



UGANDA BUREAU OF STATISTICS

COVID_19 INFORMATION SERIES NO. 22 (2020)

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2020

	Infections	Recovered	Deaths	Case Fatality Rate (%)
Globally	5,112,010	2,038,879	330,255	6.5%
Africa	95,485	38,120	3,000	3.1%
East Africa	2,455	854	76	3.0%
Uganda	145	65	0	0%
USA	1,621,333	382,244	96,363	5.9%
Russia	326,448	99,825	3,249	0.9%
Italy	228,006	134,560	32,486	14.2%
Germany	179,156	159,000	8,316	4.6%
China	82,971	78,255	4,634	5.6%
Somalia	1,594	204	61	3.8%
Gabon	1,567	365	12	0.8%
South Africa	19,137	8,950	369	1.9%

NATIONAL NEWS ROUNDUP

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND COVID-19 PANDEMIC



UGANDA CONTINUES TO EASE THE NATIONAL LOCKDOWN



After three phases of a continuous lockdown and the increasing belief of effective management of the COVID-19 pandemic, H.E President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni has going forward, eased the hitherto stringent lockdown directives in the following sectors and / or operations. The lifting of restrictions is subject to use of masks for all persons aged six (06) years and above.

Transport

- International borders and the airport remain closed except for cargo transportation.
- Public and private transport in border districts to remain non operational for more 21 days.
- Public transport in the non-border districts (Buses, coasters, taxis and tukutukus) in non-border districts to reopen on June 04, 2020.
- Boda bodas will continue to carry cargo and not passengers.
- Private vehicles in non-border districts permitted from may 26, 2020 and MUST carry no more than three passengers including the driver.



Businesses

- Shops selling general merchandise to commence operations on May 26. However, shopping malls and arcades remain closed due to social distancing difficulties.
- Bars, nightclubs, gyms, saunas, swimming pools and hair saloons remain closed for another 21 days.
- Hotels and restaurants to open on May 26, 2020.





Education



- Education institutions will open, but only for candidate and finalist classes. The ministry will communicate guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for re-opening by June 04, 2020.
- There will be no end of first term examinations for all other class levels.

