

# COVID-19 DIGEST

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## Highlights

### Five lessons from the Ebola outbreak

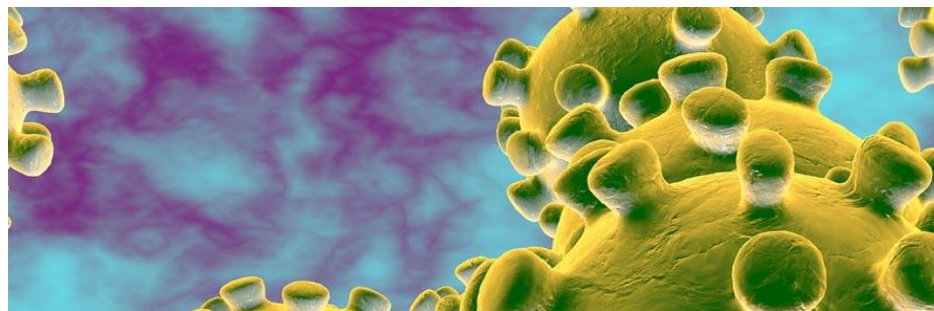
Humanitarians must engage with communities and strengthen national emergency systems in response to the coronavirus pandemic. Sorcha O'Callaghan picks out key learnings from our research on the Ebola epidemic. - Overseas Development Institute.

China is reporting dozens of new asymptomatic COVID-19 cases - Reuters/Global Health Now

### From the frontline



Mackline, one of our responders following up a contact case



MAKERERE UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

## SPOTLIGHT

"Let's **STOP VIOLENCE** Against Suspected **COVID 19** cases, **BEING HOSTILE TO THEM** and their family members, Avoid Stigmatizing them. Being a suspected case **DOES NOT MEAN YOU ARE SICK**. You may or may not become sick of COVID 19. **LET'S CONTINUE LIVING IN LOVE OF ONE ANOTHER**. Keep social distancing and for any concerns relating to COVID 19."

#COVIDFreeUG



Mr. Samuel Okwak, Research Fellow  
Makerere University School of Public Health

### REMEMBER TO

Call Ministry of Health Helpline  
0800100066 for more help

### ROLE OF PHYSICAL DISTANCING AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN COVID-19 PREVENTION

Evidence shows that transmission for COVID-19 occurs frequently among close contacts. It can also occur from people infected and not yet have symptoms as well from those infected and never develop symptoms. Thus, the need for physical distancing. Physical distancing helps in reducing the number of cases to manageable numbers by the health system and not to overwhelm it. Ways to practice physical distancing can be by staying home or avoiding close contact with people. The Health ministry talks of a minimum of 2 metres and the further the distance the better. Of course, physical distancing has to be done in combination with other control measures, such as hand washing. Also, community engagement is critical in uptake of these measures and this can be done through their stakeholders such as community and faith leaders. There is need to establish monitoring systems including two-way feedback from the community. This would help in the uptake of the measures as well as come up with counter measures to reduce negative impact. - **Dr. Esther Buregyeya, Head, Disease Control and Environmental Health department, MakSPH.**

### Uganda Numbers

- 52 cases
- 0 deaths

### Global Numbers

- WHO: 1,174,866 cases | 64,541 deaths
- JHU: 1,289,380 cases | 70,590 deaths

### Ensure adequate social distance at food distribution

The government of Uganda is distributing food to people most affected by the lockdown that began on April 1, 2020 with the intention of controlling the spread of COVID-19. While distributing food to most deserving Ugandans is commendable, this should come with strict measures to control crowding at distribution points. If left uncontrolled, this is likely to lead to transmission of disease (in case some people who turn up to pick the food were already infected), thereby failing infection control. From a few food distribution exercises that I have watched on TV, it is clearly very difficult to ensure that people keep adequate distances (approx. 4 meters). This not only creates challenges to the people receiving the food but also the food distributors who may also end up catching the infection from the food recipients. At one particular distribution point that I saw, people were asked to line up before food was distributed but when distribution began, the line was distorted as people rushed to the truck. However, it might be helpful to start controlling the numbers of people turning at the distribution points at any one given time - **Dr Joseph KB Matovu, MakSPH. Details: <https://bit.ly/2xOAOrt>**

