



## THE COUNTY ASSEMBLIES FORUM (CAF)

### TECHNICAL ADVISORY TO COUNTY ASSEMBLIES ON COMMUNICATION PROJECT

**5<sup>th</sup> WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF**

**PERIOD: 11<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

## COVID-19 Weekly Brief: August 11 - August 16

### General overview:

Kenya has in the past week recorded an additional 3,684 COVID-19 cases raising the total number of positive cases to 30,120 from 26,436 the previous week. Although it is still early to tell, this is a promising statistic as new cases recorded last week is less than what was recorded the previous week.

So far, 391,416 tests have been done with 37,689 tests being conducted across the 47 counties last week. There have also been 54 additional deaths in the past seven days, pushing the number of fatalities from 420 the previous week to 474.

On a positive note, there has been 3,695 new recoveries with the total recoveries being 16,656 – which is 55.3 per cent of the total confirmed cases. This recovery rate is noteworthy compared to three weeks ago where the recovery rate stood at 44 per cent. The number of active cases as of August 16 is 12,990, which is lower than last week.

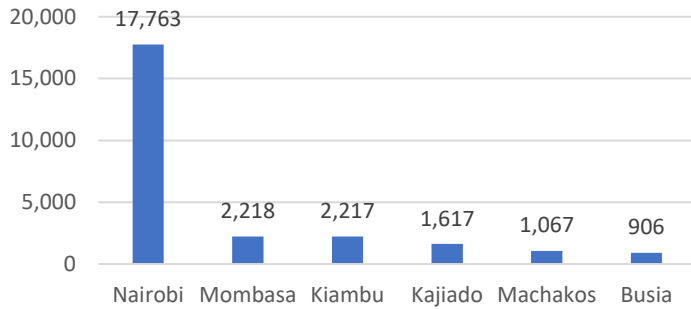
From the numbers presented in the past week, the country may be heading towards a slight decline of positive cases, however, this is still dependent on other factors such as the number of persons being tested across the 47 counties.

Despite this, the number of deaths continues to increase each week, with nearly 50 people losing their lives from COVID-19 complications each week. This may result to a strain on the proper handling of bodies at the mortuary and during burial. Counties may need to increase awareness on the proper burial procedures for persons who have succumbed to COVID-19.

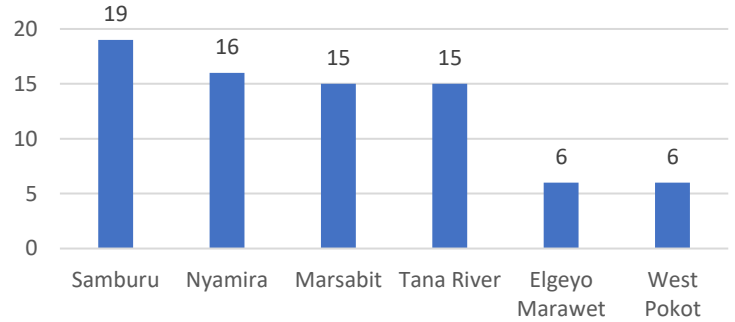
### Covid-19 Case Load as of August 16, 2020

Total Tests	Positive Cases	Deaths	Recoveries	Active cases
391,416	30,120	474	16,656	12,990

**Top Five Counties as of August 15, 2020**



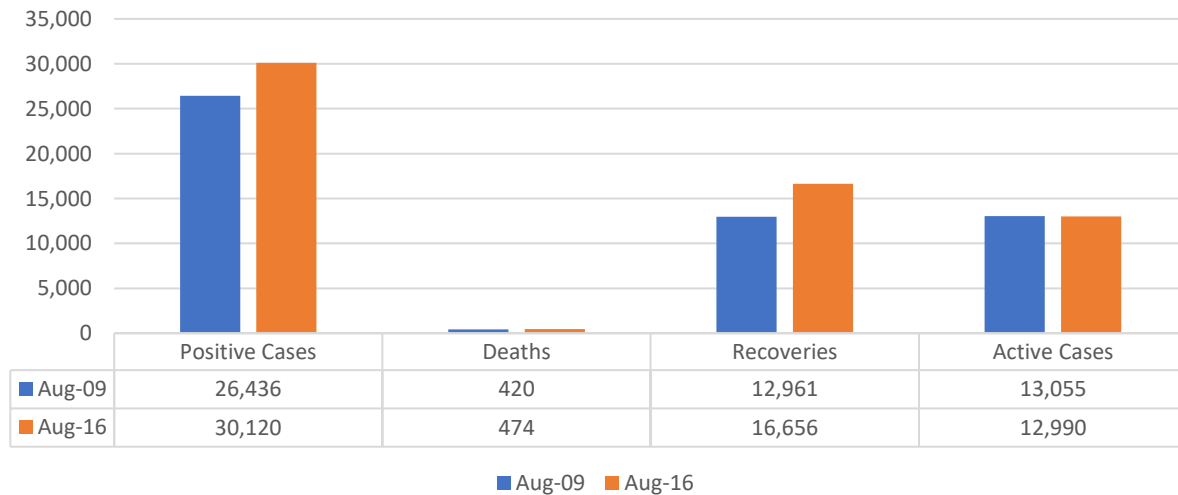
**Bottom Five Counties as of August 15, 2020**



**Comparison of numbers August 9 versus August 16**

	<b>Total Tests</b>	<b>Positive Cases</b>	<b>Deaths</b>	<b>Recoveries</b>	<b>Active cases</b>
<b>August 9</b>	353,727	26,436	420	12,961	13,055
<b>August 16</b>	391,416	30,120	474	16,656	12,990

**Analysis of Numbers August 9 versus August 16**



## **Emerging COVID-19 related issues in the past week:**

The following are some of the emerging Covid-19 related issues that took place in the last seven days.

