

UNISFA C19 News Brief

Regular updates on the Mission's response to COVID19

Message from the Head of Mission and Force Commander, Maj. Gen. Mehari Gebremariam

Dear Colleagues

Today, I am following up on my commitment to provide regular updates in relation to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and how we can protect ourselves as well as the communities that we are here to serve.

There are currently no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in UNISFA. However, we must remain vigilant and do everything we can as UNISFA staff to prevent and prepare for the virus.

A critical issue is how to stay safe in our workplace while ensuring continuity of mandate implementation. There are several simple steps we can take to protect ourselves as well as our colleagues, that this news briefs conveniently highlights.

Most importantly, if you are feeling sick and experiencing any symptoms, such as fever, cough, shortness of breath or breathing difficulties, stay in your accommodation and do NOT come to work. Call your supervisor and the UNISFA medical clinic in your location. Remember, quarantine measures help slow the disease, it requires comprehensive measures to bring the outbreak under the control.

I am glad that a cross-functional COVID-19 Task Force Team is in place and will continue to update you with more information so that we can all stay safe during this difficult time. I wish to advise that each one of you spare some time and do the COVID-19 online preparedness and prevention training so that we can contain and mitigate this scourge together.

Link: <https://openwho.org/courses/introduction-to-ncov/items/6FTk2sMdJ6uzXqINC14hg1>

In the meantime, thank you all for your positivity and patience during this worrying time. Let's keep being kind and look out for each other. And remember, it is an individual's moral responsibility to stay safe.

Thank you and best wishes.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

- 1) Effective 26 March 2020, UNISFA has put on hold all travel for staff to and from Entebbe and Khartoum until further notice. Arrangements may be made for staff considered as critical to maintaining the Mission's operations. Cargo flights will operate as usual.
- 2) Please note that circulation of false or unnecessary alarming information about coronavirus disease is not allowed. Please obtain accurate and verified news through official sources.

In a short space of time, the coronavirus outbreak has become an all-consuming global crisis, declared by World Health Organization (WHO) as a global pandemic, with unprecedented societal and business upheaval. For UNISFA, the agent priorities are the welfare of its staff and continuity of mandate implementation. As such, the Management Leadership Team have:

- ✔ Set up a Covid-19 Task Force which is a cross-functional team
- ✔ Recalibrated strategic and tactical plans to mitigate against vulnerabilities.
 - Halted travel in accordance with the travel advisory of countries.
 - Established a designated isolation/quarantine location.
 - Made provisions for continuous supplies for hand sanitizers in addition to the general WHO guidance on hand washing with regular soap.
 - Made provisions for medical supplies to be delivered to Abyei and other Mission locations.
 - Contingency plan to ensure relocation of vulnerable staff to locations where they can access level 3 health support.
 - Continuous outreach and sensitization of the contractors on ground to ensure they adhere to the WHO guidance and other mission directives with regard to COVID-19 prevention, mitigation and response.
 - Adequate stock of food stuffs, and other supplies for the cafeteria and PX for up to 4 months.
- ✔ Attuned human resource and other plans to support the functioning of staff either on ground or working remotely. All staff are required to get familiar with these plans through the official broadcasts published regularly.
- ✔ In the process of identifying unpreventable risk so stringent measures can be put in place to minimize



TRAVEL UPDATE for All Staff

- 1 Staff who have not yet departed from their destination, should stay where they are until advised otherwise.
- 2 Do not attempt to embark on a journey back to UNISFA. Contact your section chief and Human Resources (HR) to discuss possibility and process of remote working.
- 3 Staff in transit should contact HR who will consider each situation on a case by case basis. You are further advised to contact and inform your supervisor as soon as possible to discuss your situation.
- 4 Affected staff deemed to be critical, may be asked to report for duty and this process will be coordinated with HR and the section chief.
- 5 Staff in transit but not deemed critical, may be asked to travel back to their home location depending on the assessed situation as in item 3 above.

SOME USEFUL TRAVEL INFORMATION

For full information on individual country policy, staff are encouraged to visit: <https://www.iatatravelcentre.com/international-travel-document-news/1580226297.htm>

SUDAN (published 17.03.2020) - Passengers are not allowed to transit or enter Sudan.

ETHIOPIA (published 22.03.2020) - Effective 23 March 2020, all passengers arriving in Ethiopia will be placed in a mandatory quarantine at the Ethiopian Skylight Hotel for 14 days at their own expense.

UGANDA - published (22.03.2020) - All international flights to Uganda are suspended.

For full information on the speed and spread of the Corona virus per country, please visit: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports/>

SUPPORT TO STAFF UNDER SELF-QUARANTINE

- ✓ A "buddy" will be identified to support you. You may also contact the staff counsellors on 176 – **3991**
- ✓ If you begin to feel unwell and experience symptoms like fever, coughing or breathing difficulties, call the either of the following medical doctors for immediate help:

Dr. Ritul Sharma
Deputy Chief Medical Officer, UNISFA Medical Services
E-mail: sharma3@un.org
Tel: Inter-Mission: 176 – **3283**
Mobile: +249.912505304

Dr. Martin Konyango
Chief Medical Officer - UNISFA, Abyei
Email: konyango@un.org
Intermission: 176 – **3940**
Mobile: +249.912143496 (SUD) / +254.711983983 (KEN)
Call Sign: AQ 1.4

- ✓ At the expiration of the 14 days self-quarantine, contact and inform medical service, your supervisor and facility management Unit by phone or email.
- ✓ Please reach out if you need support and know that your colleague is thinking of you and respect your efforts to prevent coronavirus in Abyei.

