

## How does Coronavirus spread?

This virus can spread from person to person through small droplets from the nose or mouth which are mostly spread when a person with the virus coughs or exhales. These droplets land on objects and surfaces around the person. Other people then catch COVID-19 by touching these objects or surfaces, then touching their eyes, nose or mouth. People can also catch COVID-19 if they breathe in droplets from a person with COVID-19 who coughs out or exhales droplets. As such, keeping a physical distance of at least 1 meter (3 feet) away and avoiding handshakes and hugs help to prevent contracting coronavirus. Hence, we urge you to strictly follow the advice of health experts and protect yourself from contracting this new virus.

## Is Coronavirus also in South Sudan?

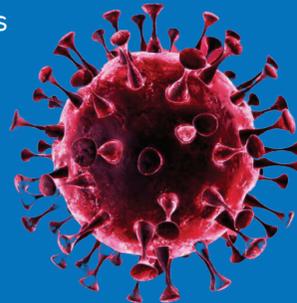
Yes; the first Coronavirus case in South Sudan was officially confirmed on 5 April, 2020.



**Remember, the enemy is the virus, not the people and the best way to be safe is to protect yourself and others.**

## What is the Coronavirus?

The Coronavirus also known as COVID-19 is a new highly contagious disease. On 11 March, 2020 the World Health Organization has declared Coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, a global pandemic.



## How can I prevent contracting the Coronavirus?



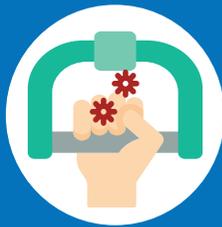
Frequently wash your hands with water and soap for at least 20 seconds.



Avoid touching your, face, nose, eyes and mouth with unwashed hands.



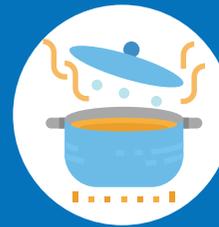
Avoid contact with anyone with a cold or flu-like symptoms (fever, cough, sneezing).



Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces such as door handles and phones.



Avoid physical contact, such as shaking hands and hugging.



Thoroughly cook meat and eggs.



Cover the nose and mouth when sneezing and coughing with a tissue, handkerchief or flexed elbow.



Stay at home, especially if you are sick. Maintain physical distancing, especially in crowded areas.



Avoid unprotected contact with wild or farm animals.



## COVID-19 Messaging to South Sudanese Refugees Spontaneously Returning to South Sudan



## What is the Government of South Sudan doing about Coronavirus in South Sudan?

Since 11 March, 2020 the Government of South Sudan issued travel restrictions to and from South Sudan, and closed all land borders, air or water on 23 March, 2020. Only cargo planes, emergency evacuation flights and commercial flights and trucks carrying food, fuel and medical supplies are allowed. Early April, following the confirmation of 1st case, the Government of South Sudan has enforced also a curfew from 10 pm to 6 am and a travel ban within the country. These are all measures aiming at controlling the spread of COVID-19.

## I am still a refugee, what happens if I return to South Sudan to join my family?

All countries neighboring South Sudan are observing similar strict measures to curb the spread of the coronavirus. If you are caught crossing borders without the permission of the government of South Sudan, you will be arrested, face criminal charges, and put in quarantine by South Sudanese authorities for at least 14 days. There are no services at the border/entry/exit points, and you may end up facing other protection risks.

## My village is at the border crossing in South Sudan, what happens if I used shortcut to my home?

The Government of South Sudan has deployed security personnel to monitor all border points including short cuts, (Panya routes or Informal points). If you are caught sneaking across the border, you will be arrested, put in quarantine, and face criminal charges. All community leaders are obliged to inform anybody who arrives to the community and report them to the local authorities (County Offices/Payams/Boma) or to camp management and/or the head of health facility in the camps.

## Can refugees' returnees travel from one state to another within South Sudan?

No. Government has announced a temporary ban on inter-state movement within South Sudan. Only cargo trucks can cross between states, and some humanitarian flights – cleared on a case by case basis.

## How about children joining their parents or relatives in South Sudan?

The travel ban across borders includes women, men, children and elderly. Anybody found crossing the border without the permission of South Sudanese Government will be arrested by local authorities.

## Do I have to pay to have access to health services related to the Coronavirus disease in South Sudan?

No. The Coronavirus preventive and response services are free of charge and accessible at any UNHCR supported health facility.

## CORONAVIRUS SYMPTOMS



If you have any of the above symptoms, or for any information call Ministry of Health, South Sudan

**TOLL FREE NUMBER 6666**

## How can we, South Sudanese refugee returnees who have already returned to South Sudan protect themselves and their communities from the Coronavirus?

The Government and health institutions emphasise physical distancing, frequent hand washing with soap and water, disinfection of sites, temperature checks, avoiding unnecessary mobility and interaction between people as protective measures to prevent contracting the new virus.

## How long will these restrictions be in place?

It is not yet known for how long. This is a new disease, and little is known about it. For now the safest thing for you and your family is to stay home / stay where you are, and observe all prevention and health measures as advised by the local authorities.

## What about religious practices and ceremonies in general?

The Government of South Sudan has enforced the closure of all schools, religious institutions, worshiping sites, non-essential businesses and social gatherings such as sports events, conferences, weddings, and funerals.

## What about funerals?

Funeral can take place but only few people are allowed. Repatriation of dead bodies to South Sudan will only be approved by the National COVID-19 High-level Taskforce. Prior approval must be sought before you arrange for transportation of the dead body to South Sudan.

## What should a refugee returnee or community member do in case of flu-like conditions?

If you observe symptoms like coughing, sneezing, flu, high fever and short breath, immediately go to the nearest health facility or call Ministry of Health toll free number **6666**. Please ensure that you cover your nose and mouth with a cloth at all time, especially when sneezing and coughing, avoid hand shaking or being close to people including family members on your way to the health facility.

## Where can one find health screening services if I'm already at the border?

Health screening teams are deployed at border crossing points of Nimule (main crossing point with Uganda), Wau (land border with Sudan) and Yambio (border with DRC and CAR requiring all truck drivers arriving to South Sudan to go through health screening. Some are being established in Jao, Pochalla, and in Upper Nile.