



# MINISTRY OF HEALTH

## THE WEEKLY EPIDEMIOLOGICAL BULLETIN

### WEEK 38: 14<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> SEP 2020

Dear Reader,

We are pleased to share our 38<sup>th</sup> weekly epidemiological bulletin for the year 2020.

This epidemiological bulletin serves to inform all stakeholders at district, national, and global levels on disease trends, public health surveillance and interventions undertaken in detecting, preventing and responding to public health events in Uganda on a weekly basis.

#### In this issue, we showcase the following updates

- ◆ Uganda updates on COVID-19
- ◆ Suspected rabies (Animal bites\_dog bites)
- ◆ TB Emergency response updates
- ◆ National trends of suspected epidemic prone diseases
- ◆ National, regional and district weekly surveillance reporting
- ◆ Health worker infections amidst COVID-19 response

Uganda Joined the world to celebrate World Rabies day, in this issue we share with you how rabies can be prevented and the legal framework on rabies control.

*For comments please contact: Dr. Allan Muruta, Commissioner, Department of Integrated Epidemiology, Surveillance and Public Health Emergencies - MoH; P.O BOX 7272 Kampala, Tel: 080010066 (toll free); Email: esd@health.go.ug or esdugandazz@gmail.com*

Fig 1b: Epidemic curve of COVID-19 as of 20<sup>th</sup> Sep 2020 (n=6468)

#### Current public health threats

#### COVID-19 as of 13<sup>th</sup> Sep 2020

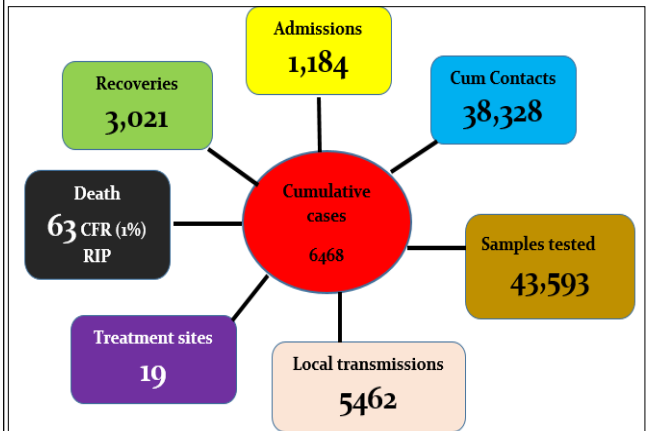
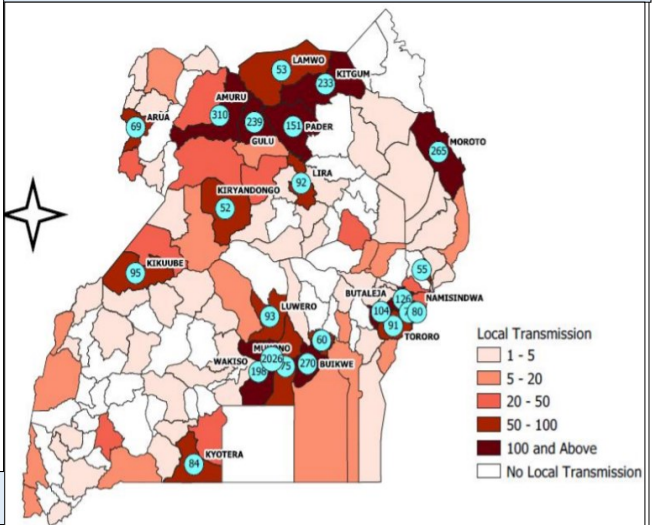
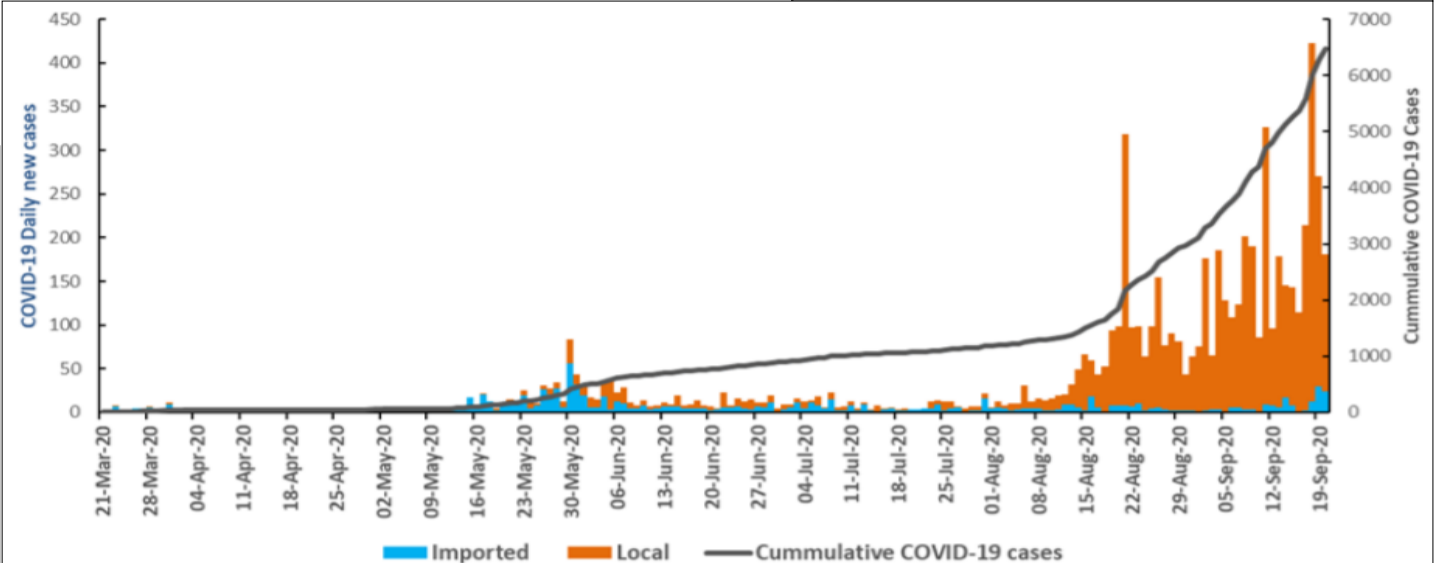