Self-Quarantine and Guidelines

What : Self-restriction on movement intended to prevent the spread of disease for 14 days.

Who : All new arrivals into UNISFA compound effective 26, March 2020.

Where : In own or designated accommodation, during which time a staff member will observe certain guidelines. It is each individual's moral responsibility to observe the guideline. Self-regulation is key.

What to do and not do when UNDER SELF-QUARANTINE

DO's

- ✓ Stay in accommodation or designated quarantine location and do not leave for any reason.
- ✓ Take temperature measurement regularly and inform the medical services.
- ✓ Maintain hygiene.
- ✓ Take care of your mental and physical fitness.
- ✓ Work remotely.
- ✓ Make arrangements for delivery of food and other necessities.
- ✓ Call the medical service in case you feel unwell.
Contact your section chief.

DON'Ts

- ✗ Do not go to the gym, cafeteria, office or mingle with others.
- ✗ Do not drive.
- ✗ Do not go to the clinic If you feel unwell.

Tips on how to keep the SPIRITS UP

- Stay connected with colleagues, family and friends via phone, email and or social media
- Keep up daily routines like eating, exercising and sleeping.
- Find innovative ways to exercise within your accommodation.
- Make sure you have plenty of reading materials.
- Drink plenty of water to stay hydrated.
- While you may be working from home, make sure you have a balance between work and personal life
- Use the opportunity to do activities you don't usually have time for, like online learning.



The Mission's Action

Sensitizations

Over 240 posters printed in Arabic, English, Dinka and Amharic and distributed to the TCC, COBs, Sectors; traders at Amiet Market; women center; youth center; local administration offices; within UNISFA Camp; and other strategic places.

Community Liaison

A new format for meetings with community stakeholders such as the Joint Peace Committee adopted by the Community Liaison Office to preclude crowds / gatherings.

Official Communication

The mission website will be update regularly to inform staff on UNISFA specific Coronavirus situation.

Interactive Sessions

Virtual Town hall Meetings using Microsoft Soft Teams have been introduced.

Next meeting scheduled for:

Monday, 30 March 2020 at 10:00 hrs.

COVID-19 RELATED BROADCAST

- Travelling to Ethiopia-prepare to be quarantined: **all arriving passengers entering Ethiopia to be put in self quarantine for 14 days at own cost**; published on 24/03/2020.
- Social distancing: **2 meters should be maintained**; published on 24/03/2020.
- Work from accommodation exercise: **a whole day work from accommodation exercise this Thursday, 26th March 2020**; published on 24/03/2020.
- Mission's response to and Communication on COVID-19: **all COVID-19 related initiatives and broadcasts should be channeled through the COVID-19 task force**; published on 24/03/2020.
- Salary advance in the mission due to corona virus travel restriction: **1000 USD advance available to Civilian staff (international and National), MILOBS, Staff Officers and UNPOL who may require cash salary advances/advances against their MSA**; published on 23/03/2020.
- Restriction of internal passenger helicopter flight: **all internal passenger helicopter flights will be restricted to the transportation of essential repair and maintenance personnel and medical only**; published on 23/03/2020.

Key Contact Telephone Numbers

Coordinator COVID-19 Task Force
3979

CMO / FMO
3283/3940/3319

Call Center (Hotline)
3030

Bar assistant
4891

GCC
3293 / 4493

PX
3291

Protect yourself and others from getting infected

احمي نفسك و الآخرين من الاصابة
Tit rdt ku kdc kok ten tuany
እርስዎን እና ሌሎችን በበሽታው ከመጠቃት ይከላከሉ

UNISFA COVID-19 AWARENESS

Preventive Measure

Wash your hands

اغسل يديك
Piny Chinku
እጅዎን ይታጠቡ



After coughing or sneezing

بعد السعال أو العطس
Ka chi yin dcal ku chi yin tiim
ከላላ ወይም ካስጠሱ በኋላ



When caring for the sick

عند رعايتك بالمرضى
Ka chi yin raan tuany tiit
ከምሥጫን ሲከብሩ



Before, during and after preparing food

قبل وأثناء وبعد إحضار الطعام
Ka loiyin mieth ku ka chi yin thok thaat
ምግብ ከማዘጋጀት በፊት፣ እያዘጋጀ እያለ እና ካዘጋጀ በኋላ



Before eating

قبل الأكل
Ka ki yin Jok a Cham
ከመመገብም በፊት



After using the toilet

بعد الذهاب إلى المراض
Ka chi laa kou
መጸዳጃ ቤት ከተጠቀሙ በኋላ



When your hands are visibly dirty

عندما تكون يديك متسخة
Ka de yin chin achoul
እጅዎ በሚታይ ሁኔታ ሲቆሸሸ



After handling animal or animal waste

بعد لمسك للحيوان أو فضلاتها
Ka chi yin lei jak ku waer lei
እንስሳትን ከተከብሩ ወይም እዳሪያቸውን ካጸዱ በኋላ



UNISFA
United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei

UNISFA COVID-19 Task Force

For Questions



Kindly send an email to the UNISFA COVID-19 Task Force :

UNISFA-COVID-19-Task-Force@un.org