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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC (COVID 19)

Following the Hon. Minister of Health's press conference on the two confirmed COVID 19 cases in Ghana, it is important that as Nurses and Midwives who are expected to stand on the battle front just as soldiers do in times of war be prepared for the task at hand. The Union of Professional Nurses and Midwives Ghana, (UPNMG) would like to call on the Ministry of Health, all agencies and stakeholders in the health sector to ensure that appropriate PPE's are provided to protect Nurses and Midwives who have no choice but to bear the risk in managing cases in our various health delivery points.

We also want to urge government to strengthen our port health system to ensure effective screening of all those who travel in and out of our country. Immediate steps should be taken to intensify checks at our tourist centres.

This also comes to caution Nurses and Midwives to protect themselves always using the standard precautions and additional precautions outlined by the World Health Organisation (WHO). Let us not take anything for granted. We cannot afford to lose any Nurse or Midwife in the process of caring for their clients. The use of the PPE does not protect the health workers alone but also the clients we handle day in and day out.

The WHO has recommended some safety tips as precautionary measures. These measures should not be taken lightly in the hospital settings as well. As Nurses and Midwives, let us intensify;

1. Hand washing with soap and under running water and the use of hand sanitizers where the hands are not visibly soiled
2. The use of face mask and other PPE's
3. Get to know the case definition of COVID 19 to help identify suspected cases.

All Nurses and Midwives are advised to stay safe while they work through these trying times. As we have always done, we will defeat COVID 19. Long Live Nurses and Midwives, Long Live mother Ghana.



John Agbenyeavu

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