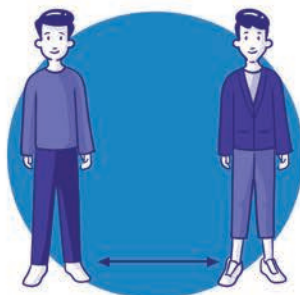


To Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 Pandemic



Clean your hands often. Use soap and water, or ethanol-based hand rub.



Maintain a safe distance



Don't touch your eyes, nose and mouth.



Cover your nose and mouth with your bent elbow or a tissue while coughing or sneezing.



Stay home.



If you have fever, cough and difficulty of breathing call at 8335 or 952



Follow the advices of health professionals.

Protect yourself and others.

The Ethiopian Public Health Association
(EPHA)

May, 2020

EPHA Postpones its 31st Annual Scientific Conference and General Assembly due to COVID-19 Pandemic.

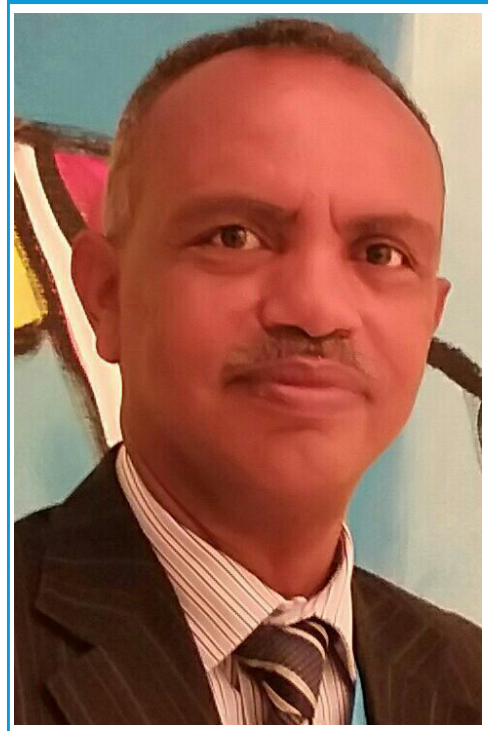
“25 years after ICPD: Opportunity to Renew Commitments”

The Ethiopian Public Health Association (EPHA) 31st Annual Scientific Conference and General Assembly which had been scheduled to be conducted from 15 - 17 March 2020, has been postponed in response to Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) prevention.



Dr. Mitkie Molla President of EPHA, underlined that, EPHA as a leading public health organization, should be a role model for others in prevention of any emerging health hazards. Thus, EPHA has decided to postpone its 31st Annual conference due to COVID- 19 pandemic.

On her message, she has also advised that, the public shall avoid unnecessary fear and anxiety rather giving significant attention for proper preventive measures that are being communicated is vital.



Dr. Alemayehu Mekonnen Executive Director of EPHA, on his part said, EPHA has been exhausted in organizing the 31st annual scientific conference, yet it will never walk a single step against its mission and vision. At this particular time, the Association concern is prevention and control of COVID-19 pandemic.

“The time of the conference will be decided in the future and will circulate to members and partners.” He added.

It is to be recalled that the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in Ethiopia has been announced on 13th of March 2020.

EPHA's Engagement on prevention of COVID-19

We invited Dr. Mirigissa Kaba V/ President of EPHA to be our guest on this special edition of COVID-19 pandemic.

Felege Tena: We sincerely thank you for being our guest for this special edition

Dr. Mirigissa: Thank you for having me

FelegeTena: What is the role of EPHA in prevention of covid-19 pandemic?

Dr. Mirigissa: Well, EPHA is the first Professional Association that has taken up the fight against COVID-19. The association has cancelled its Annual Conference which was planned for 15-17 March 2020 as a gesture to prove our association's



professional commitment. The Association has taken steps to pull other professional associations to work together under the informal umbrella of health professional association's network to organize an advisory council on COVID-19, provide training to health professionals, coordinate media briefings repeatedly.

Felege tena: What are the activities carried out by the Association in the process of covid-19 pandemic prevention?

