Republic of Kenya

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR UNIVERSITY EDUCATION AND RESEARCH
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY

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Ref: MHEST/HE/1/3/1(66) **17th June, 2020**

Vice- Chancellors of Universities

Principals of Constituent University Colleges

RE: RE-OPENING OF UNIVERSITIES AFTER COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The above subject matter refers.

Following the report of the COVID-19 in the country on March 15th 2020, His Excellency the President directed all learning institutions to be closed immediately. The closure was part of the measures put in place to control the spread of the disease.

The Ministry of Education in collaboration with other Government Agencies is working on the modalities of reopening all institutions of learning. Modelling projections by the Ministry of Health (MoH) on when the peak of infections is anticipated/projected to be in **August/September,** and therefore, it is expected that fewer cases will be reported after September 2020.

In this regard, the Vice Chancellors and Principals of Universities are hereby directed to come up with reopening plans for their institutions. In the plan, ensure that provision of the minimum requirements for prevention of COVID-19 transmissions is provided for which include:

a) Clean running water and soap for hand washing;
b) Sanitisers;
c) Frequent cleaning and sanitizing of often-touched objects such as door knobs, light switches, and stair railings with disinfectant;
d) Adequate space for social distancing. Universities may put signs to require staff, students and visitors to keep social distance as well as hand washing and personal hygiene;
e) Mandatory use of masks or face shields for learners, lecturers and non-teaching staff. Universities will ensure that all learners and staff have masks. The Universities may provide these at a subsidized rate to students and staff; and
f) Thermo guns for monitoring body temperature of all persons entering the institution and specific public spaces on campus.

Institutions whose facilities are still currently being used for isolation, quarantine or as treatment centres are supposed to liaise with Ministry of Health (MoH) to cease any further admissions and to transfer the patients to MoH facilities. Once the patients are transferred, you must ensure that the facilities used during treatment are properly fumigated for safe use as per the guidelines from the Ministry of Health.

Universities are to ensure that contingency plans are provided for those students who might need assistance to get back to their institution as well as those who might not be able to get back. Universities should therefore make sure that students and staff who might not be able to get back are facilitated to continue with teaching and learning remotely.

Please forward your report to the Ministry of Education and email the same to; psecretaryuer@gmail.com by 25th June, 2020.

Amb. Simon Nabukwesi
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY

Copy:

Prof. George A.O. Magoha, EBS
CABINET SECRETARY