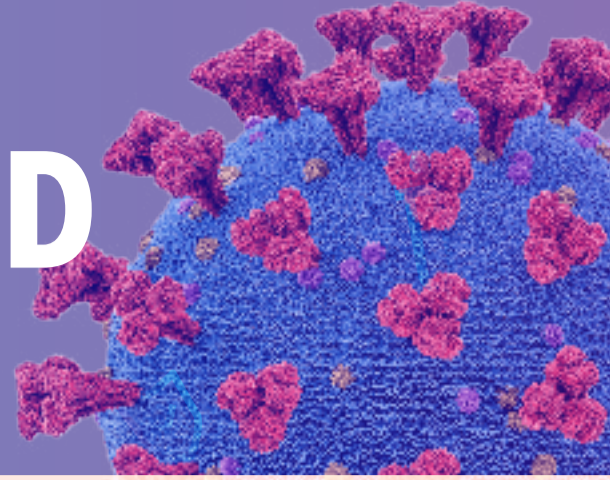


The A-Z of COVID in Uganda



A

Awareness of COVID-19 is high but adherence to preventive guidelines extremely low.

B

Behavioural change messages are needed now (in 2021) - more than ever and more than knowledge messages.

C

Community transmissions are on the rise; as is prevention complacency.

D

Deaths, infection and recovery from COVID remain shrouded in mystery. Myths and risky perceptions are plenty.

E

Enforcement fatigue has become more pronounced with relaxation of some restrictions.

F

Fatigue from the enforcement side is, unfortunately, coinciding with high community transmission.

G

Government-led approaches, also top-down- in nature , registered some success but need more community support.

H

Handwashing is a more feasible measure - compared to sanitizing, social distancing, wearing masks and staying at home.

I

Infection control has largely been well managed at public places and offices compared to communities.

J

June 2020's partial lifting of lockdown and other restrictions saw a dramatic and continuing decline in compliance.

K

K- values, super spreaders, other transmission terminology and implications need to be better communicated to lay people.

L

Livelihoods and the need to eke a living was the most common reason for non-compliance.

M

Mass distribution of masks did not reach everybody; however, mask use is also low, inconsistent and improper.

N

Norms and culture are both drivers and barriers to compliance.

O

Optimally leverage existing community structures, systems and resources for compliance.

P

Psychosocial and mental health challenges have taken on new and more complex forms.

Q

Quiet spaces and isolation need to be championed as positive and potentially productive - for people to move less.

R

Reproductive health services were severely constrained and products very scarce or inaccessible.

S

Sexual health worsened including and especially among adolescents and youth who remain largely dependent.

T

Teenage pregnancies and transactional sex by children and youth have increased.

U

Uganda's porous borders and high refugee population mean ongoing interaction across borders, some of it risky.

V

Violence of various forms increased during COVID-19; and everyone was affected - including men and children.

W

Willingness of most local leaders, their innovation and responsibility should be better leveraged.

X

Xanic and resilient approaches to COVID-19 are being redefined to suit altered circumstances.

Y

Youths, adolescents and children remained a high-risk group and largely invisible in the first wave of COVID-19.

Z

Zoom meetings and working in other virtual spaces might be the new normal but need review on safety, productivity, team cohesion and other key workplace pillars.



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