



**UNON JOINT MEDICAL SERVICE:**  
**HEALTH INFORMATION FOR MEETING PARTICIPANTS**

**BACKGROUND**

- The COVID-19 Pandemic has impacted every facet of life with the greatest impact being felt in the loss of lives, disruption of public health and deterioration of social and economic wellbeing of individuals and communities. Like many other countries, Kenya has experienced periods of accelerated COVID-19 infection with multiple waves since the start of the pandemic.
- COVID-19 is caused by the virus SARSCOV2 virus which is primarily transmitted by droplet spread just like other respiratory viruses. Most cases of infection are notably asymptomatic. Public health measures such as use of face masks, physical distancing and regular hand hygiene are known to be effective in reducing the spread of COVID-19 infection in the community.
- Even though COVID-19 infections have markedly dropped in Kenya, the risk of infection remains real. The WHO has also warned against laxity in COVID-19 prevention measures since the pandemic is not yet over.
- In the absence of compliance with [preventive measures](#) , the public health threat from COVID-19 remains significant. This risk is particularly relevant when we consider that in Kenya, less than 30% of eligible persons have received full COVID-19 vaccination as of February 2022.
- The UNON Joint Medical Service is committed to supporting in-person meetings through collaboration with other meeting stakeholders. For UN meetings, compliance with COVID-19 preventive measures & full COVID-19 vaccination is required.
- This health information pack aims to sensitize the meeting participants on the importance of personal vigilance to facilitate safe, in-person meetings in the context of the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic.
- This health information brief should be read in conjunction with other reference documents such as the UNON Conference service guidelines and host country COVID-19 updates.
- The preventive measures described in this health brief are linked to the current pandemic situation and the existing guidance from the office of the UNON Director General. Any updates or reviews will be communicated officially.
- The information provided here is a synopsis of the JMS COVID-19 health information available from the following links: [JMS Website](#) ; [WHO website](#) ; [WHO IEC Resources](#)



**COVID-19 VACCINATION FOR ACCESS INTO UN GIGIRI COMPLEX**

**Full COVID-19 Vaccination:**

Access to UN Gigiri complex requires proof of full COVID-19 vaccination. The proof of vaccination is to be shared based on the following categories:

1. Nairobi-based UN personnel regularly accessing the UN Gigiri complex:

Nairobi based UN personnel attending in-person meetings should report their vaccination status through the online portal: [COVID-19 Vaccination Self-Reporting](#)  
Once a staff member submits the request and full COVID-19 vaccination is verified, they will receive a notification that their access is approved. The staff member will have access to the complex by swiping their UNON grounds pass at the entry access points including into their respective office building.

2. Members of governmental delegations residing in Nairobi & holding valid UNON ground passes:

Permanent missions shall send a *Note Verbale* addressed to Office of the Director-General of UNON [unon-officeofdirectorgeneral@un.org](mailto:unon-officeofdirectorgeneral@un.org) listing the names of all Diplomats, staff and other associated personnel of Permanent Missions who are fully vaccinated<sup>3\*</sup> and can therefore be granted access to the UNON Gigiri Complex. Grounds passes providing access to the complex of listed personnel will be reactivated. Permanent Missions of recently arrived diplomatic fully vaccinated personnel shall request a ground pass through a separate *Note Verbale*.

3. Members of governmental and non-governmental delegations travelling to Kenya for the purpose of participating in an Intergovernmental conference or meeting:

The Secretariat of the conference or meeting is responsible for consolidating and communicating to the UNON Security and Safety Service the list accredited participants for conference specific ground pass issuance. It is understood that the list contains names of fully vaccinated delegates that have as well complied with the Host Government entry requirements as applicable. Nairobi-based permanent missions can submit the names of visiting delegates and attest to their vaccination status via a Note Verbale. A copy of the list shall be sent to MCU < [unon-dcs-mcu@un.org](mailto:unon-dcs-mcu@un.org) > for future reference by the Office of the Director General.

4. Meeting participants from any other categories would similarly be required to present proof of COVID-19 vaccination to the meeting organizers in advance of the actual in-person meeting.

.....  
[Prepared by UNON Joint Medical Service, Nairobi. Adapted from UNMD,WHO and UNON COVID-19 meeting guidelines](#)



The meeting organizers will receive and verify the relevant COVID-19 vaccine certificates from persons not already cleared or represented in note verbale communications.

**COVID-19 SCREENING TESTS FOR UN MEETINGS**

- The Kenyan Government has recently waived the requirement for negative COVID-19 PCR tests for travelers coming into Kenya as long as they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19.
- For UN meetings, the organizers may consider requiring all meeting attendees to provide negative COVID-19 test results based on the prevailing risk situation as advised by WHO and the UNON Joint medical Service. Examples of such testing is the COVID-19 rapid antigen test conducted using the lateral flow devices.

**GENERAL PREVENTION MEASURES FOR ALL MEETING PARTICIPANTS**

**Avoid exposing yourself and others to COVID-19:**

- Practice Physical distancing. Avoid close contact with other participants(Keep at least 1-meter distance).
- Wash your hands with soap and water or sanitize your hands frequently with alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Wear a well-fitting mask (cloth face covering or face mask) that fully covers your mouth AND nose. The mask should be worn before, during and after the meeting in line with public health requirements.
- Stay at home if you develop a fever or if you become unwell in any way.
- Cover your cough with a disposable tissue or with your elbow.
- These COVID-19 preventive measures are applicable to all persons regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status.