Dr. Mirigissa: As pointed out above, the association spearheaded the media briefing and press release where calls were made to the public, government, professionals, media house and other stakeholders in mitigating COVID-19. The association has early on established its COVID-19 task force that guides interventions as well as working relations of the associations with likeminded groups. Members of the association are now playing proactive role within the national Advisory Council, within university level COVID-19 task teams as well as in the task force at association level.

Felege tena: How do you evaluate the performance of EPHA in relation to public awareness creation?

Dr. Mirigissa: As I said above, the association has played exemplary role from the start when it cancelled the meeting after its members started arriving in Addis where the meeting was planned to be held not only to prevent contacts but to live the prevention and mitigation efforts by example. I would also believe the association has taken proactive measure to bring other health professional association for a pulled voice and mainstreamed support to government. The association has organized media briefings and coordinated press release which are important advocacy roles.

Felege Tena: How do you explain EPHA's engagement in activities of supporting the Ministry of Health?

Dr. Mirigissa: EPHA in my view is the center piece of a coordinated support to FMoH and EPHI's response to COVID-19. EPHA has its members in different task teams as members and leaders. In view of this, FMoH calls on EPHA for specific assignments as deems necessary.

Felege Tena: What is the importance of working with other professional Associations?

Dr. Mirigissa: Especially under such circumstances where every individual professional, government sectors and associations feel duty bound, it is likely to duplicate effort and send wrong messages. In view of this, EPHA has taken collaboration with other associations as a key principle. As a result, it has played important role in bringing all the associations to work together to avoid duplications and to consolidate support to FMoH and EPHI.

Felege Tena: Do you have any message to the government and the public as well?

Dr. Mirigissa: Based on the epidemiology of the pandemic and depending on how the disease took shape in the worst affected countries, I think we are still in a situation where the pandemic could explode any time. In view of this we should stay firm and committed in preparations and actions against the pandemic. While the public should keep track of government advices and instructions, government should pull useful lessons from elsewhere to contextualize and apply in our settings. EPHA is firm and committed as usual to mobilize its members to support.

Felege Tena: we are grateful for your time and effort.

EPHA in Collaboration with Ministry of Health/AACAHB Conduct Community Based Active Case Surveillance and RCCE of COVID-19 Pandemic

The Ethiopian Public Health Association (EPHA) in collaboration with Ministry of Health/Addis Ababa City Administration Health Bureau has conducted Community Based Active Case Surveillance and Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) of COVID-19 pandemic.

The objective of this surveillance is to reduce the spread of COVID-19 pandemic through a house to house search and testing of people with Acute Respiratory Tract Infections.

Besides, it helps to enhance the implementation capacity of the community based team engaged in the active case surveillance of COVID-19 infection through providing technical and administrative supports.



According to Ato Bekele Chaka, acting director of Research and Publication Directorate, the target population of the surveillance is residents of 30 selected woredas in Addis Ababa city Administration which were identified as hotspot areas by AACAHB.

The financial support is from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation managed under Emergency preparedness and response COVID-19 plan of the Federal Ministry of Health.

EPHA is striving to its utmost in areas of community wide operational activities through providing technical, logistics and financial assistance before the pandemic becomes a major challenge to the country's health system.

EPHA Implements Work from Home Advice

As of 31st of March 2020, most staff members of the Ethiopian Public Health Association (EPHA) secretariat are off work place and stayed-at-home as a measure for prevention of COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Alemayehu Mekonnen, Executive Director of EPHA, said only management members and few key positions personnel are working in office. Whereas, most employees are working virtually from home by being on standby for any urgent need.

“This public health measure is mainly aimed at reduction of the staff’s exposure to COVID- 19 infection through avoiding the use of public transportation means.” He added.

EPHA also provides additional mechanical washing material at the main entrance and hand sanitizer dispensers at the gate of its premise and each floor of the building. This hand touch free washing tool is mechanical and operated by feet. The soap is positioned on the left side and the water dispenser on the right side. The tool helps to avoid contamination and promotes proper hand washing practice.

