

M E M O R A N D U M

From: Director,
HQ/UCN/NTD

To: Director, a.i.
Communicable
Diseases

Date: 2 April 2020

Our ref:

Attention:

Your ref:

Through:

Originator:

Subject: **COVID-19 AND NEGLECTED TROPICAL
DISEASES PROGRAMMES**

The current COVID-19 pandemic is affecting almost every WHO Member State and unparalleled containment and mitigation measures, including physical distancing and restrictions on movement, are being put in place. WHO recommends WCOs to advise health ministries to postpone all community-based surveys, active case-finding activities and mass treatment campaigns for neglected tropical diseases until further notice.

However, it is important that health systems be supported to ensure (1) prompt diagnosis, treatment and care of neglected tropical diseases for patients presenting to healthcare facilities, and (2) essential vector control measures, as these are critical interventions. This should be done in line with prevailing national policies, directives and recommendations.

WCOs may also wish to encourage local health authorities to use existing NTD platforms, surveillance mechanisms and WASH/health education opportunities to support implementation of COVID-19-related measures, as appropriate.

WHO is in the process of producing more detailed guidance, which will be shared in due course. Recommendations will be updated on a regular basis to reflect the evolution of the pandemic.

Thank you for your kind collaboration, and for your continued support and solidarity in these difficult times.



Dr Mwelecele Ntuli Malecela

cc: Team Leader, ESPEN