Fig 1a: Distribution of COVID-19 Local Transmission



Source: COVID-19 Surveillance data



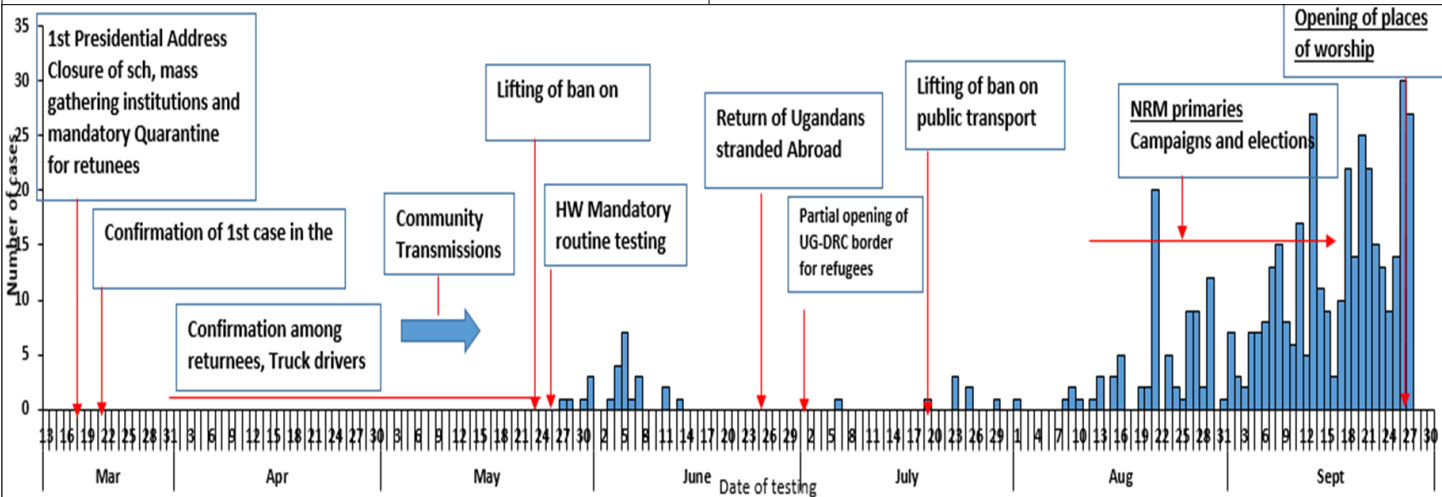
## Health Workers who contract COVID 19 During the response as 13th Aug 2020 (n=464)

