



**Notice from the Aga Khan Health Board,
the Aga Khan Economic Planning Board, and
Safety & Security Committee**

April 9, 2020



Over the past week, a few studies have emerged that have demonstrated the additional benefit and protection of face masks when used in the public setting. Today, the Government through the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly, and Children also stated that it will provide further guidance in a few days, which will include wearing masks in public areas.

Whilst more research is being done to continuously find effective ways to protect against the Coronavirus, and taking into account the incubation period of the virus in most patients who don't yet have symptoms, at this time, the Jamat is strongly encouraged and should consider wearing a face mask at all times when going out **especially in public areas**. Although the face mask is in itself not protective against the virus, we hope that this, in combination with strict social distancing practices and hand washing habits, will provide some effective means of preventing viral transmission. However please consult your medical doctor for further guidance especially if you are suffering from any pre-existing medical conditions.

The Ministry has further confirmed that the spread of the Coronavirus is now local transmission. This means that the virus is now spreading within Tanzania and the new cases are not imported cases.

If you are using disposable masks, please use them and dispose them off after use. Given the scarcity of this resource, it may be ok to use one mask for the day. For those who might use reusable masks, please make sure that when reusing such reusable masks you wash them thoroughly with hot water and detergent and hot iron before wearing them again.

Again, wearing a mask is NOT a substitute to maintaining safe social distancing or physical distancing, 20-second washing of hands, maintaining proper body hygiene and staying away from

infected persons amongst the other recommended precautions, particular those members who are older or have other chronic conditions.

For more information on the importance of masks, you may view this video from Czech Republic: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=4&v=HhNo_IOPotU&feature=emb_logo

If you have any questions about any preventative measures, call the ***Aga Khan Health Board helplines at 0743 110 114 or 0745 110 785.***

Safety & Security Update Regarding Travel

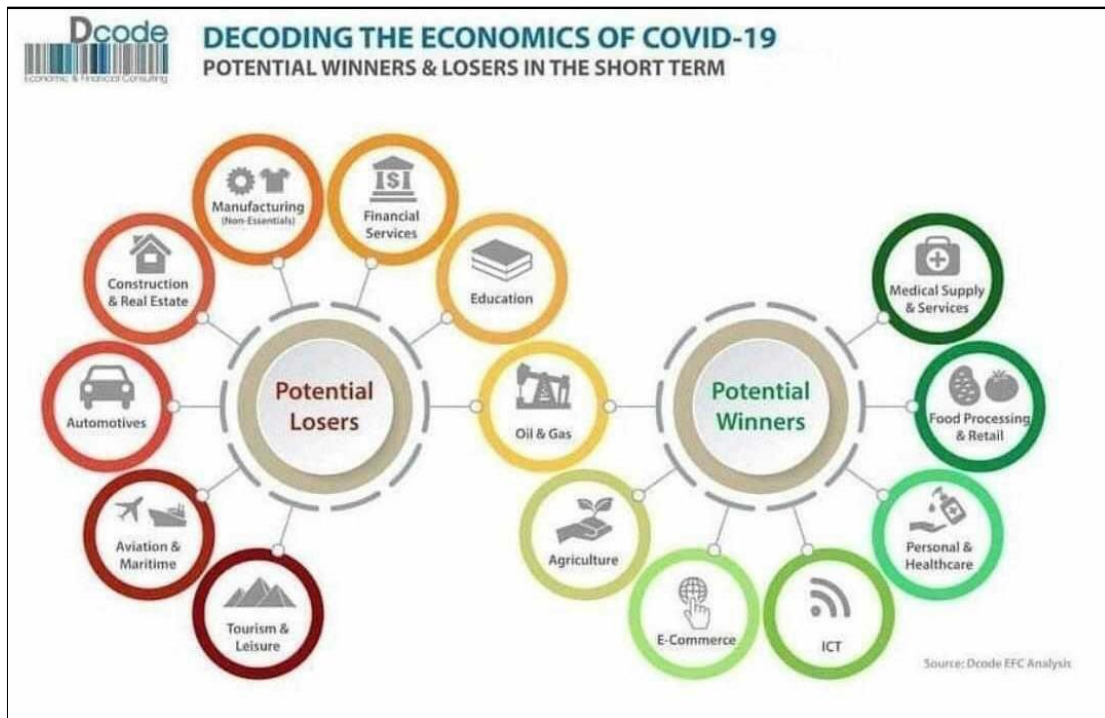
On April 4, 2020, the Tanzania Government issued a new travel advisory with additional measures with the goal of limiting the spread of COVID-19. These measures include:

