



**OBONG UNIVERSITY OBONG NTAK,
ETIM EKPO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA
AKWA IBOM STATE**

UNIVERSITY HANDBOOK

ON

**GUIDELINES, RULES AND REGULATIONS
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OBONG
UNIVERSITY COVID – 19 POLICY AND
PROTOCOLS.**

OCTOBER, 2020

PREAMBLE:

Novel Corona Virus (SARS Covid 2) popularly referred to as Covid – 19 became a global pandemic in 2019. By March, 2020, the rapid spread of the disease led to the forced closure of all Universities in Nigeria by NUC in line with the Federal Government directives. In a bid to contend and address the deadly effects and impact of covid- 19 disease across the country, the Federal Government imposed a lockdown policy on all non- essential services and activities in the country from March 2020.

In response to the controls and checks put in place by National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) to curtail the incidence of the disease, the Federal Government embarked on a phased easing of Covid – 19 lockdown to address the resultant downturn of socio-economic conditions prevalent in the country as a result of covid-19 pandemic. As part of the easing the Federal Ministry of Education in collaboration with the relevant Agencies of the Federal Government has approved that Universities in the country should prepare and provide physically, hygienically sound, secure and safe school environment based on total compliance with Covid -19 protocols as provided by WHO, NCDC and the Federal Ministry of Education for reopening of Academic activities in universities.

In line with these directives, Obong University Management set up and inaugurated Covid-19 Response Committee to develop the University Covid -19 policy and protocols. This Handbook provides the basic guidelines, rules and regulations for the implementation of the University Covid -19 policy and protocols. Compliance with the detailed prescriptions in this Handbook in line with the University Covid-19 policy and protocols for all staff, students and external visitors to the University community is **MANDATORY**.

- 2.0 Covid-19 is a contagious viral infection that generally causes respiratory illness in human beings. It can attack individuals with no form of symptoms (asymptomatic) and may come with diagnosed symptoms. It can surreptitiously and very rapidly too, result in severe illness with potential life-threatening complications. The known diagnosed symptoms include but not limited to:
 - a. Fever, headache, chills, nausea or vomiting

- b. Dry cough, sore throat
- c. Shortness of breath, nasal congestion and other respiratory indications
- d. Production of sputum
- e. Fatigue
- f. Muscle or joint pains (myalgia/arthritis)
- g. Diarrhea
- h. Coughing blood (hemoptysis) and conjunctival congestion
- i. Loss of smell or taste

Corona Virus is a deadly virus that is transmitted through droplets and fomites during close unprotected contact with an infected person. The virus travels at a high speed before dropping within a distance of two meters (6 feet) or more from an infected patient spewing it into the air. It takes an average of 5 to 6 days after infection and approximately 14 days for symptoms to show on the infected patient. The disease is deadly and carries high risk of transmission and circulation within a community of people.

3.0 Obong University Covid-19 policy Guidelines:

- 3.1 The Management of Obong University has put in place the broad Covid-19 policy which can be accessed on the University Website and all Notice boards on campus. Staff and students are advised to read and understand this policy and adhere strictly upon resumption of all academic activities within the University campus, effective 5th October, 2020.
- 3.2 It is the cardinal policy guideline that every member of Obong University community is responsible for the maintenance of safe, healthy, hygienic and sanitation standards within the University environment.
- 3.3 Every staff, every student and every visitor within the University campus must adhere strictly and comply with the covid-19 protocols as prescribed by NCDC and the Federal Ministry of Education with regards to body temperature check, wearing of face mask, hand washing and social distancing.

3.4 Body Temperature check: It is compulsory that all staff, students, and visitors must submit themselves to a non-contact body temperature clinical test with an electronic thermometer prescribed by NCDC. The University Management has designated specific stations for this clinical test starting from the main entrance to the University campus and including entrances to all buildings and open arenas. Temperature reading of 38⁰C and above shall be considered an indication for referral to appropriate Covid19 testing centre.

Note: Failure to submit to this clinical test at any station within the University campus amounts to gross misconduct and is punishable in the case of staff and students in accordance with the University disciplinary regulations and in case of a visitor with immediate refusal of entry into the University campus or any of its facilities.

3.5 Hand Washing: It is mandatory that at the main entrance into the University campus every staff, student and visitor must wash his or her hands with clean water and liquid soap or sanitize his or her hands with alcohol- based sanitizer that are provided by the University Management at the hand washing station. It is also compulsory for everybody within the University premises to wash and sanitize his or her hands before entering any building or University block at the hand washing stations located at the entry points of all buildings or blocks in the University campus.

Note: No academic or non- academic staff or student is exempted from observing this protocol. Failure to comply with this protocol amounts to gross misconduct and shall be punishable in accordance with the University disciplinary regulations.

Note also that the University Management shall provide pocket size container filled sanitizers to students on resumption of academic activities on 5th October, 2020 at a cost of ₦500 per container to ensure that clinically approved hand sanitizers are used by students in the University.

3.6 Compulsory wearing of Face mask: Face masks protects the person who wears it and also protects others that he comes in contact with. It is the University Covid-19 policy/protocol that all staff, students and all visitors to the University campus must wear face masks to cover the mouth and the nose at all times at all locations within the University premises. It is mandatory for

staff and students to possess not less than two (2) washable face masks upon the resumption of academic activities in the University on 5th October, 2020. To ensure that this protocol is observed strictly the University management shall provide two (2) washable face masks to every Staff and student who do not have, at the cost of ₦300 each. Failure to wear face masks and in proper form by staff and students at any time or periods stipulated by the University Management shall constitute a gross misconduct punishable in accordance with the University disciplinary regulations. Visitors who fail to comply with this protocol shall be denied access to the University campus or any of its facilities.