- The criteria for determining Front Line Health Workers HW includes all staff involved in the provision of care to a COVID-19 patient or working in a health care facility caring for COVID-19 patients
- These may include; Clinicians, Physicians other Allied Health Professionals and auxiliary health workers such as cleaning and laundry personnel, x-ray physicians among others

**Case count**

- 464 total confirmed cases (fig 2)
- 6 deaths; CFR 1.3%
- Underlying conditions among the fatal cases
  - Diabetes
  - Hypertension
  - HIV

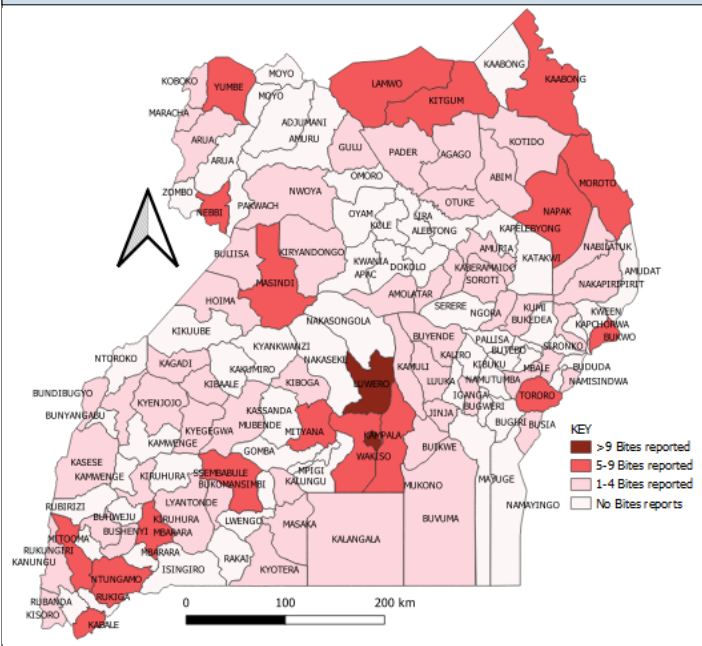
**Fig 2: Epidemic curve of COVID-19 Health Workers infections, May-Sep 2020**



### Suspected Rabies (Animal Bites)

- There is a gradual increase in number of animal bites
- Soroti (13) reported the highest number of animal bites followed by Masindi (14) (fig 3)

**Fig 3: Distribution of Animal bites, week 38 (n=268)**



### Tuberculosis (TB), week 37

**Statistics**

- National OPD TB screening (%) for week 38 was 46%
- 44% (706/1607) TB cases diagnosed nationally in week 38
- National weekly reporting (%) for week 38 was 85%,
- Increase in TB case finding in Karamoja and Lango Regions over last 3 weeks; 53% (49/92) were diagnosed in Acholi Region from, 72% (73/102) in Lango Region and 113% (78/69) in Karamoja Region
- Within Uganda Prison Services, of the 57% (4987/9554)
- 4.5% (226/4987) presumptive,
- 5.3% (12/226) were confirmed with TB among presumptives,
- Midterm evaluation has been recommended from the National Task Force.
- Resource mobilization for the mid term evaluation is still ongoing