### **i. Renewed regulations by the Inter-faith Council**

Beginning on Tuesday August 18, the Interfaith Council will embark on phase one of the reopening of places of worship following a successful pre-phase launch.

According to the Council, there has been over 90 per cent compliance by places of worship since they reopened. However, concern was made at funeral services, where there is only 10 per cent compliance.

In the new phase, the following guidelines were issued:

- Number of congregants/ worshippers will be determined by social distancing of 1.5 meters and the size of space available. This means that larger spaces of worship can hold more than 100 congregants provided that social distancing measures are enforced.
- Time limit for each service has been extended from 60 to 90 minutes.
- Age limit of persons attending in-person services at places of worship has been revised to over six (6) years and under 65 years from the initial above thirteen (13) years to under 58 years.
- Those who are elderly, sick or have underlying health conditions have been urged to worship from their homes.
- Places of worship should always enforce wearing of face masks, hand washing before and after the worship, maintain social distance as well as the regular disinfection of places of worship.
- The total number of attendances in funerals has been increased to 100 persons from the initial 15 provided that social distancing is observed. However, only 15 people will be allowed at the grave site.
- There should be no food sharing at funerals as the risk of spread becomes higher when people remove their masks to eat.

### **ii. Update on progress of home-based care.**

Home-based care has so far proven to be an effective alternative in managing COVID-19 outside healthcare facilities. It has been identified to be cheaper and removes the responsibility of people being attended to at healthcare facilities.

This has consequently, provided space for healthcare workers to focus on critical cases, including those in need of admission at intensive care units. According to the Ministry of Health (MOH), close to 60 per cent of recoveries are from home-based care, a strong indicator of its significance in the fight against COVID-19.

**iii. Set up of more laboratories**

In the past week, the Ministry of Health (MOH) announced that the government has standardised and scaled up diagnostic capacity across the country. This is to improve the number of tests done per day as well as speed up contact tracing.

So far, there are a total of 33 public and private laboratories across 12 counties, with more coming up. Similarly, three (3) mobile laboratories have been set up at Maai Mahiu, Namanga and Malaba to conduct testing at country and county border points.

**iv. Nairobi as epicentre.**

Nairobi County continues to be the epicentre of COVID-19 in the country as it bears the greatest burden of infections, deaths and rate of spread. As of August 16, the county had more than 16,908 confirmed cases – comprising of nearly two-thirds (56 per cent) of all confirmed cases in the country.

Nairobi also has the highest rate of infection than any other county, which is double that of Mombasa County that has the second highest number of confirmed cases. Data from the Ministry of Health (MOH) shows that the attack rate in Nairobi County is 240.5 cases per 100,000 people while that of Mombasa at 162. 4 per 100,000 people.

Based on this data, counties bordering Nairobi such as Kiambu, Machakos and Kajiado will need to further improve their surveillance and management of COVID-19. This is because the interlinkage between Nairobi and the neighbouring areas has, in the past, seen increased spread of infections.

On a positive note, Mombasa County seems to be flattening the curve as less COVID-19 cases are being reported from the coastal region.

**v. Interaction with Recovered COVID-19 Patients**

The Ministry of Health last week clarified that once a patient recovers from COVID-19, they cannot pass the virus to other people, noting that there is absolutely no reason to stigmatize anyone who for whatever reasons, contracted the disease.

This information is further backed by the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), who last week updated their quarantine guidelines, noting that people who have recovered from COVID-19 do not need to quarantine or get tested again for up to three months as long as they do not develop symptoms again. However, this does not mean that those who have recovered are immune to reinfection.

**vi. Concerns by World Health Organisation (WHO)**

Over the past week, the World Health Organisation (WHO) raised concerns over the rising numbers of COVID-19 cases in Kenya, which they attribute to laxity and lack of compliance in observing the containment measures by most Kenyans.

**vii. Charging of COVID-19 Patients by Public Hospitals**

Public hospitals across the country have started charging COVID-19 patients for protective gear used by health workers treating them. This was attributed to the failure of the government to foot the expenses catering for masks, hazmat suits, gloves and other PPEs that the health workers wear while on duty.

The cost of a full PPE gear is approximated to be between Sh11,500 and Sh12,000. In previous COVID-19 briefings, Acting Health Director-General Patrick Amoth noted that it costs about Sh21,000 to treat an asymptomatic patient while those with mild symptoms are likely to pay Sh21,400 per day.

Some of the hospitals currently charging patients are Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital and Kenyatta University Teaching, Referral and Research Hospital. Reports show that at Kenyatta University Hospital, the cost of treating a Covid-19 patient ranges between Sh60,000 and Sh80,000.