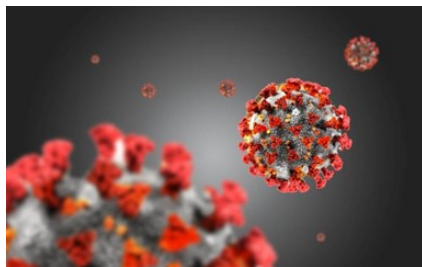




# KIWOKO HOSPITAL NEWSLETTER

18th August 2020



## *Special Coronavirus Update*

Firstly, we want to express our sincere appreciation for your continued interest and support in the work of Kiwoko Hospital.

With COVID-19 continuing to have a huge impact globally, many people have been asking how the virus is impacting us here in Kiwoko.

To date, Uganda has recorded 1,603 cases of COVID-19. Lockdown measures were put in place even before the first confirmed case at the end of March 2020. These measures were intended as a means of controlling the rise in recorded cases and providing people and organisations with time to prepare. Indeed, as a hospital we have been busy preparing since! However, the relatively small numbers of cases (many of whom have had no symptoms) and slow increase in numbers has increasingly led to apathy within some of the population, particularly regarding adhering to protective measures. For those who return positive tests, whether they have symptoms or not, the Ministry of Health brings them to government facilities to be treated. Unfortunately, these individuals, and often their families, have suffered stigmatisation within their communities, often related to fear of the virus and the implications for the community. Some of these individuals have also found it difficult to reintegrate into their community after discharge from hospital. Unfortunately, over the last month there has been a notable rise in the number of cases reported daily. The country recorded its first death due to COVID-19 on 23rd July, and to date there have been 15 confirmed COVID-19 related deaths.

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”*

Philippians 4:6-7

## **URGENT APPEAL**

A HUGE thank you to everyone who has donated to Kiwoko Hospital's COVID response. Much of this money has already been used to protect staff, patients and community from COVID-19 (*further details on P2&3*) but undoubtably much more will be needed as the pandemic unfolds here in Uganda.

You can continue to support this URGENT APPEAL through the JustGiving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/linda-park2>

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED!!

We continue to welcome (and need!) volunteer healthcare professionals to work alongside our national workers. Would you be interested in spending a sabbatical at Kiwoko Hospital, or perhaps you are recently retired and would like to do some voluntary work?

Currently we have particular need for **GENERAL SURGEONS** and **PHYSICIANS**, those in the training years and beyond!!

For further information about volunteering, electives or visits to the hospital, contact Stephen Park (Visitors and Volunteers Coordinator) by email:

[visitors@kiwokohospital.org](mailto:visitors@kiwokohospital.org)



**Interesting Fact:**  
*Most blood for transfusions come from school students. As schools are closed, there is a marked shortage of blood in the country.*

At Kiwoko Hospital we are so thankful to God for the time that we have had to prepare the hospital and staff for COVID-19. The generosity of our donors has further enabled us to implement many changes. A team have been working hard advising, developing protocols and procedures, and educating staff, patients, and community on COVID-19. We have been able to add more hand washing facilities



around the site, purchase and receive donated PPE, purchase tents to enable better social distancing, develop SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures) for safe working practices and train staff on these, produce videos in Luganda and English that are played on screens around the hospital to inform staff and patients about Coronavirus and how to keep safe, and design and display educational and advisory posters for staff, patients and attendants.



However, we are aware that the staff of the hospital are at the front line of the fight against this virus. Many hospitals all over the world have experienced how difficult it is to completely shield staff from the virus.

Unfortunately, over the past few weeks, six of our staff have been diagnosed with COVID-19. We are thankful to God that none of them have been seriously ill with the effects of the virus. Many of our staff live and work in the same community, so we were very concerned about the possibility of fast spread. To stop the spread of the virus to other staff and patients, hospital management have been tracing and quarantining contacts, and reinforcing safe working practices. Through this the hospital has been able to stay open, and continue to provide safe and vital care that our patients and community need.

We cannot give our staff enough praise for their dedication and willingness to continue to come to work each day and provide excellent health care for our community even in such challenging times.



Furthermore, as a hospital we are so grateful to you, our donors and supporters, for your continued support at this time. We are aware that we could not continue to provide this excellent level of health care to this community without your support.

## FROM THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR



“On Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2020, Kiwoko Hospital had one confirmed case of COVID-19 and by Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2020, the numbers had risen to eight. Six of the patients in question are much-valued staff members. They are now receiving care from the Ministry of Health in institutional isolation. We pray for their quick and safe recovery.

