



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

PRESS STATEMENT

SUSPECTED CASES OF CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) IN ESWATINI

The country has registered two suspected cases of COVID-19, a condition caused by Corona Virus, on the 10th of March 2020.

Case 1: Involves a 39 year old female who presented to a health facility with signs and symptoms of acute respiratory infection following a history of travel. The illness started within fourteen days of arriving to Eswatini from Denmark the 7th of March. The patient has been socially isolated in the meantime pending results.

Case 2: A 38 year old female who had visitors from Germany two weeks ago. These visitors reported some respiratory illnesses while in country but shortly left. Since she is a contact who now presents with signs and symptoms of acute respiratory infection, she has been socially isolated and samples have been taken for laboratory investigation.

The Rapid Response Team is closely following them frequently and monitoring their clinical condition while awaiting the laboratory results and Clinical management continues. In this regard, the Ministry would like to request everyone who has had recent travel to affected countries within the last two weeks to report to health facilities immediately for care should they not feel well. Those who are feeling well are encouraged to socially isolate at home for 14 days. They need to dial 977 to activate the rapid response if they feel unwell.

The public will continue to be informed on any further developments especially the outcome of the laboratory investigations.

The Ministry of Health would like to remind the public to continue practising the Infection Prevention and Control standard precautions which include:

1. Cover nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing

2. Wash hands regularly with soap and water
3. If you have fever, cough, and difficulty breathing or flue-like symptoms and a history of travel, seek medical assistance and share the details of travel.
4. Self-isolate after travelling to a Covid-19 affected country especially where local transmission is occurring.

Self-isolation is the refraining from societal gatherings if you are likely to have been exposed either through travel or contact. Individuals are encouraged to stay away for a maximum of two weeks which tallies with the incubation period of COVID-19.

