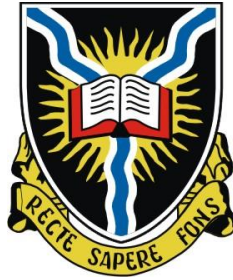


UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN, IBADAN



UPDATES ON THE CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Synopsis

The Board of Health, at its meeting held on Thursday, 19th March 2020 in the Seminar Room of the University Health Service (UHS), deliberated extensively on the current Coronavirus pandemic also known as COVID-19 as well as the recent confirmation of a suspected case of the pandemic in Ibadan. The meeting noted that the virus is transmissible through droplets from the affected person(s) as established by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and adopted by the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and advised that preventive measures should be taken to avoid/curb its spread. It was unanimously agreed that the best antidotes to the infection/disease is prevention.

Observations

It was noted that shortly after the announcement of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the University of Ibadan Management responded quickly with the immediate adoption of the WHO and NCDC position document on best practices towards curbing the pandemic. The Vice-Chancellor constituted a five-man Committee which produced a document to commence sensitisation of the University community on the pandemic. Similarly, the efforts and suggestions from the College of Medicine as well as our sister institution, the University College Hospital, Ibadan, on the current global health challenge were noted.

To ensure no stone is left unturned, the Vice-Chancellor requested the Board of Health to advise the University further on this matter.

Recommendation and Implementation Plans

After an extensive deliberation on the matter, the Board of Health meeting recommended and the Vice-Chancellor has approved, on behalf of Management, Senate and Council as follows:

1. The Vice-Chancellor should legislate on measures that will frontally combat the ravaging and deadly pandemic named coronavirus (COVID-19).
2. The University should commence rigorous and sustained sensitisation of members of the academic community and all its stakeholders on the outbreak of the pandemic through the

University community radio (Diamond FM) in the first instance and on all other media (inclusive of print, electronic and social media – staff and students platforms-). Emphasis on prevention and control measures with regard to the scourge should be on general hygiene and **Social distancing**.

3. The Vice-Chancellor has, on behalf of Senate, announced the closure of the University with effect from Friday, 20th March 2020, and mandated all students (both undergraduate and postgraduate) to vacate the Halls of Residence leveraging on the fact that most students have already completed their semester examinations and should have proceeded on vacation. This step will largely reduce physical contact among members of the University community and also align with the pronouncement by the WHO/NCDC on Social distancing.

4. Any association or physical gathering of person(s) more than 20 should be discouraged and avoided on campus.

5. The Vice-Chancellor will convey a meeting of all religious leaders, staff union leaders and heads of private and public schools on campus to deliberate on globally acceptable measures and the way forward with regard to fighting the coronavirus pandemic.

6. Academic staff are advised to work from home as much as possible unless it is absolutely necessary to be on campus. Similarly, non-teaching staff on CONTISS 1 – 12 should work from home while those on CONTISS 13-15 should adopt a shift duty mode of operation to further reduce physical contact. Meanwhile, staff who are on essential services such as University Health Service, Campus Security Service and Works and Maintenance Department are to be around to man their respective units.

7. Members of staff are advised to cancel all international meetings or conferences until further notice. Any member of staff who intends to travel within and outside the country particularly to identified locations/towns/cities/nations with history of confirmed presence/prevalence of the pandemic, should inform the University management.

Those who might travel as mentioned as well as those who are currently in such places within and outside the country should, as a matter of necessity, subject themselves to self or general quarantine/isolation for the prescribed minimum period of two weeks, on their return, as the case may be.

8. Hand washing facilities with sanitizers are already being made available at various strategic places on campus including administrative offices, Faculties, Institutes, Departments, Division/Units, places of religious worship, main entrances of the University and College of Medicine, all Campus Parks and any other identified point of relevance to achieve maximum result in fighting the scourge.

9. Intra-campus Transport Committee, Coordinating Units for food vendors, shop owners and other private service providers/commercial tenants/all other groups on campus in conjunction with the University Health Service are advised to organise awareness/sensitisation and training programmes for their separate stakeholders.

Specific considerations have been given to discouraging mass transit mode (including reduction of number of passengers in tricycles, cabs and buses) while food vendors and other shop owners should ensure maximum compliance with all the guidelines earlier spelt out.

10. A special disposable tally is being provided by the Campus Security Service to all motorists coming into the University until further notice. This is in line with the need for general and improved hygiene.

11. The University, in conjunction with the University Health Service and other health-related professionals, will organize programmes to promote and enhance personal hygiene among members of the University community and her stakeholders. Moreover, the multi-sectoral monitoring team will continue to monitor and enforce decisions of Management based on the recommendations of WHO and NCDC.

12. The University will empower the University Health Service (UHS) to create an isolation Centre to cater for emergencies.

Thank you.

Olubunmi O. Faluyi, MCIPM, MAUA (UK)
Registrar

23rd March 2020