## Uganda Joins the world to celebrate World Rabies Day

- Rabies is a deadly zoonotic disease caused by a virus and has no cure. It affects both humans and animals.
- The virus enters the body through saliva of an infected animal
- The virus moves to the brain where it multiplies and spreads to other parts of the body
- Incubation period is 1–3 months
- Symptoms in humans include; Aquaphobia, photophobia, headache, anxiety among others
- In animals; they tend to be aggressive, excessive drooling of saliva, chewing on strange things such as rocks, wood etc



### The following should be done in case of an animal bite

- Wash the site with soap plenty of running water for at least 15 minutes
- Disinfect the wound with alcohol and Iodine
- Immediately consult a Doctor or seek medical attention at the nearest Health facility



### Ministry of Health recommends the following to be done;

- Do not kill the animal! Because you will have killed evidence!! Consult a veterinarian or Animal Control Service in your area so they can handle it.
- The animal should be given food, water and space to move around, but isolated from other animals and people, and should be watched for signs of rabies for 14 days.
- If the animal gets sick or dies within 14 days, it should be reported immediately to the nearest veterinarian in your area to have the body tested for rabies.
- If the animal is free of signs of rabies after 14 days, it can go back to its usual life.

Communities can be safeguarded from Rabies by doing the following;

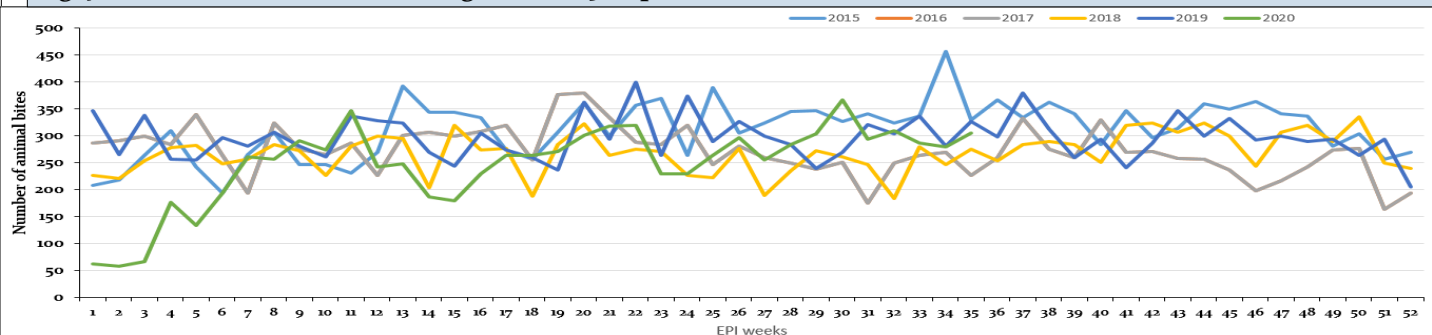
- Have your dogs and cats vaccinated against rabies at 3 months of age and then every year.
- Do not let them roam freely in the streets. Keep your dog on a leash when going out.
- Don't encourage a wild animal to come up to you by feeding it.
- It might seem calm and allow you to get close, but remember that this is not the way wild animals usually act. Something could be wrong.
- Stay away from animals you don't know because they may have rabies
- Never disturb a dog that is; caring for puppies, sleeping, or eating



### Did you know that controlling rabies is informed legally informed?

- The Rabies Act, Cap 44; provides for the suppression of rabies. It gives power to seize, detain or destroy stray dogs
- Animal disease Act, Cap 38; provides for control of animal diseases including separation of diseased animals from the healthy ones and reporting/ notifying of the disease to the Commissioner for Animal Health.
- Animal (straying) Act Cap 40; gives powers or authority to the veterinarians and police officers to seize and detain straying animals including dogs and if necessary, their disposal.
- Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Act, Cap 39; provides for penalties for injury, torture, ill treatment, beating done to animals, hence promoting observance of animal welfare. Among others

Fig 4: Trends of Animal Bites in Uganda, 2015-Sep 2020



## Priority Diseases

The data presented in table 1 consists of suspected cases. The data shows high numbers of water borne diseases such as; typhoid, Malaria, and cholera, dysentery in different parts of the country.