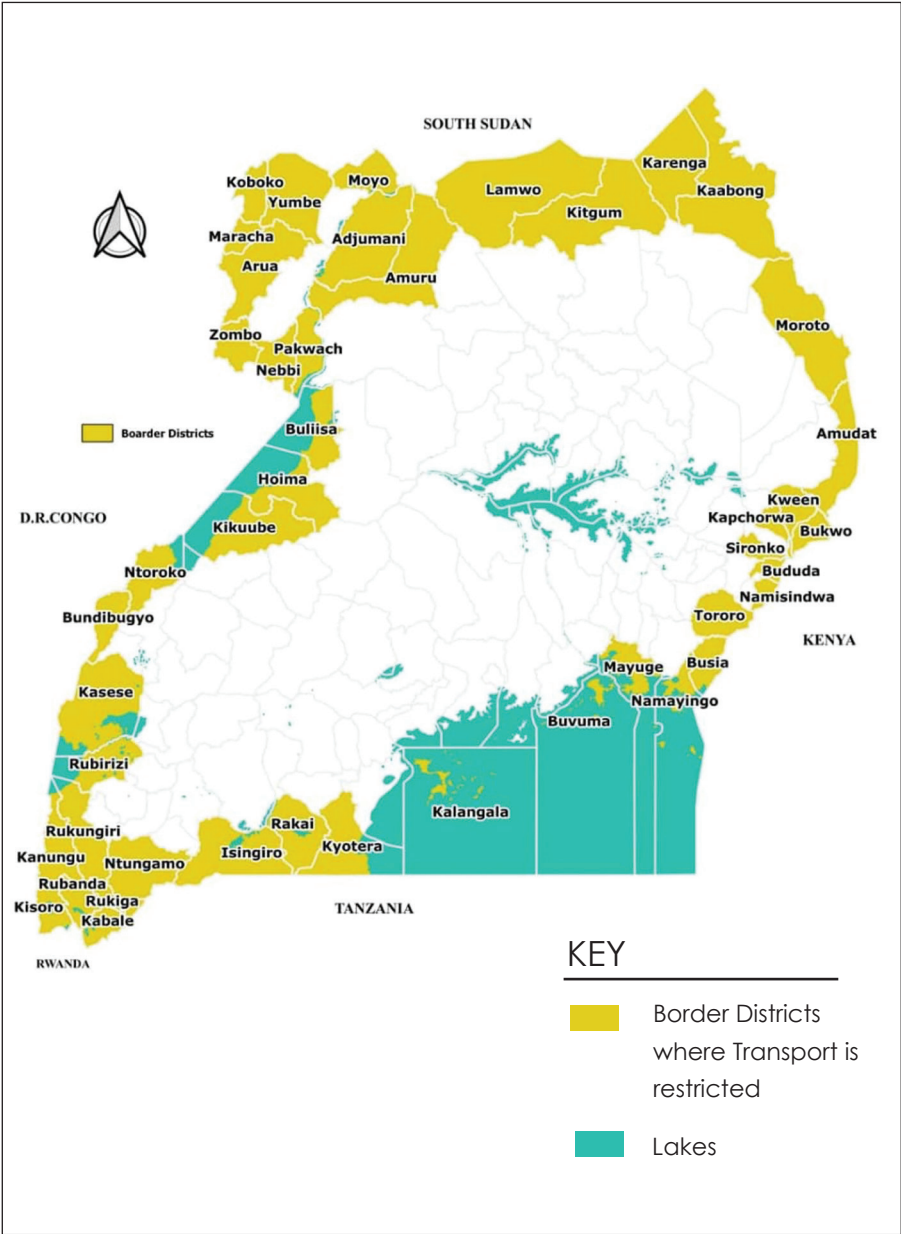


Curfew



- Curfew from 7:00pm – 6:30am remains in force for another 21 days.

A MAP OF UGANDA SHOWING THE BORDER DISTRICTS WHERE THE RESTRICTIONS ON TRANSPORT REMAIN IN FORCE FOR AN EXTRA 21 DAYS



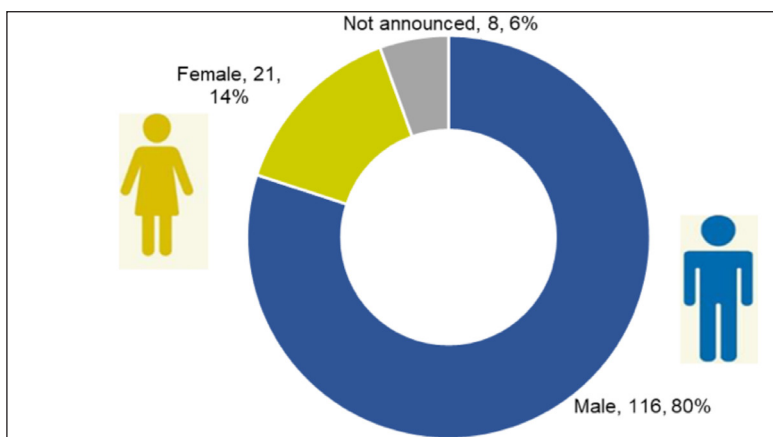
SITUATION UPDATE OF COVID-19 IN UGANDA

As of May 20, 2020 there are:

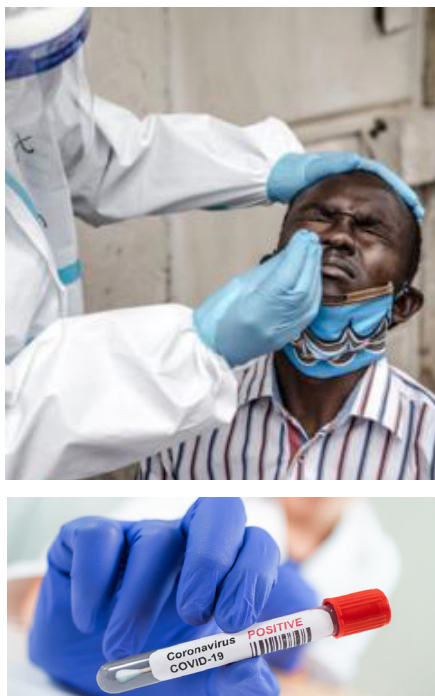
- 145 confirmed cases excluding 124 foreign truck drivers following a presidential directive to exclude foreign truck drivers from Uganda's total confirmed case count.
- 274 confirmed cases from tests done by the ministry of health so far in Uganda (including the earlier recorded foreign truck drivers).
- 90 hospitalized cases.
- 65 hospital discharges.
- No deaths so far recorded due to COVID-19
- 08 in every 10 confirmed cases are males as seen in **figure 1**.



