeting venue will remain open to allow for good natural air circulation. Bathroom doors will likewise remain open. This will eliminate the need for frequent touching of door handles.

D. After the conclusion of the meeting, you should:

• Monitor your health closely for a period of 14 days. Watch out for development of fever or any other COVID-19 symptoms. An email communication will be sent to you by the meeting coordinator as a reminder on the same.

• Immediately inform the COVID-19 meeting coordinator if you are diagnosed with COVID-19 during the period of the meeting or within 3 days of attending the in-person meeting.

• You are also to inform the COVID-19 meeting coordinator if you had contact with a meeting participant confirmed to have COVID-19 during the same period. The meeting coordinator will liaise with the UNON Joint Medical Service for necessary follow-up and contact tracing.
MEDICAL SUPPORT DURING THE IN-PERSON MEETING:

- The meeting organizers have facilitated provision of on-site medical emergency support for the meeting. The UNON Joint Medical Service (JMS) Clinic is available for this purpose and is responsible for putting in place adequate and timely emergency response measures for the in-person meeting.
- The UNON JMS team will address any health concerns emerging during the said meeting and will have access to a standby Ambulance for any emergency transfers to local hospitals.
- The 24hr Emergency contact for the UNON Joint Medical Service is Cell: +254 724 255 378