STAY INFORMED! CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) SITUATION UPDATES.

1. **Is there a confirmed case(s) of Coronavirus in Kenya?** Yes. On 13th March 2020, the Government of Kenya through the Ministry of Health released a press statement confirming **the first** Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) case in Nairobi. Two days later, the President, in his address to the Nation through a press briefing on March 15th 2020 confirmed **two more** cases of COVID-19. The two are believed have had contact with the first patient.

2. **WHO declared the COVID-19 a controllable Pandemic. Why?** A pandemic is declared when a new disease for which people do not have immunity spreads around the world beyond expectations. Once a pandemic is declared, it becomes more likely that community spread will eventually happen, and governments and health systems need to ensure they are prepared for that.

3. **How does COVID-19 spread?** The virus is transmitted through direct contact with respiratory droplets of an infected person (generated through coughing and sneezing). Individuals can also be infected from and touching surfaces contaminated with the virus and touching their face (e.g., eyes, nose, mouth). The COVID-19 virus may survive on surfaces for several hours, but simple disinfectants can kill it.

4. **What can you do to prevent yourself from becoming infected or infecting others?**
   - Minimize social gatherings.
   - Practice hand washing regularly with soap and running water.
   - Cover your mouth and nose with tissue or handkerchief when coughing and sneezing.
   - Avoid handshaking, hugging and kissing with people who have flu-like symptoms.

5. **Should I wear a medical mask?** The use of a medical mask is advised if you have respiratory symptoms (coughing or sneezing) to protect others. If you don’t have any symptoms, then there is no need to wear a mask. If masks are worn, they must be used and disposed of properly to ensure their effectiveness and to avoid any increased risk of transmitting the virus. The use of a mask alone is not enough to stop infections and must be combined with frequent hand washing, covering sneezes and coughs, and avoiding close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms (coughing, sneezing, fever).
6. **How do I know that I am infected with Coronavirus?** Common signs of infection include respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. Note that in more severe cases, the infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and even death.

7. **What do I do in case I suspect I have any of the symptoms?** If you develop any of the above symptoms, avoid any social contact, call 0800721316(toll free) and stay at home until you receive further instructions. In addition, if you suspect that you or someone close has had contact with someone already infected or who has travelled from affected countries in the last 14 days, contact the Ministry of Health through the toll free number 0800721316 or 0732353535;0748592558.

8. **What is WIK doing?**
   
a) Creating awareness on key prevention steps to take like hand hygiene (hand washing and or use of sanitizers), promoting good respiratory hygiene, social distancing, stepping up our hygiene standards through the use of disinfectants in the cleaning of all WIK spaces and surfaces.
   
b) Procurement of sanitizers that will be distributed at strategic places in all WIK work spaces and ensuring all sanitary spaces have adequate hand washing facilities.
   
c) Monitoring the local situation closely and emergency preparedness.

9. **What are the current global statistics on COVID-19?**
    
There are currently **175,235** confirmed cases and **6,713** deaths from the coronavirus COVID-19 outbreak as of March 16, 2020, 15:36 GMT.

**Please note:** These updates are drawn from reliable sources like the World Health Organization and alerts from the Ministry of Health in Kenya.