**GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS**

- As of 20-March-2020, there were 234,073 total confirmed cases and 9,840 total deaths with a resultant increase of 11.5% and 12.1% respectively in the last 24 hours
- 167 countries/Regions are affected of which 39 are in Africa region including Ethiopia
- WHO launched a messaging service with partners WhatsApp and Facebook with a potential to reach 2 billion people with real time critical information to protect them from coronavirus and enable government decision-makers protect the health of their populations.

**WHAT IS THE SITUATION IN ETHIOPIA**

- New reported confirmed cases are 0
- Total number of reported confirmed cases is 9
- Cumulative number of suspected cases is 150
- Number of suspected cases currently in isolation facility is 19
- Cumulative number of suspected cases with Negative Lab result 94
- Cumulative number of registered contacts is 256
- Cumulative number of alerts/rumors is 282
- All travelers to Ethiopia will be subjected to a 14-day mandatory quarantine in designated hotels at their own personal cost effective 23-March-2020

**Fig 1: African countries reporting confirmed COVID-19 cases as of March 21, 2020**

The first case of Coronavirus in the African continent was reported in Egypt on 14-February-2020.

As of 21-March-2020, a total number of 39 (70.1%) African countries have been affected with a cumulative number of 921 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 29 deaths with a case fatality rate of 3.1%. This represents a 11.8% increase in cases and 38.1% increase in deaths in the last 24 hours. The deaths were reported by Algeria (11), Egypt (08), Morocco (03) Burkina Faso (02), Sudan (01), Tunisia (01), DRC (01), Gabon (01) and Mauritius (01). In the last 24 hours, Madagascar and Tanzania are the new countries that reported COVID-19 confirmed cases.

- Take preventive measures extremely seriously
- Avoid hand-shake and hugging at all times
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water or use an alcohol base hand rub
- Get information from reliable sources only

- Signs and symptoms of COVID-19 are: Fever, Cough, Sore throat, Difficulty in breathing and other flu like symptoms such as running nose and sneezing
- The public is advised to report any suspected cases to the nearest health facility or call 8335 or +251929908433