IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON THE SOCIAL AND HEALTH RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH COVID 19

Since January 2020, the world has been facing a pandemic called Covid 19 also known as Corona virus which affects several countries including African countries. The risks of an economic slowdown linked to this pandemic are obvious and are of concern to the private sector in the world in general and particularly, ECOWAS Member States. However, there is no reason to prioritize economic gains over the health risks involved with Covid-19.

For the Federation of West African Chambers of Commerce (FEWACCI) and all member Chambers of Commerce and Industry, these developments, without leading to panic and stigmatization, require an urgent response and the taking of preventive measures to safeguard all our chambers’ staff, businesses and their families.

As far as ECOWAS Member States are concerned, the Administrative and Governmental Authorities are taking appropriate measures that contribute to reducing the risk of contraction and enable the populations as well as businesses to cope with it and avoid panic.

Dear Presidents and Colleagues,

I would like to urge you to inform, in your countries, business community, companies and their staff about the COVID 19 pandemic, whose first cases imported from Europe are starting to affect our populations.

Our members will need to be fully aware of what COVID 19 is, its manifestations and the preventive measures to protect themselves, their families and their businesses. Below are some information extracted from official preventive documents:

1. **Mode of disease transmission**

   Transmission of the virus occurs through direct contact with a sick person and it is airborne. It spreads from one person to another mainly through droplets produced when an infected person talks, coughs or sneezes.

2. **Clinical signs**

   The following clinical signs are the manifestations of a Coronavirus infection:
   
   - High fever;

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- Flu-like symptoms (cough, rhinitis, asthenia, arthralgia, sore throat, watery eyes);
- Breathing Signs: cough, difficulty breathing, chest pain.

3. **Individual preventive measures**

In the face of this pandemic, the following preventive measures are necessary:

- Cover your nose and mouth with masks while coughing and sneezing;
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with potentially contaminated hands;
- Avoid spitting on the floor;
- Disinfect potentially soiled surfaces and tools with bleach;
- Practise personal hygiene measures by washing hands with soap or preferably hydro-alcoholic gel;
- Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu symptoms;
- Avoid hugs, kisses, handshakes and all other forms of physical contact;
- Advice anyone who has been in contact with a confirmed sick person or a suspected case of illness to take precautionary measures and contact the health authorities in their country.

Dear colleagues, I would like to sincerely encourage you to take into account these preventive measures, to develop in your work units a contingency plan to deal with the unexpected, to protect and support your employees, because it goes without saying that any social and health threat always has an impact on the economy.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank and congratulate the Governments, health professionals and public safety officers for their dedication and selflessness in dealing with any threat related to COVID-19.

May God protect us and our Business.

Hajia Saratu IYA ALIYU
Présidente FEWACCI
TOUT SAVOIR SUR LE CORONAVIRUS

**SYMPTÔMES**
- Fièvre, fatigue, rhume
- Toux
- Essoufflement, gène respiratoire

**PRÉVENTION**
- Laver ses mains avec du savon au moins 10 secondes et utiliser du gel hydroalcoolique
- Éviter tout contact avec des personnes malades et immuées
- Ne pas se toucher les yeux, le nez et la bouche avant de s'être lavé les mains
- Cuire soigneusement la viande et les œufs

**EN CAS D'INFECTION**
- Restez chez soi
- Éviter tout contact (tête, accolade, polyné de main)
- Couvrir son nez et sa bouche, éternuer dans son coude
- Porter un masque chirurgical

**SI VOUS VOYAGEZ**
- Ne pas voyager dans les zones à risque
- Ne pas voyager en cas de fièvre et de toux
- Prendre conseil auprès de son médecin
- Si vous tombez malade pendant votre voyage, contactez le centre médical local