Figure 1: The Sex Distribution of Confirmed Cases



TESTING FOR CORONA VIRUS



To date, Uganda has had 75,742 lab tests. On May 19, 2020, 2,228 were carried out and only four cases were found positive. **Figure 2** shows the trend of number of tests done daily and the number of cases confirmed positive daily. Last week, 11th -17th May 2020, had the highest record of confirmed cases. This week has currently seen the cases come down due to the current policy of only allowing truck drivers who test negative to enter the country. This has consequently averted 79 cases in the last three days, which would otherwise have shot the prevalence to 343 cases.

Figure 2: Number of daily confirmed cases

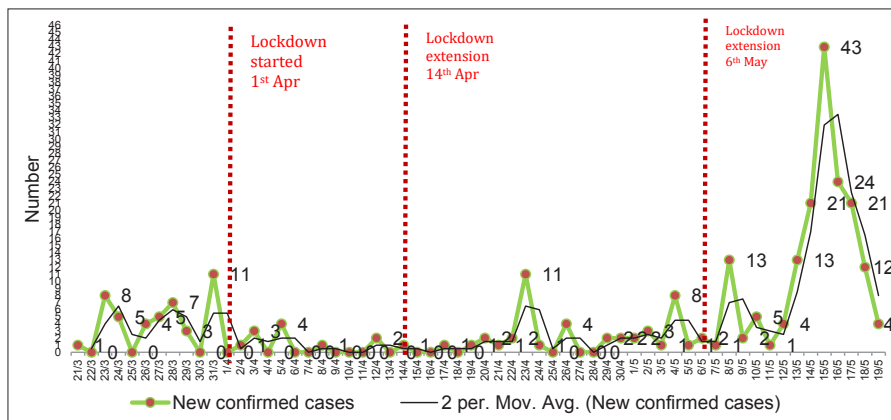
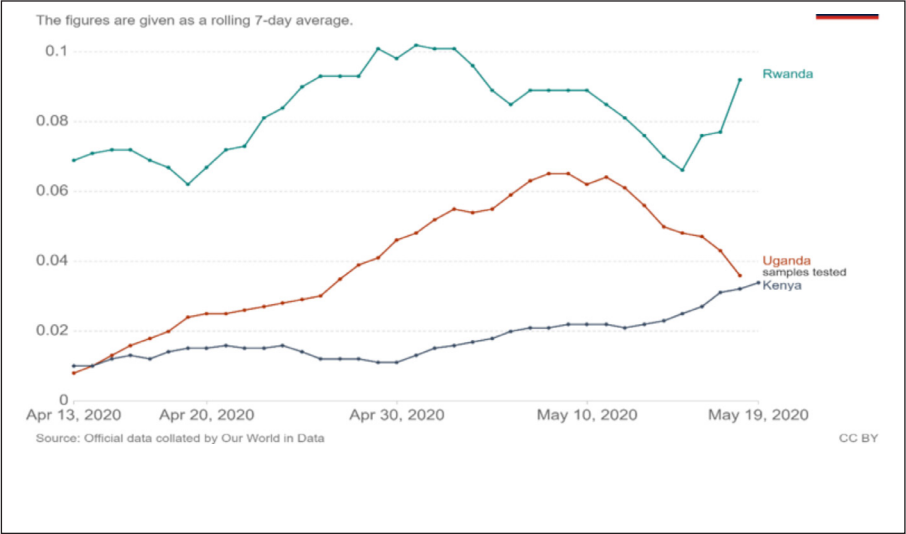


