

Dr. Frank Ankobea

President

Dr. Justice Yankson

General Secretary



GHANA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

GMA House, Korle-Bu, Accra.

Member:
African Medical Association (AfMA)
Commonwealth Medical Association (CMA)
World Medical Association (WMA)

P. O. BOX 1596, Accra-Ghana
Tel: +233 – 0302 – 670 510 / 66 54 58
Fax: +233 – 0302 – 670511
Email: info@ghanamedassoc.org
ghanamedicalassociation@gmail.com
Website: www.ghanamedassoc.org

Our Ref:

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Your Ref:

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE 4TH NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (NEC) MEETING OF THE GHANA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (GMA) HELD AT THE GMA SECRETARIAT, KORLE-BU, ACCRA, GREATER ACCRA REGION ON 30TH JULY, 2021

The National Executive Council (NEC) of GMA having met and deliberated extensively on pertinent issues concerning the health sector in particular and the country at large, hereby states as follows;

1. THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC 3RD WAVE AND OUR NATIONAL RESPONSE

In the last couple of weeks, the COVID-19 case count has increased sharply resulting in a 3rd Wave of the Pandemic in the country driven largely by the Delta and Alpha variants.

This increasing case count can directly be attributed to:

- i. The total disregard for, and the lack of enforcement of all relevant COVID-19 preventive protocols throughout the country and
- ii. Importation of cases from other countries via travellers arriving at our point (s) of entry.

The COVID-19 situation in the country is alarming and dire at this particular moment especially with the rapid spread of the Delta variant in our communities.

The risk of further exponential rises in the number of COVID-19 cases and its attendant strain on our already over stretched and fragile health system as well as the national economy cannot be over emphasized or discounted.

The various major health facilities (especially in the Greater Accra and Ashanti Regions) involved in the management of moderate, severe and critically ill COVID-19 patients continue to see increasing numbers of infections and related deaths.

- **BREAKING THE CHAIN OF COVID-19 TRANSMISSION**

The GMA calls for an urgent scale up of **free and enhanced** COVID-19 Testing in our communities (especially in all identified COVID-19 hot spots), Contact Tracing as well as strict isolation and management of all infected persons at designated centres together with **strict adherence and enforcement** of all COVID-19 preventive protocols to help break the chain of transmission.

- **COVID-19 VACCINE ACQUISITION AND DEPLOYMENT BY GOVERNMENT**

The GMA acknowledges Governments' effort at securing COVID-19 Vaccines for the country. The GMA however urges government to do all it can to fast track the process to enable Ghanaians get the needed vaccination before this 3rd wave of the pandemic currently being experienced nationwide gets out of hand.

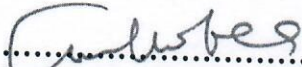
Vaccine acquisition and deployment for the benefit of all eligible persons in Ghana must be the topmost priority of Government at this point of the battle against COVID-19. Government must do all it takes for this to be achieved. Vaccination of Ghanaians against COVID-19 cannot be delayed any further.


2. NON-IMPLEMENTATION OF CONDITION OF SERVICE FOR MEDICAL DOCTORS AND DENTISTS WORKING WITH THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (MOH) AND ITS AGENCIES

The NEC has passed a resolution that all outstanding issues and related arrears should be settled completely at both the National and facility levels by Government before 30th September 2021, failure to which the following road map will kick start.

1. Outpatient-services (OPD) to be suspended for a week effective Friday 1st October, 2021
2. Withdrawal of all in-patient services will begin the following week (effective Friday 8th October, 2021) if all the issues are still not completely resolved.
3. The next week beginning 15th October, 2021 will see a complete withdrawal of all services.

The GMA hereby serves notice of this resolution to Central Government, the Ministry of Health and its Agencies, Ministry of Finance and all other stakeholders.


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Dr. Frank Ankobea
President, GMA


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Dr. Justice Yankson
General Secretary, GMA