**Tab 1: Suspected Cases of epidemic prone Diseases, wk 38**

Conditions	Cases	Deaths	CFR(%)
AFP	8	0	0.0
AEFIs	2	0	0.0
Animal bites	268	0	0.0
Bacterial Meningitis	6	0	0.0
Cholera	51	0	0.0
Guinea Worm	0	0	0.0
Malaria	47804	34	0.07
Hepatitis B	93	0	0.0
Measles	34	0	0.0
NNT	0	0	0.0
Plague	0	0	0.0
Other Suspected			
VHFs	1	0	0.0
SARI	140	0	0.0
Typhoid fever	1096	0	0.0
Yellow fever	0	0	0.0
Anthrax	0	0	0.0
Leprosy	0	0	0.0
RR T.B	3	0	0.0

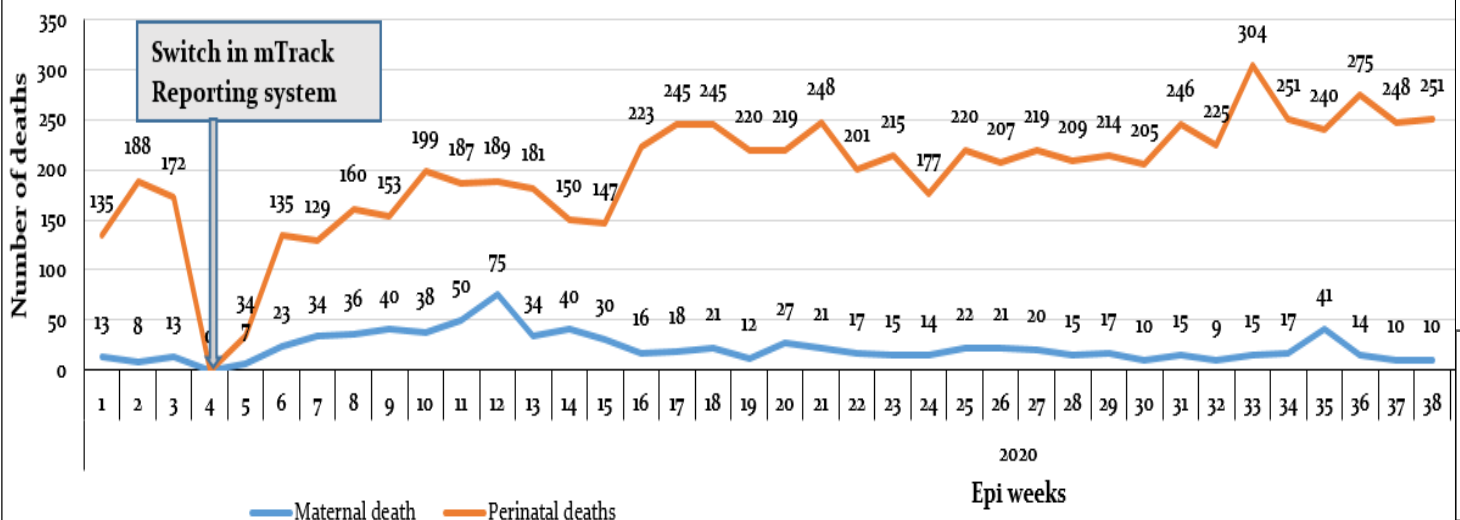
Data source: DHIS2

Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI), Viral Haemorrhagic Fevers (VHF), Neonatal Tetanus (NNT), Tuberculosis (T.B), Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP), Adverse Events Following Immunisation

## Measles (Confirmed cases)

- Cumulatively, Seventy-nine (81) districts have detected and investigated at least one suspected measles case.
- 36/81 districts reporting measles cases have had at least one positive IgM case

