

COVID-19 DIGEST

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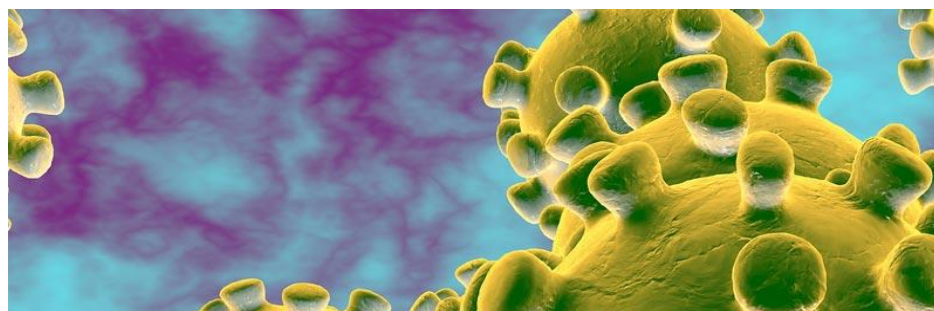
Highlights

Smokers who get COVID-19 have a higher chance of suffering more severe symptoms than their counterparts, according to this blog from the Centre for Tobacco Control in Africa



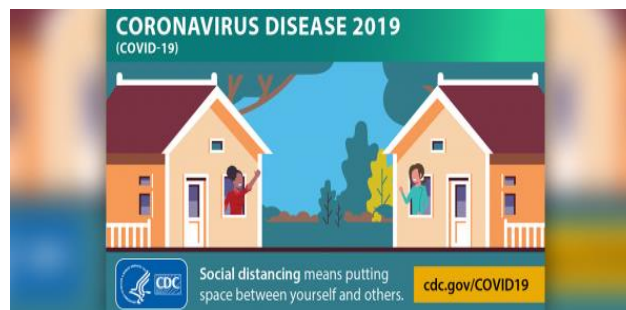
Of corona lager and babies

While we are all scared of the novel (new) coronavirus, it turns out that the word 'corona' itself is not new, by any chance! Since 1998, Corona Extra has been the top-selling imported drink in the United States. Have you also learned of an Indian couple that named their newborn twins after this virus the other day? The couple said the names would remind them about the hardships they faced during the lockdown and before the successful delivery in a government hospital. While we agree COVID-19 is serious, lighten up with Dr Joseph KB Matovu on the witty side of Corona in this blog: <https://bit.ly/2JPoZU6>



MAKERERE UNIVERSITY
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SPOTLIGHT



THE SCIENCE OF SOCIAL DISTANCING AND TOTAL LOCK DOWN: DOES IT WORK? WHOM DOES IT BENEFIT?

"For an infectious non-discriminatory virulent disease, social distancing and lock downs benefit the local and the international community - and thus require that all players at the local and international level work together to contain the epidemic. Social distancing and lock down may not be desirable but may prevent local and global spread of contagious diseases. Whereas evacuations may work in combat zones, they may facilitate transmission of infections across borders to the regret of the broader global community," **Makerere University School of Public Health's Dr Geoffrey Musinguzi and Lund University's Dr Benedict Oponng Asamoah** write in the *Electronic Journal of General Medicine* in a perspective accessible through this link <https://bit.ly/2xcP9gP>

Uganda Numbers

- 52 cases
- 0 deaths

Global Numbers

- WHO: 1,353,361 cases | 79,235 deaths
 - JHU: 1,450,353 cases | 83,568 deaths
- *As at 18:30 EAT

WHAT NEXT FOR UGANDA AFTER COVID-19? Nathan Okiror, MPH student, MakSPH

Since the beginning of the year 2020, the commonest word being cited on nearly all media channels and platforms across the globe is Corona Virus, probably because of the devastating impact it has had on the human race. Unfortunately, there is hitherto no cure for this deadly virus. Several countries have undertaken drastic measures including enforcing total shut down of the usual booming human activities including travels. Every storm, however ragging and devastating it might be, eventually comes to an end. What really counts is how we shall be after the storm. In light of all the above, the real question to ask is what should government and the Health ministry in Uganda do after the Covid-19 problem especially given the fact that 42% of our total health expenditure is funded by the developed countries who may re-think their foreign policies and reduce expenditure to developing countries. I therefore propose the following undertakings: <https://bit.ly/2Xg7Yuh>

