



Kigali. March 16, 2020

## COVID-19 PANDEMIC: NPC COMMUNIQUE TO PHARMACY PROFESSIONALS

Dear Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians, following the declaration of the COVID-19 as a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the confirmation of the first cases of COVID-19 the disease in Rwanda by the Ministry of Health on March 14, 2020,

The National Pharmacy Council (NPC) call on pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to step up and contribute in preventing the spread of the disease and management of suspected and confirmed cases in the healthcare system.

To fight the COVID-19 pandemic, it is paramount to have accurate and up to date information. It is in this line that the National Pharmacy Council is developing resources to support pharmacy professionals in controlling the pandemic. The resources will be disseminated in few days through our communication channels. Meanwhile, pharmacy professionals are urged to abide by and advice to the community to follow the preventives measures provided by both the Ministry of Health and World Health Organization.

Though, the National Pharmacy Council acknowledges the important work that pharmacy professionals are doing on the frontline, **it also reminds all pharmacy professionals not to engage in a kind of unprofessional and unethical activities that may lead to a lack of public trust in our noble profession.** For the last days there have been claims from the public where pharmacists have been acquiring and dispensing low quality products and hiking prices for products used in the prevention of the disease. NPC is investigating such cases and anyone involved in those kind of unethical behavior will be sanctioned.

NPC continues to follow closely the situation and commit to collaborate with relevant authorities in preventing the spread of the pandemic and to ensure that pharmacy professionals have up-to-date and accurate information about the pandemic.

**Dr. HAHIRWA Innocent**  
Chairperson

