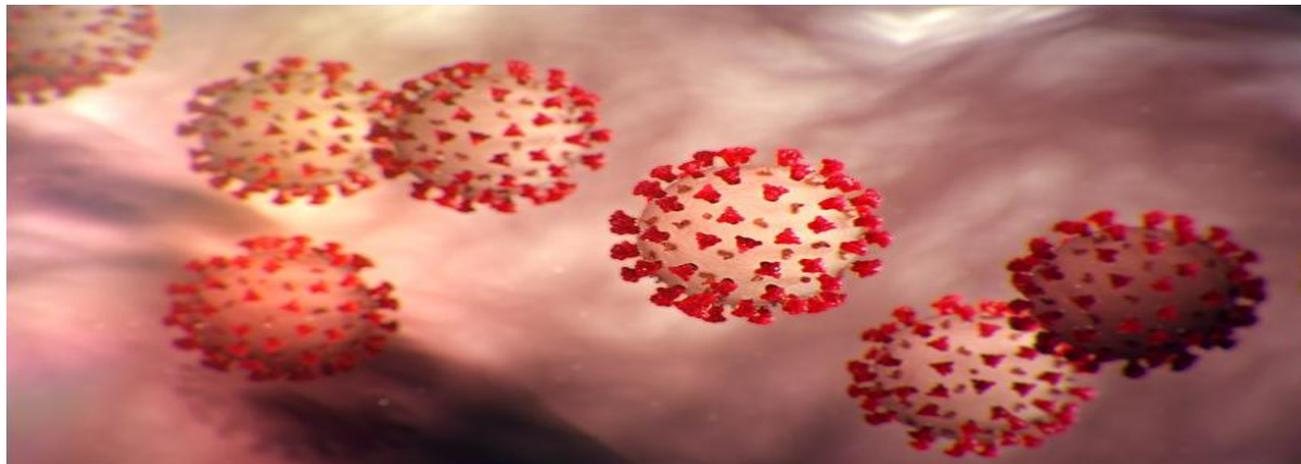


FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19 CONTINUES



KANCO NEWSLETTER

April 2020 Issue 2

Announcement

Welcome to this issue of KANCO newsletter . As the world continues to join efforts in the fight against COVID -19 each one has a role to play. #StaySafe #Flattening theCurvetogether.

As we mark the World Immunization Week and Commemorate the World Malaria Day , this year, we are cognizant on the unique circumstance we are in, as we wrestle COVID-19.

The call for greater investment in health systems strengthening and research now more than ever becomes urgent, to not only end Malaria, and vaccine preventable diseases but also COVID-19.

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REFLECTION ON WORLD IMMUNIZATION WEEK



Routine immunization has been a pillar in children's health and safety as they grow up to be prominent leaders. The vaccines given before 5 years of age ensure that children don't die from vaccine preventable diseases and even when they suffer from these diseases it's a mild condition that they easily recover from without complications.

As we continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, we must also continue to prepare to intensify our immunization efforts, when it is safe to do so. We must encourage mothers to continue with the routine immunization schedules for their children and encourage them not to default from immunization services for their children. These efforts are to build resilient health systems, so that vaccines can be delivered to everyone everywhere.

WWAs we celebrate this year's World Immunization Week, we recognize that there is a pandemic and COVID-19 is spreading rapidly throughout the world. To minimize further transmission of COVID-19 in our communities especially the informal settlements, immunization programs are currently running in health facilities with no campaigns or mass vaccinations going on. This is an important and responsible decision; however there are people getting sick and dying from vaccine-preventable diseases. The rains have also brought outbreaks of Cholera and in some areas there are reports of some polio cases.

As the world unites against COVID-19, we are reminded of how quickly emerging and new diseases can spread when there is no immunity against them or a vaccine to prevent people from them. However, for many of the world's most dangerous vaccine-preventable diseases, we are seeing an increase in the number of individuals infected and in the number of deaths worldwide.