In response, first and foremost, we are following the guidance and direction of our public health experts in the district task force and Ministry of Health. Together, we have:

- Conducted contact tracing to determine who had close contact with the patients
- Tested 668 staff, close contacts of the patients in question, and also patients attending the hospital with COVID-19 like symptoms.
- Requested staff who had close contact with the patients to quarantine for 14 days so as to monitor symptoms.

We have gone ahead to temporarily close our HIV department to allow additional safety measures to be taken as guided by the public health experts. We will therefore continue to follow the guidance and direction of the experts, closely monitor and adopt new findings, and follow clinical protocols developed by expert scientists and clinicians in every discipline of care.

We want to assure the public that Kiwoko Hospital is a safe place to seek care. Since well before the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic, the safety of our patients is and always has been our first priority. We will continue working hard to overcome COVID-19. We will provide our physicians, nurses, other team members and patients everything they need to stay safe. And we'll continue caring for our community.

The health and safety of our community, including our workforce remains the top priority. COVID-19 has enhanced our already intensive patient safety efforts and ensured we are doing everything possible to keep staff safe as well. You will see additional precautions, including intensive cleaning processes, in all areas of the hospital. So far, the below has been implemented:

- Screening and triage prior to entering the hospital
- Social distancing in waiting rooms and mask use in common areas
- Restrictions on visitors
- Limited entry and exit points
- Quarantine of confirmed contacts
- Appropriate use of PPE
- Following scientific and rigorous COVID-19 protocols
- Staff training
- Evidenced based care of patients with symptoms, etc.

A special thank you goes to our health care heroes. The doctors, nurses, clinical officers, and entire health care workforce – including cleaners and other support staff – who are in this fight on the front lines, facing pressure unlike ever before. They are heroes, and no amount of thanks is enough.

Our advice to the public is to continue showing compassion and support to those that are closely impacted.”

**Dr. Serwadda Peter**





### **Interesting Fact:**

*Patient numbers dropped significantly earlier this year due to transport restrictions, but returned to expected levels.*

### **DONATIONS**

Kiwoko Hospital would not and cannot exist without the faithful giving of our friends and supporters. **Friends of Kiwoko Hospital** is a registered Charity based in Northern Ireland (UK charity Ref. 104586). Please visit the website and choose the most appropriate way in which you can partner with us in bringing good news to the poor, in word and action.

### **... AND COMMISSION**

If you are purchasing through Amazon UK, the hospital can gain up to 10% commission. Go to the FOKH website - [www.fokh.org.uk](http://www.fokh.org.uk) - and click on the link on the bottom right, which will take you through to the usual Amazon website. Proceed as normal from there!

[amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk)



Kiwoko Hospital  
PO Box 149, Luwero  
UGANDA, East Africa  
[feedback@kiwokohospital.org](mailto:feedback@kiwokohospital.org)

## **KEEP PRAYING FOR OUR HOSPITAL!!**

- Praise God for His continued faithfulness, provision and care, through which we can continue to serve the people of our local communities and beyond.
- Praise God for those who support the hospital and our patients through prayer, financial giving and encouragement. Pray for the ongoing significant financial needs of the hospital, especially the extra pressures that COVID-19 has brought.
- Thank God for all our staff, each with an important role in the functioning of the hospital. Praise God for dedicated staff, many who are prepared to go 'beyond the call of duty' to provide excellent care for our patients, especially at this time of increased stress due to COVID-19. Pray for their protection, especially from COVID-19.
- Pray for the hospital leadership as they make many decisions about the present and future running of the hospital.
- Pray for the staff and their families that have Covid-19, that God will protect them from serious illness, and that their communities will accept them back after their isolation.
- Pray for Uganda. Pray for protection from the severe impact we have seen in so many countries worldwide. Pray for the leadership, for wise decisions and for continued focus on COVID-19 despite the planned elections in early 2021.
- Pray for every patient and attendant who comes to Kiwoko. That they will experience God's Love in action, and that God would heal them.
- Pray that in everything happening at Kiwoko Hospital, God will be glorified.

*“God is our refuge and strength,  
an ever-present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear...”*

Psalm 46:1-2

## **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

Kiwoko Hospital is a private, not-for-profit, mission hospital in rural Uganda. We are so thankful to our supporters for their ongoing significant contribution to the work of the hospital. Without you we would be unable to provide the high quality healthcare that our patients deserve.

If you have enjoyed this update newsletter please forward it on to

family, friends and colleagues. For more information on Kiwoko Hospital, and for ways to support the work, go to the FOKH website:

[www.fokh.org.uk](http://www.fokh.org.uk)

We also post regular updates on our Facebook page:

[https://  
web.facebook.com/  
kiwokohospital/](https://web.facebook.com/kiwokohospital/)