It is to be recalled that, EPHA has arranged an orientation on infection prevention to all staffs for better understanding and implementation.

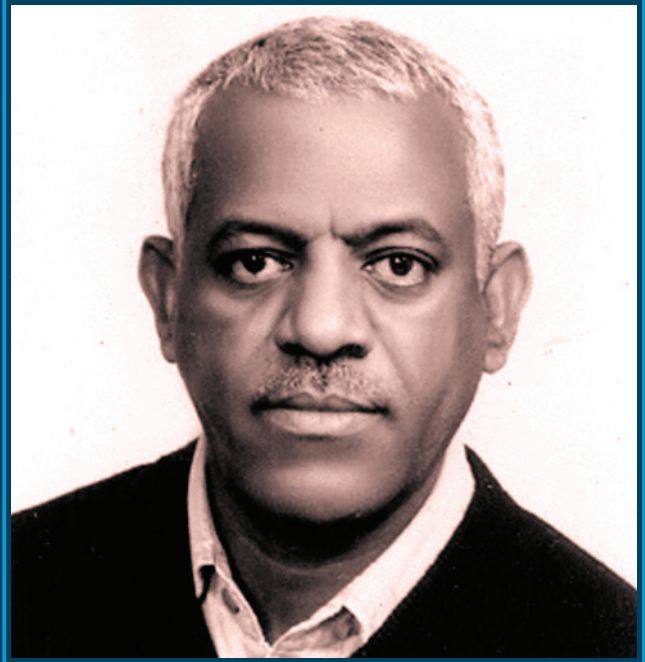
It is believed that, sister Associations and many other Civil Society Organizations will follow EPHA’s footsteps in prevention of COVID-19 pandemic.



EPHA Staff Contribute their Salary for Prevention of COVID-19 Pandemic

In response to the Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations Forum (ECSF), the Ethiopian Public Health Association (EPHA) secretariat staff have contributed from 10 to 100% of their monthly salary for the prevention of COVID-19 pandemic.

According to Ato Abebayehu Belay, Finance and Admin Director of EPHA, from a total of 36 employee ETB 146,953 (One hundred forty six thousand nine hundred fifty three) has been contributed to support the fight against coronavirus disease.



Dr. Alemayehu Mekonnen, Executive Director of EPHA, said it is critical time to show solidarity of citizens to safeguard the national economy and to fight the biggest challenge of the time.

EPHA deposited the contribution to a Commercial Bank account number opened by Ethiopian Civil Society Organization Forum that is particularly created for COVID-19 Emergency Response and Preparedness. This amount in turn will be transferred to the National Corona Mitigation trust Fund Account opened for the purpose.

It is to be recalled that, EPHA as a Health Professionals Association is in a frontline to involve in different activities of combating the pandemic.

የኢትዮጵያ ጤና አጠባበቅ ማኅበር

ሌሎች 8 የሙያ ማኅበራትን በማስተባበር

መጋቢት 16 ቀን 2012 ዓ.ም.

የኮሮና ቫይረስ በሽታን (ኮቪድ-19) ለመከላከል በርካታ የመንግስት እና የግል የመገናኛ ብዙሃን በተገኙበት በድረም ላይነር ሆቴል ጋዜጣዊ መግለጫ ሰጥቷል።



መግለጫው ከመንግስት፣ ከጤና ባለሙያዎች፣ ከሚዲያ አካላትና ከሕብረተሰቡ የሚጠበቁ ተግባራትን በዝርዝር ያስቀመጠ ሲሆን ከጋዜጠኞች ለቀረቡ ጥያቄዎች ከሙያ ማኅበራት ኃላፊዎች ምላሽ ተሰጥቷል።

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የኮቪድ - 19 የ "መ" ህጎች

- መራራቅ
- መታጠብ
- መቆየት
- መሸፈን

ህጎችን "መ" መተግበር አንርሳ

Public Health Emergency and Preparedness Technical Working Group (TWG) of EPHA Design a Strategy on prevention of COVID-19 Pandemic



According to Ato Yusuf Abdu, Acting Director of Members Affairs and Networking Directorate and secretary of TWG, the TWG has developed a strategy.