This year as we celebrate the AVW/WIW let us play our role of being our brothers keepers by talking to mothers and guardians of little children to take them for immunization. #Vaccinesworkforall.



File: World Immunization week 2019

#VaccinesWorkForAll

SERVICES FOR KEY POPULATION IN THIS TIME OF COVID-19



KANCO and Partners witnessed virtually the opening of the Shimo La Tewa Prison Medically Assisted Therapy (MAT) dispensing unit in April, 2020. The technical support to have this first clinic of its kind in Africa was provided by the UNODC Regional Office of Eastern and Medically Assisted Therapy (MAT) is a component of a comprehensive approach to address illicit drug use and is endorsed as a best practice by the World Health Organization (WHO). The goal of the MAT program is to assist the People Who Use Drugs to reduce or stop opioid use in order to eliminate HIV and harms associated with illicit injecting practices.

With Support from PEPFAR, the Ministry of Health in partnership with harm reduction partners in the country have been implementing the MAT programmes in six (6) counties and have at least eight (8) active clinics serving about 5000 clients. Plans have been underway to expand and decentralize the MAT program to other counties and open up other facilities to dispense methadone. There are plans to open the 2nd and 3rd prisons within the year at Port Reiz and Shika Adabu Prisons respectively with support from UNODC.

12 inmates received the Methadone drug dose on 1st day alongside 200 others from surrounding community.

COVID-19 Infections scare at Ngara Clinic



A fortnight ago, the Ngara Health Centre made the news headline for having one clinician confirmed to have COVID-19. The Ngara Health Centre houses the 2nd largest Medically Assisted Therapy Program in Nairobi, technically and financially supported by the Nairobi County. The clinic underwent an exercise where all staff and clients were tested for covid 19 following a positive test that was reported for the second time in the clinic.

Inset: COVID-19 testing at the Ngara Clinic

The results of the test were received and all the 492 samples collected were tested negative for Covid- 19.

At the clinic use of PPE has greatly improved. Clients took the exercise very positively. Clients have been advocating for the 2nd MAT clinic in Mathare to get the COVID Testing as well as drug using sites to protect their boyfriends and girlfriends at the clinic and also at the using sites.

KANCO is supporting the communities in calling for mass testing of all key populations groups in Kenya.

COVID-19 TESTING AT NGARA CLINIC- CONT

This exercise demonstrated the great working relationship between the Nairobi County, CSOs, PWID Community and National government. Through this partnership there is sustainability of services to clients amid the growing COVID-19 cases in the country because protection of clients as well as health care providers is greatly enhanced.



Inset: Outreach workers and Peer educators from three CSOs in Nairobi, were very supportive during the exercise assisting with data capture as well sign maintaining clients queues before testing.



Inset left: Dr. Sheila Ayuya-Ngara MAT Site Coordinator, Dr. Carol Ngunu-Director for Health, Nairobi County among other county officials during COVID testing exercise at the clinic.



Inset:COVID-19 testing Going OF PWID at the centre

WORLD MALARIA DAY

The World Malaria day theme “Zero malaria starts with me”, reflected on efforts and key messaging to the general community towards malaria prevention, Use of Malaria Rapid Diagnostic tests provided quick and prompt results in the community by CHVs, prompt treatment with an effective anti-Malaria drug is essential to prevent a mild case of Malaria from progressing to severe disease or death .