**Fig 6. Trends of maternal and perinatal deaths week 1– 38, 2020**



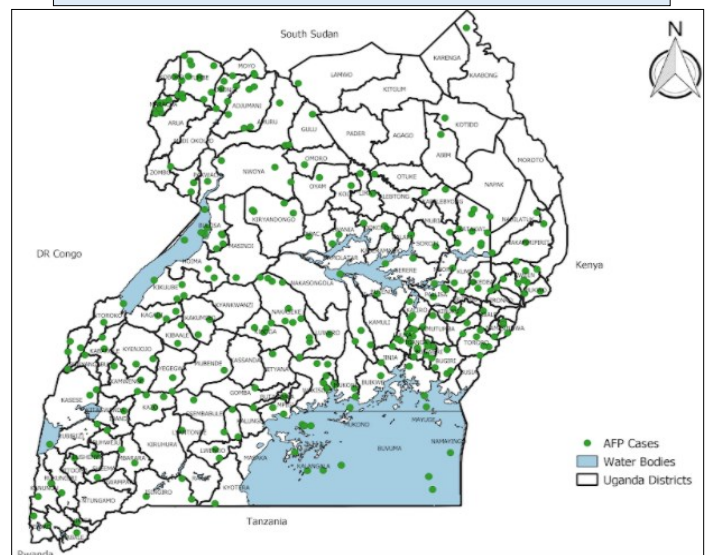
Data source: EPI lab

Data source: DHIS2

## Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) Surveillance

- A total of 8 AFP cases was reported during week 38 compared with 7 cases reported in week 37. The 8 cases were reported from; Butambala 1, Luuka 1, Mayuge 1, Nakaseke 2, Obongi 1, Rukiga 1 and Tororo 1.
- The Non-polio AFP rate is 1.28/100,000 children 0 - 14 years compared with 2.26/100,000 children 0 -14 years in 2019
- The adequate samples collection rate is 93.86% compared with 90.15% in 2019
- NPENT rate is 13.62% compared with NPENT rate of 14.16% in 2019
- Silent districts; Agago, Amudat, Amolatar, Alebtong, Butebo, Bududa, Busia, Buvuma, Gomba, Jinja, Kaberamaido, Kalungu, Karenga, Kitgum, Kitagwenda, Kiruhura, Kamuli, Kassanda, Kyankwanzi, Medi Okollo, Masaka, Moroto, Nakasongol, Ntungamo, Pader, Rakai Rubanda, Rwampara and Sironko (fig 5)

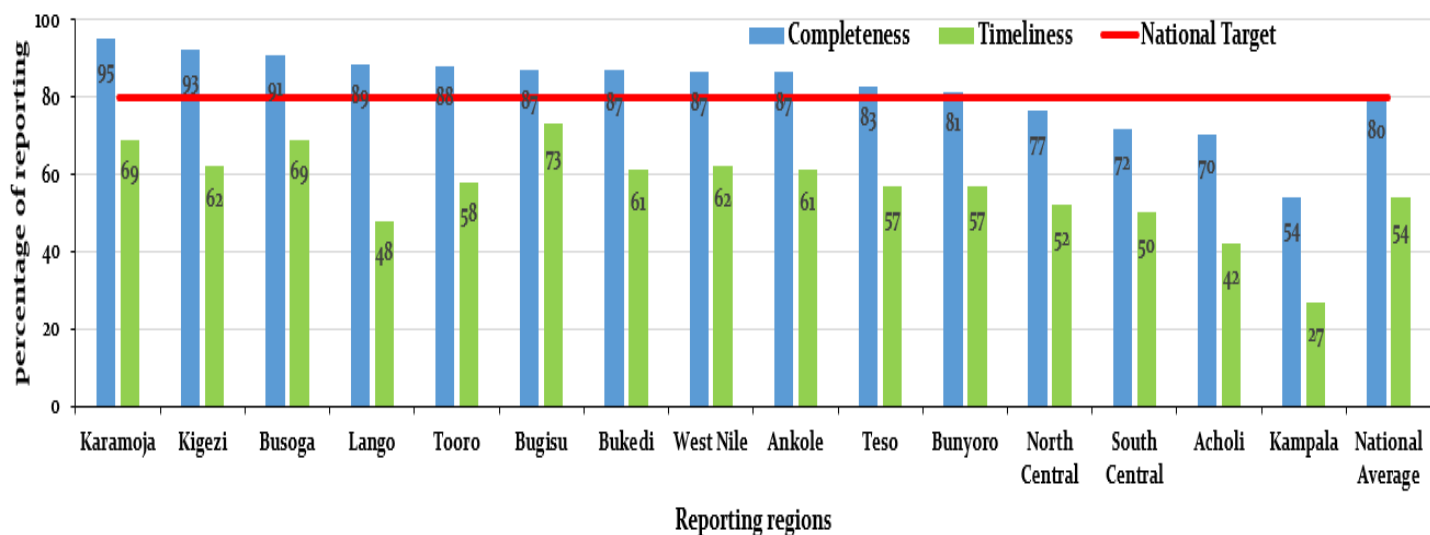
**Fig 5: AFP cases by District, week 38**