- All individuals currently residing in Tanzania are strongly advised to postpone all non-essential travel to other countries due to regional and global impacts of the virus. This is effective immediately, until further notice.
- All travels, whether foreigners or returning residents entering Tanzania, will be subject to a mandatory isolation for 14 days at their own cost at facilities designated by the government.
- All travelers are subject to intensive screening including rapid testing for COVID-19.
- Passengers who have completed their 14-day quarantine will be allowed to leave the designated facility immediately after registering their personal information for future follow up.

The Jamat is highly encouraged to adhere to these travel advisories. For any emergencies related to COVID-19, the Jamat is encouraged to please contact the ***Safety & Security emergency number at 0746 777 728.***

Economic Advisory and Updates: COVID-19 Impact on Business

- Economic activity across a wide range of industries will likely be stalled over the short-to medium-term, including travel, hotel, hospitality, retail and restaurant businesses.
- Declines in business investment and exports are expected to continue, while tourism and household spending on services are sharply decreasing.
- The economic impact will vary regionally. With plunging commodity prices, curfews and lockdowns disrupting business both at home and in export markets, the East African economies will be hit hard.
- The real estate market has been impacted and sales are likely to stall for the duration of the COVID-19 crisis.
- Travel industry seems to be completely disrupted and there doesn't seem to be a respite even after the crisis tapers of its peak.
- Agriculture (65%) and service (27%) are the largest employment sectors in Tanzania, impacted hard with travel bans, cash cycles and supply chain being disrupted.
- Businesses that have undertaken excessive leveraging and invested in unproductive/non-performing assets will see a considerable difficulty in servicing their commitment. They should consider speaking with their bank to restructure their loans.
- SMEs are facing a double-whammy of managing rentals and their employees. There is a need for continuous dialogue and collaboration to successfully navigate this crisis.
- It is expected that growth will resume slowly across the region once the COVID-19 crisis passes and confidence recovers, particularly with the resumption of services, travel and trade.



What should the employed do?

- Position yourself as a valuable contributor to your work place. Working from home has changed the dynamics, hence being proactive and making your presence felt becomes more crucial.
- This is a good time to educate yourselves and enhance your skill sets through online courses.
- Activate your professional network.
- Prepare for the worst-case scenario, i.e., loss of job. Reassess your cashflow and actively monitor your expenses.

What will not be the same for business even after Corona Virus has gone

01. Work From Home Policy
Most of the business will now consider working from home policy for some of its employees as it will enable them cut unnecessary costs for the business and also it can be a way for employers to gauge the accountability of its employees.

02. Business Travel
Business will have to rely on Skype or Zoom calls rather than flying around the globe to meet in person for meetings unless necessary.

03. Employees & Premises will be Healthier
After Corona virus has gone it will change the nature of offices, apartments, hospitals, schools and government buildings. For example more measures will be put in place in the airports across the globe and security screening not just for the weapons but for infections that people may be carrying.

04. Supply Chain Strategy will be Rewritten
Business have been surprised on how dependent they are on China especially African countries for almost everything from key raw materials or parts to finished products this will force them to diversify where they get their products.

05. Online Classes
Many universities will consider switching completely to online learning even after the pandemic is over. Businessess will encourage their staff to consider online classes and certifications for futher career advancement.

How can employers protect workers and the workplace?

To address COVID-19, employers should:

- Monitor advice provided by national and local authorities, including on work arrangements, and communicate critical information to the workforce;
- Assess the potential risks of business disruption;
- Review or draw up a business continuity plan that is consistent with guidelines offered by national and local authorities to enhance business resilience and support workers and their families;
- Identify and mitigate risks to workers and other persons connected to the workplace arising from exposure to COVID-19;
- Promote workplace hygiene and apply the principles of social distancing in the workplace; assess business liability for workers' compensation, particularly in sectors with high work-related exposure to COVID-19; and
- Seek advice and support from employer and business membership organizations who can channel concerns to the government and shape policy measures that are conducive for business resilience and sustainability.

If you have any questions for the *Aga Khan Economic Planning Board*, please call 0768 327 766.

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