

**Headquarters Address**

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24 March 2020

STATEMENT

Rwanda Interfaith Council on Health (RICH) would like to commend the Government of Rwanda for its ongoing national efforts to prevent and respond to the coronavirus pandemic.

As we are all know, the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) has been spreading all over the world, endangering individuals and communities.

Rwanda Interfaith council on Health (RICH), as a Network of religious Organizations working together with the Government of Rwanda and other partners in promotion of health; we have an important role in collaborating to end the spread of this disease, especially among our denominations including our FBOs members, religious followers, as well as all Rwandans.

To support national efforts, we encourage everyone to follow government guidelines on how to prevent and respond to the pandemic and urge people not to panic.

We encourage religious leaders, agents of change the sharing of the government guidelines for preventing the spread of the COVID-19 with relatives, friends, religious communities and the general communities.

However; please be aware of the misinformation that is also shared on different social media platforms.

In other words, do research with accredited professional organizations, the Rwanda Biomedical Board (RBC), the Ministry of Health, and the World Health Organization (WHO).

In this regard, we want to remind the members of the Board of Directors, the Secretariat staff, District Interfaith Committees, religious leaders, RICH Focal Persons, volunteers and beneficiaries the following guidelines and other instructions as will be recommended by the Ministry of Health:

1. Avoid unnecessary movement and visit;
2. Stay at home to limit the transmission of coronavirus;
3. Avoid unnecessary physical contact with others;
4. Avoid shaking hands or embracing;

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5. Wash hands many times with soap;
6. Put hand sanitizers in public places;
7. Remind children to follow these guidelines, focusing particularly, on avoiding physical contact, handshakes, embracing, washing hands many times and staying at home.
8. A person with symptoms of COVID-19 (dry cough, high fever) should stay at home and call the toll-free number 114 for further guidance, or consult a community health worker.

We pray for all those who have been afflicted by the sickness. May God contain this pandemic, heal the sick and guide the scientists to find medicine and a vaccine.

Blessings union of prayer,

Archbishop Antoine KAMBANDA

Chairperson

Rwanda Interfaith Council on Health (RICH)