The strategy consists development of a protocol on how to train Health Extension Workers to assist COVID-19 outbreak prevention.

It also includes house to house active case detection and contact tracing surveillance.

Besides, the TWG is working on a Strategy to implement a legal enforcement on stay at home and social distancing.

Development of the role and responsibility of community volunteer's response and reaching the unreached community who are susceptible for COVID-19 pandemic are also part of the major focuses of the TWG strategy.

ከምንጨነቅ እንጠንቀቅ

**ከጤና ባለሙያዎች፣ ከመንግስትና ከኃይማኖት አባቶች
የሚሰጡንን ምክሮች ተግባራዊ እናድርግ**



የኢትዮጵያ ጤና አጠባበቅ ማኅበር!

Work Place Interventions in Ethiopian Public Health Association (EPHA) on COVID-19 Pandemic Prevention

EPHA has performed the following activities in relation to COVID-19 prevention:

- ❖ Cancels a huge event of the association (31st annual conference)
- ❖ Establishes taskforce on COVID-19
- ❖ Posting updates on notice board
- ❖ Sending updated information, links and articles to members through emails
- ❖ Demonstrates proper hand washing and provide hand washing materials at the gate (encourages to wash hands frequently)
- ❖ Posts different videos, news and articles about COVID-19 on EPHA facebook page, tiwitter page and website as well
- ❖ Arranges an orientation on COVID-19 to staffs
- ❖ Provides alcohol with hygienic absorbent cotton, sanitizer and glove to staffs
- ❖ Posts banner and scrolling banner on the prevention of COVID-19 at the gate
- ❖ Print and distributes leaflets on the prevention of COVID-19 to the public
- ❖ Print stickers for cars
- ❖ Conducts infection prevention training to staffs
- ❖ Conducts a press conference in collaboration with other eight professional associations on COVID-19 pandemic
- ❖ Delivers press release frequently
- ❖ Mobilize EPHA members to respond to the call for voluntary service by MoH
- ❖ Identifiy qualified professionals (specialists in epidemiology, mental health and communication) from EPHA members' database and assign them to give training to health professionals
- ❖ Distribute face mask to all staffs
- ❖ Conducts Community Based Active Case Surveillance and Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) of COVID-19 pandemic

It is believed that, other Governmental and Nongovernmental organizations will take a lesson from EPHA.

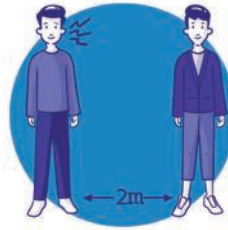
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እጆቻችን በሳሙና በአግባቡ ቶሎ ቶሎ እንታጠብ



ከመጨባበዋ፣ መተቃቀፍ እና መሳሰሉ እንታቀብ



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ለአስገዳጅ ጉዳይ ካልሆነ በስተቀር ከቤት አንወጣ



አካላዊና ማኅበራዊ ርቀታችን እንጠብቅ



ለኮሮና ቫይረስ ስርዌት (ኮቪድ - 19) አጋላጭ ሁኔታዎች ከነበሩን እና ምልክት ከታየብን በአስቸኳይ 8335 ወይም 952 በመደወል የህክምና እርዳታ እንጠይቅ።

Executive Board Members of EPHA

Dr. Mitike Molla	President
Dr. Mirgissa Kaba	V/President
Dr. Kidist Lulu	Secretary
Dr. Adamu Addissie	Treasurer
Mr. Workneh Kassie	Member
Mr. Wondimu Gebeyehu	Member
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Photo News

Partial View of nine professional associations' press conference that was held on March 25 on prevention of covid-19 at Dreamliner Hotel, Addis Ababa



Partial View of Infection Prevention Training to EPHA staffs



Supervision on Community Based Active Case Surveillance of COVID-19 at Kirkos Sub-City, Woreda 10, Addis Ababa, 15 May 2020