Note: No student shall be admitted into any Lecture hall without strict compliance with this protocol. No lecturer should hold any lecture with students without putting on their face mask.

3.7 **Social Distancing:** Covid-19 is a communal disease. It spreads very fast within a community through transmission from person to person. The only sure remedy for discouraging quick transmission of the disease from one person to another is by way of the procedure popularly referred to as “social distancing”. The presumption is that since the virus travels at a high speed from an infected person and drops down within the average of two (2) meters (6 feet), if one is not within this limit in distance, one may avoid being infected by the virus from the infected person in the circumstance. Therefore, it is the University Covid-19 policy that social distancing protocol must be observed by all staff, students and visitors within the University campus. This protocol prescribes at least two (2) meters (6 feet) distance between any two individuals within the University Campus. Students sitting arrangement in lecture halls, dining halls, hostels or any other locations within the school premises must be in compliance with this protocol. Any gathering of people within the University campus must be arranged to meet with the requirement of this protocol. Failure to comply with social distancing protocol of the University shall tantamount to gross misconduct punishable in accordance with the extant disciplinary regulations of the University.

4.0 **Commitment by the University Management:** The University management is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of staff, students and others within the University campus:

- a. The entire premises of the University campus shall be kept clean and tidy on resumption of academic activities.
 - b. All offices, classrooms or lecture halls, laboratories academic centres, workshops, hostels including common rooms and students centres, dining halls, canteens, shops, toilets/bathrooms, stores, table, chairs, cabinets, shelves, other office and lecture apparatuses and all appurtenances attached to any building within the University campus shall be thoroughly washed and disinfected before resumption of academic activities.
 - c. The entire University campus shall be fumigated before resumption of academic activities.
 - d. Wash station are located within the University campus particularly at the main entrance into the University campus, at the entrance of every building or block or laboratory or workshop, with liquid soaps and hand sanitizers.
 - e. Electronic thermometers are kept and used at the main entrance to the University campus and two other strategic stations to wit, entrance to administrative building and the lecture halls.
 - f. Posters and flex on Covid-19 protocols are conspicuously displayed at the main gate into the University campus, entrances into all offices, classrooms/lecture halls, laboratories, academic centres, workshops, hotels, common rooms, student centres, dining halls, canteens, shops and all open arenas in the University.
 - g. Canopies set up outside administrative block to accommodate visitors to the institution during working hours.
 - h. **Note:** It shall be an offence to allow more than one visitor to sit with a staff of the University in any office while transacting any business within the University premises. Any staff who contravenes this rule shall be disciplined for misconduct in accordance with the University disciplinary regulations
 - i. A Sensitization Seminar shall be mounted for both staff and students on the resumption of academic activities in the University.
 - j. Provision of isolation unit in the University medical centre.
- 5.0 **University precautionary measures:** In a bid to stem the tide of the incidence of any out-break or transmission from person to person of corona virus, the University Management lays down the following precautionary measures as part of Obong University Covid-19 policy:

- i. Only one (1) student is to sit on the long University Students' desks while attending lectures or any other academic activity
- ii. Only two (2) students are to share a room in the hostels.
- iii. Dining tables are to be arranged two (2) meters apart (6 feet) and each table sits to 2 students at a time.
- iv. No social gathering or parties are authorized by student within or outside the University premises unless approved by the University Management.
- v. No student shall be permitted to travel out of the University campus except on medical grounds or approval granted by the University Management.
- vi. Parents or guardians who so desires must on resumption of school give a written undertaking to the University for their ward(s) to reside off campus as accommodation in the campus is compulsory. In addition, a parent or guardian that undertakes that the wards will be residing off campus must also give additional written undertaking in a specified form to be issued by the University guaranteeing that such off campus students shall submit to total compliance with the University Covid -19 policy/protocols, failure of which such students shall be liable to sanction by the University in accordance with the University disciplinary rules and regulations.
- vii. On no account should any student leave the University campus for Sunday Service outside the University campus.

6.0 **Monitoring and Enforcement:** The University Management has set up the University Covid-19 monitoring team to monitor and implement the University Covid 19 policy and enforce strict compliance with the Covid 19 protocols by staff, students and visitors to the University. The monitoring Team shall submit weekly reports to the Vice Chancellor and shall immediately inform the Vice Chancellor of all identified cases of Covid-19 suspected in the University for onward notification of relevant jurisdictional public health authority as per NCDC directives.

7.0 **Disciplinary Action:** All cases of non - compliance with the University Covid 19 protocols shall be referred to the University Disciplinary Committee for appropriate disciplinary action as specified in the University Disciplinary regulations.

8.0 **Conclusion:** The management of the University enjoins all staff and student to take issues relating to this Covid-19 policy and protocols seriously to

engender healthy, secure, safe and conducive academic environment in the University. The University shall not tolerate any form of non-compliance with the University Covid 19 policy and protocols and the University strictly warns every staff and student to refrain from any conduct that can make him or her a victim of non-compliance with this policy/protocols as such truancy shall be disciplined accordingly.

Please Note: Every student will have to fill a form at registration acknowledging that they have read, understand and will abide strictly with the provisions of this covid-19 policy.