**SPECIFIC MEASURES TO TAKE BEFORE YOUR MEETING**

**Prepare yourself before the meeting:**

- Appraise yourself with the current COVID-19 situation at the host country.
- Carefully read the COVID-19 health information package provided by UNON Joint Medical Service (JMS) and the UN Meeting guidelines prepared by UNON Division of

.....  
[Prepared by UNON Joint Medical Service, Nairobi. Adapted from UNMD,WHO and UNON COVID-19 meeting guidelines](#)



Conference services(DCS).

- Ensure that you carry your health insurance card as you attend the meeting. This will be important in case medical assessment or hospitalization is required in the course of the meeting.
- Take your temperature in the morning & evaluate your health closely for possible [COVID-19 Symptoms](#) .If your temperature is more than 37.5C or if you have any of the symptoms described in the link above, stay at home (OR in your Hotel room) & inform your physician or a medical practitioner available to you. The UNON Joint Medical Service is available for guidance by phone through the number **0724 255378**. You will also need to excuse yourself from further meetings until medical guidance is sought.
- Additionally ,do not attend in-person meetings if any of the following applies to you:
  - ❖ You are currently living with someone on isolation for COVID-19.
  - ❖ You have recently ( $\leq 14$  days) been in contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19.
  - ❖ You have evaluated your health and personal risk and determined not to attend the meeting in person (e.g based on age  $> 60$ yrs, COVID-19 vaccination status, underlying medical conditions or advise from your personal physician).
  - ❖ You have recently been ill from any cause and are still recuperating.

### **HEALTH & SAFETY MEASURES TO EXPECT DURING YOUR MEETING**

**To enhance the health and safety of meeting participants, you can expect the following measures to be in place:**

- The meeting organizers will designate a COVID-19 Meeting coordinator who will be introduced to the participants at the beginning of the in-person meeting. Health-related queries and concerns relating to COVID-19 measures are to be directed to the COVID-19 meeting coordinator who will be present on site. The COVID-19 Meeting coordinator will liaise closely with the UNON Joint Medical Services in Gigiri complex to address any emerging health concerns.
- Meeting participants will be expected to continue wearing their face masks during the meeting session. [Proper use](#) and disposal of face masks into designated bins with lids will be crucial in limiting exposure of participants to COVID-19.Wash your hands with soap and water or use alcohol hand sanitizer after handling or disposing your face mask.



## UNITED NATIONS OFFICE NAIROBI

- Hand washing facilities and Alcohol hand sanitizers will be available at the meeting venue.
- You will be required to share your contact information with the COVID-19 meeting coordinator in advance of the in-person meeting. This information will include your full names, cell and email contact details and your residential location. The information will be confirmed during the meeting registration at the set venue. This information will be treated confidentially by the meeting coordinator and will be used for the sole purpose of registration and [contact tracing](#) if a participant is diagnosed with COVID-19 infection during or soon after the in-person meeting.
- Posters and signage displaying COVID-19 related information will be placed visibly in and around the meeting venue. Meeting participants are expected to follow the instructions in the posters and signage including those on mandatory Face mask use. Compliance with instructions on physical distancing and movement will be expected.
- Seating arrangements for the meeting will reflect the principle of physical distancing. This means a minimum distance of 1 Meter will be maintained between participants in line with the signage and markings prepared for the meeting.
- Meeting participants are expected to exercise prudent personal responsibility to maintain physical distancing during the meeting and during any mutual interactions outside the meeting venue. There should be no handshakes, hugs, or other high-risk contacts during the duration of the in-person meeting.
- Meeting participants are also expected to inform the COVID-19 meeting coordinator if they fall ill during the meeting or are diagnosed with COVID-19 in the course of the meeting.
- You are discouraged from sharing common gadgets during the meeting. This applies to items such as microphones, pens, or other similar objects. Inadvertent sharing of such items should be followed by immediate use of Alcohol hand sanitizer or handwashing with soap and water.
- The COVID-19 meeting coordinator will ensure that prior cleaning of the meeting venue is completed before the date of meeting. Subsequent regular cleaning of high-touch surfaces will be arranged for the duration of the meeting. Avoid touching your face to limit contact with potentially contaminated objects.
- Windows and doors at the meeting venue will remain open to allow for good natural air circulation. Bathroom doors will likewise remain open. This will eliminate the need for frequent touching of door handles.



### **SELF-MONITORING AFTER THE MEETING**

**After the conclusion of the meeting, you should:**

- Monitor your health closely for a period of 14 days. Watch out for development of fever or any other COVID-19 symptoms. An email communication will be sent to you by the meeting coordinator as a reminder on the same.
- Immediately inform the COVID-19 meeting coordinator if you are diagnosed with COVID-19 during the period of the meeting or during the 14-day period of self-observation after the in-person meeting.
- You are also to inform the COVID-19 meeting coordinator if you had contact with a meeting participant confirmed to have COVID-19 during the same period. The meeting coordinator will liaise with the UNON Joint Medical Service for necessary follow-up and contact tracing.

### **MEDICAL SUPPORT DURING THE IN-PERSON MEETING:**

- The meeting organizers have facilitated provision of on-site medical emergency support for the meeting. The UNON Joint Medical Service(JMS) Clinic is available for this purpose and is responsible for putting in place adequate and timely emergency response measures for the in-person meeting.
- The UNON JMS team will address any health concerns emerging during the said meeting and will have access to a standby Ambulance for any emergency transfers to local hospitals.
- The 24hr Emergency contact for the UNON Joint Medical Service is Cell: **+254 724 255 378**