**Table 2: Distribution of maternal deaths (10) and perinatal deaths (251), week 38**

District	Name of HF	Maternal death-Deaths	District	Macerated Still births - Deaths	District	Fresh Still Birth - Deaths	District	Early Neonatal deaths 0-7 days - Deaths
Agago	Ambros Mem. Hosp	2	Kampala	20	Kampala	16	Kampala	23
Kaberamaido	Kaberamaido Hosp	1	Hoima	5	Kamuli	5	Hoima	5
Kamuli	Kamuli Mission	1	Kabarole	4	Hoima	5	Bugiri	4
Sheema	Kitagata	1	Mbarara	3	Bududa	4	Soroti	4
Tororo	Petta HC III	1	Bushenyi	3	Zombo	4	Kabale	3
Kiboga	Kiboga Hosp	1	Wakiso	3	Mubende	4	Zombo	3
Kitgum	Kitgum Hosp	1	Kyotera	2	Mukono	3	Iganga	2
Kayunga	Kayunga Hosp	1	Lira	2	Mbale	3	Mbale	2
Kampala	Kawempe	1	Mukono	2	Koboko	3	Rukungiri	2
			Kagadi	2	Jinja	3	Buikwe	2
			Mbale	2	Kayunga	3	Kamwenge	2
			Kikuube	2	Soroti	3	Kisoro	2
			Nebbi	2	Kaabong	2	Bushenyi	2
			Kazo	2	Mbarara	2	Kabarole	2
			Kamwenge	2	Tororo	2	Kiboga	2
			Luwero	2	Kiboga	2	Kitgum	2
			Agago	2	Kitgum	2	Bundibugyo	1
			Yumbe	1	Mitooma	2	Kaabong	1
			Bukedea	1	Kyotera	1	Nabilatuk	1
			other districts	22	other districts	22	other districts	11

**Fig 7: Completeness and Timeliness of weekly reporting per region, Epi week 38, 2020**

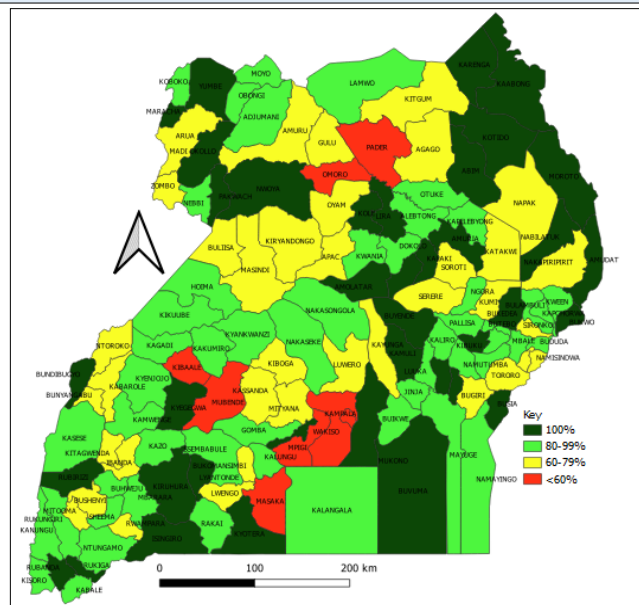


- There is a general improvement in completeness of reporting with the highest reporting rates recorded in Karamoja (95), Kigezi (93), Lango (89), Tooro (88), Busoga (91), Bugisu (87), and West Nile (87) while Kampala at (54), South central (72)% and North central (77). National average reporting rate declined to 80%
- Timeliness is still a challenge across the country. The regions with the highest reporting rates on time include; Bugisu (73) Karamoja (69), Kigezi (62), Busoga (69), West Nile (62), Bukedi (61), Tooro (58), and Ankole (61). While those with the least reporting rates include Kampala (27) South Central (50), North Central (52) and Acholi (42) (refer to fig 8). National average Timeliness of reporting is 54%