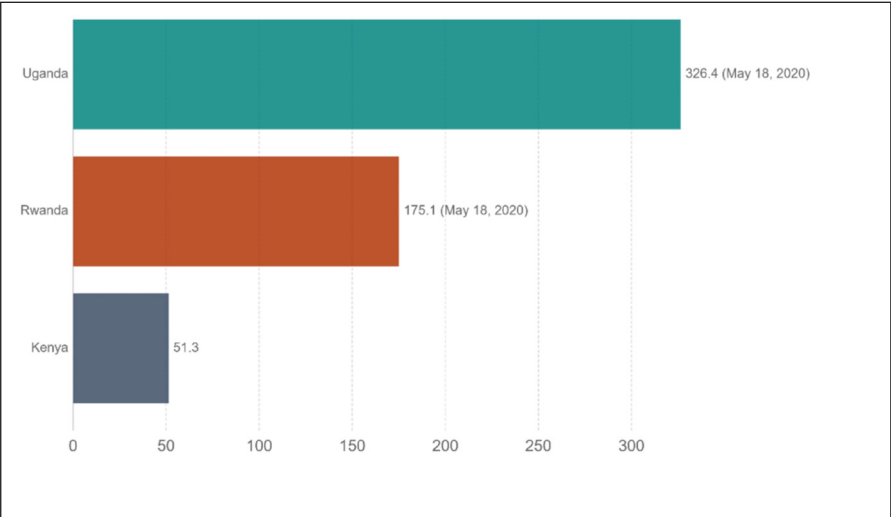
Figure 3 shows that compared to Kenya and Rwanda the number of daily tests in Uganda have declined in the last one-week.

Figure 3: Trend of daily tests per 1,000 population across regional Countries



- Uganda conducts many more tests to get one confirmed case. This implies that the virus infection level is low in Uganda compared to Kenya, which conducts about 51 test samples to get a case (**Figure 4**).

Figure 4: Number of COVID-19 Tests per Confirmed Case

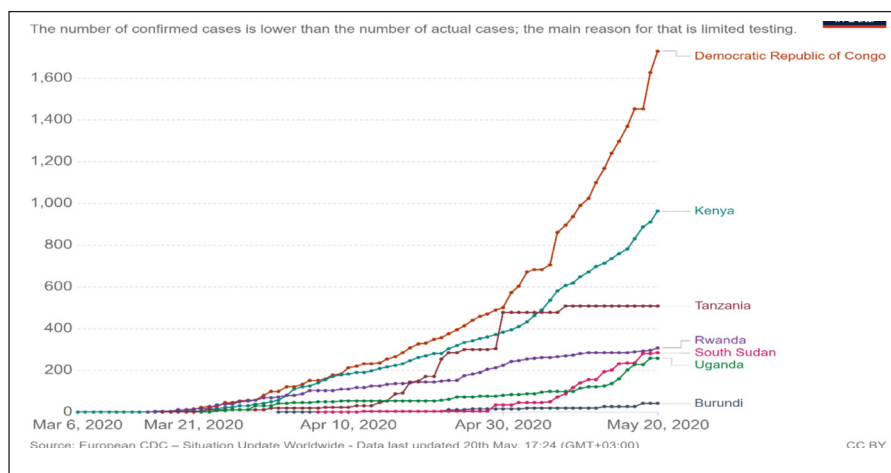


NOTE: The number of confirmed cases per test volume is unique to each country's sampling test strategy.

COMPARISON OF COVID-19 CURVES

Kenya ranks highest followed by Tanzania (which has stagnated at the same level because of non reporting of positive cases) with the highest number of confirmed cases. Uganda's COVID-19 curve is low and flat compared to the other countries in the EAC. However, it started rising during the month of May 2020.

Figure 5: Comparison across the EAC countries



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- The Uganda Police Force has observed that the number of death and or abuses due to domestic violence recorded during the month of March and April 2020 has increased by 62% compared to the same period last year.
- These two months constitute much of the current lockdown period. On the other hand, cases of reported domestic violence reduced by 18%. This implies that although domestic violence may not have increased, its gravity is intense and more deadly or else, the rate and means of reporting the different forms of violence to the authorities have been curtailed by the lockdown.
- Indecent assault increased by 13% during the same period. Defilement

reduced by 21% and this can be attributed to parents being close to their children during the lockdown.



