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**MEDIA COUNCIL OF UGANDA**

**For a free and responsible press**

**COVID 19 STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE GUIDELINES FOR THE MEDIA**

**( SOPS).**

The spread of Covid -19 among the population has taken a high toll. A number of people have been affected by the deadly virus which has taken many lives. The virus is transmitted from a sick person to a healthy person. This calls for individuals to take extra care on how they associate with other members of the population.

The media is in the middle of this challenging situation since they have to acquire and disseminate information regarding the same and other issues. Media council therefore advises journalists and all stakeholders to adhere to the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) guidelines.

 **The Covid-19 Standard operating procedures for the media.**

1. Ensure work hygiene. Wash your hands at all times; sanitize your hands and working gadgets whenever necessary.
2. Observe social distance. Maintain a distance of approximately two metres from the next person (a reporter should keep distance from the population at the reporting scene or the person being interviewed).
3. Wear appropriate masks whenever you are in a public place.
4. Avoid crowded places. Online engagements should be prioritized in order to minimize face to face interactions, however If you should attend a physical meeting or a workshop endeavour to follow SOPs to the dot.
5. Avoid shaking hands, touching of the face especially the eyes, nose and mouth.
6. Avoid touching objects and surfaces in public places.
7. Colleagues who have contracted Covid 19 should not be discriminated or stigmatized but rather be supported in any manner appropriate.

These guidelines are meant to be used as a tool to prevent the spread of Covid 19 among the media personnel during the execution of their duties and while off duty.