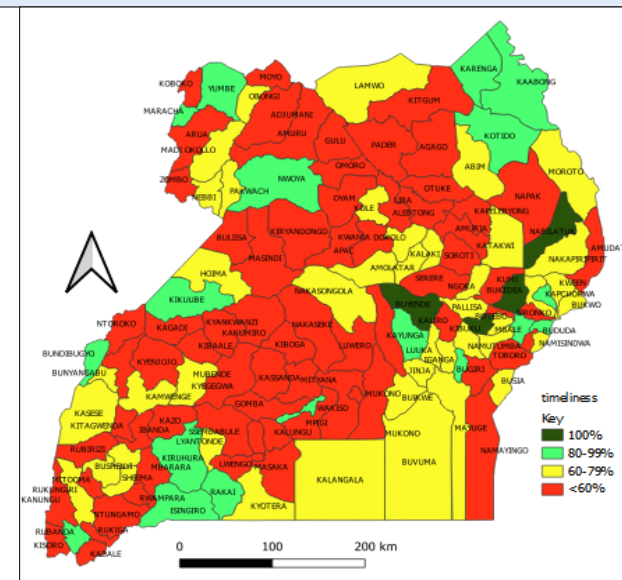
### Completeness and Timeliness of reporting by District

- There is a great improvement in completeness of reporting across all Districts (fig 8a)
- Majority of the districts reported late (fig 8b)

**Fig 8a: Completeness of reporting, week 38, 2020**



**Fig 8b: Timeliness of reporting, week 38, 2020**

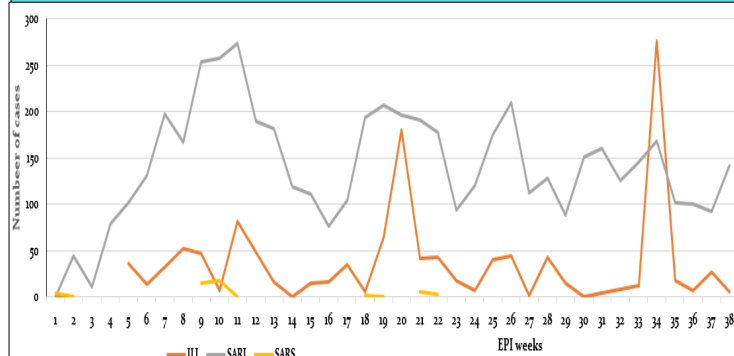


### Severe acute Respiratory Infections (SARI) amidst COVID

- SARIs are a significant cause of infectious disease morbidity and mortality
- Private health centers are reporting a surge of SARI especially in Kampala
- Differentiating COVID-19 from other SARIs is challenging
- Clinicians should be on the alert during assessments

- Particular emphasis should be put on patients presenting with Influenza like illnesses (ILI), Severe Acute Respiratory Illnesses (SARIs), and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)
- There has been a gradual increase in the number of cases of SARI, ILI nationally

**Fig 9: Trends of suspected SARI, ILI and SARS 2020**



### Recommendations

- Regions of; Lango, Kigezi, West Nile, Tooro, Karamoja, Ankole and Bugisu achieved the national targets for the last two weeks
- UNEPI reminds and encourages all the districts to carry out active search for AFP, NNT, EAFI and measles cases in their health facilities and communities.
- Maternal deaths and perinatal deaths audits should be conducted to address issues of excessive deaths of mothers and newborns especially for Kampala region.
- MoH is dedicated to providing relevant COVID-19 PPE and therefore encourages all HWs to adhere to SOPs

### Acknowledgement

- MOH acknowledges all efforts made by all districts and health facilities in surveillance activities

### Editorial team :

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**Remember, your feedback is important to us.**