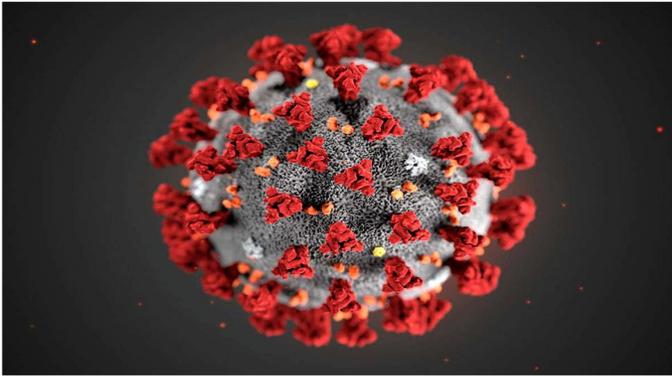
25th April is the World Malaria Day, an international event commemorated every year across the globe in recognizing efforts to control Malaria through creating awareness of Malaria as a curable and preventable disease , the 2020 World Malaria Day was commemorated through media briefings and press statements amid the threat posed by COVID -19 pandemic spreading around the world, The Coronavirus should be tackled while ensuring other priority diseases including malaria are not neglected as the virus risk is a huge obstacle in the fight against malaria. Coordinated efforts are needed to ensure malaria services are provided as well as ensuring safety of Health Care Workers and Community Health Workers against COVID –19 infections through the provision of Personal Protective Equipment ’ s (PPEs) to this important Health Service Providers .

Enormous strides have been made in the fight against Malaria including training Community Health Volunteers to test and treat malaria in the community, KANCO through Amref and the Global Fund Project supports 1,020 CHVs to test and treat Malaria in the Community in Bungoma County. Community Health Volunteers play a key role in preventing, detecting and treating Malaria in the Community.

All children should have access to life saving services that can prevent, detect and treat malaria, sleeping under insecticide-treated nets is one of the most effective ways to prevent malaria, spraying the indoor walls and ceilings of homes with insecticides is a powerful way to rapidly reduce malaria transmission, Pregnant women should receive the WHO recommended doses of preventive malaria therapy to prevent malaria in pregnancy .“As we commemorate the day, Malaria prevention, diagnostic and treatment activities in the lake endemic counties should continue despite the threat of COVID, those with fever should seek diagnosis and care immediately. *“ Malaria testing and treatment is still available and is offered free of charge in all government facilities and in the Community by trained CHVs, ”* a balance between malaria response to Covid-19 and sustaining efforts against existing health threats including malaria should continue.



FACTS ON COVID-19



What is the novel coronavirus?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases. The novel coronavirus is a new strain, not previously identified in humans. COVID-19 is the infectious disease caused by the latest discovered coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2). How does the virus spread? People can catch COVID-19 from others who have the virus through inhaling small droplets from people with COVID-19 who cough or sneeze or through touching contaminated surfaces.

What are the symptoms?

Many people who become infected experience mild illness and recover, but it can be more severe for others.

The symptoms include a combination of:

Fever, Cough, Difficulty breathing, Muscle pain.

What to do if you have immunocompromising condition?

How can you prepare yourself Educate yourself on COVID-19 from trusted sources.

Refill your prescription medicines or consider using a mail-order for your medications.

Continue practicing specific preventive measures, as prescribed by your health provider, in connection to your ongoing treatment.

Have over-the-counter medicines and medical supplies (e.g. tissues, thermometer) to treat fever.

As much as feasible, keep physically active to ensure good physical condition.

Have enough groceries and household items. Prepare gradually and avoid panic buying.

Activate your social network. Contact family, friends, neighbours or community health care workers in advance and make joint plans on what to do when COVID-19 is spreading in your community or if you become ill.

Follow instructions from national authorities on how to prepare for emergencies.

Continue to practice general hygiene.

What do you do if you fall ill?

If you become ill with symptoms of cough, fever and difficulty breathing:

Stay home and call your local health care services for advice.

Mention what immunocompromising condition you have.

https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/Leaflet-Covid-19_immunocompromising-condition.pdf.



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What is covid-19?

It is a disease caused by a new strain of coronavirus

Three Decades of Health Programming

Transmission

- ◆ Human Contact
- ◆ Inhalation (Respiratory Droplets)

Symptoms

Prevention and Care

#Protect Yourself

#FlatteningTheCurveTogether

#HealthyPeopleEmpoweredCommunities

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