S/No.	Type of Gender Based violence	No. of Cases Reported (March and April)		Percentage change
		2020	2019	
1.	Domestic Violence resulting in Death	89	55	62
2.	Rape	252	275	-8
3.	Defilement	1,876	2,381	-21
4.	Indecent Assault	68	60	13
5.	Incest	03	10	-70
6.	Unnatural Offences	17	21	-19
7.	Domestic Violence	2,261	2,740	-18

Source: Uganda Police Force

THE SOCIAL EFFECTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



Betty Nawoova,
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The abrupt outbreak of the COVID 19 pandemic has globally changed lifestyles. Social distancing is the new normal in addition to adherence to other trending safety precautions like wearing masks, using sanitizers and thoroughly washing hands. Those working untiringly to combat the spread of corona virus live to tell their stories just like COVID 19 survivors. In these uncertain times, one has to embrace the novel COVID 19 terminology in order to stay informed and safe. The term "COVID 19" is itself new, but we

have since adopted it in our day-to-day life. Other terminologies currently part of our daily vocabulary include; quarantine, self-isolation, containment, contamination, pandemic, lockdown, "essential services" and curfew among others. As statisticians, it is crucial to understand the terms used in relation to the pace of this pandemic. A normal distribution curve is our cup of tea, however with COVID 19, some words have bought new meaning and relevance namely; "flattening the curve" and "past the peak". To stay updated, one has

to adopt the language i.e. patient zero /index patient, index case, COVID 19 infection/recoveries/death rate per 1000 among others. Correct interpretation of visualized information is essential.

Interrupted data value chains.

The restricted land travel and working from home measures have interrupted activities of the national statistical system. In-person visits to data providers are currently limited, yet data users urgently need information to design appropriate measures. Other uses include evidence based planning, supporting decision making, making investment decision, policy review and formulation. The quest to collect high quality, real-time and demand driven data is never ending. Amidst this pandemic, ad hoc online surveys are to be undertaken to provide the much needed data. With face-to-face interviews suffocated, online citizen platforms, telephone interviews and big data feel more like respondent contact.

Vital digital communication.

Invitations to attend online meetings have never been this important. Remaining involved and relevant is on top of the agenda. Networking with self-driven co-workers is now the rule of the day. Keeping time is mandatory while forgetting the formal dress code is unforgivable. Depending on your

digital literacy, joining these meetings for the first time maybe challenging. When on board, staying connected is not cheap, as additional costs are involved namely; buying data bundles and paying for that extra electricity unit. In the comfort of our homes, access to Internet is a new desired utility although it limited by the current digital divide (who owns and who has access).

Wearing of masks.

Resisting the urge to touch the T zone (eyes, nose and mouth) does not come easy. Sweating when the sun is scorching hard is one limiting factor, followed by a list of small habits (finger sacking, nail biting, nose picking, teeth picking, pen/pencil biting, pimple pressing), the irritating itchy eyes and beard scratching. Wearing a mask will unquestionably provide protection to the T zone. In the absence of "international branded masks", locally made masks are trending with a sole aim of keeping safe.

Families are bonding.

The "8-to-5-ers" have long forgotten the traffic jam, rush hours, school drop offs and settled with the slower pace of life. Naturally adjusting to performing daily household chores, childcare, personal hygiene and doing things we never had time for. On a positive note, we have forcefully

made more time for our families. However, with the instant emptiness in the skies and restricted land travel, some family reunions have been postponed. However, media reports also indicate some households are experiencing domestic conflict and violence.

Parents are playing teacher roles.

Parents are multitasking, handling lockdown parenting, playing teacher roles as well as working from home. Answering questions for subjects you did not study, have forgotten and / or disliked!!!! Having learners at different levels of education demands attention and determination. Without a uniform time table (8am – 4.40pm), learners are receiving unequal period/sessions of learning. The uncertainty of the school reopening and the prolonged lockdown is making learners and parents curious. The good news is that candidates and institutional finalists may soon return to class.

Need for home working space. In an effort to observe the working from home measure, we have become in-house nomads, roaming between rooms to find a calm space away from the inevitable destructions and unstoppable interruption. Many have repurposed dining / living rooms, eat-in kitchen islands or bedrooms to have a safe working environment. These make-shift offices are presenting a need to dedicate space for studying or working in the new age homes. Other undeniable changes include; the sense of kindness to humankind and gratitude has been greatly restored. Efforts to reduce inequality are in high gear namely; proposals to avail the discovered vaccine for free to everyone on this planet earth. Provision of relief food to households is on the horizon. Humans have given nature a memorable break. Future plans have been piloted, pretested and are now repainted with a wide brush. Finally, it is undeniable that sleeping habits have changed if not improved, regardless of the time one goes to sleep.

SEND US YOUR VIEWS:

On how we can improve our content for your enhanced reading experience / send us a well researched professional article (not exceeding 500 words) for publication.

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