

Sample advocacy letter to Ministry of Health

Date:

The Honourable Minister,
Ministry of Health

Dear Hon. Minister,

RE: Provision of Sign Language captioned videos for sensitization about COVID-19

Greetings on behalf of the deaf community across Uganda.

While we appreciate the effort made by the Ministry of Health to provide videos that help the public access health information about COVID-19, we have noted that the videos neither have sub-titles nor Sign language interpretation insets.

Sufficient to note, deaf people who account for close to 1,086,000 persons across Uganda basically utilize national sign language for communication and therefore, for them to be able to access COVID-19 information, it is important that the information is made available in national sign language.

We do suggest the following:

1. Provide sign language insets on information that is prepared for Social Media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube among others. A sign Language interpreter can be included in the production team to ease this.
2. Produce videos specifically meant to disseminate to the Deaf community via social media and field visits in the rural communities. The videos can be produced by deaf people and should be a complete and clear translation of the Ministry's verified information about COVID-19 such as the causes, prevention and symptoms of COVID-19.
3. Provide for Sign Language interpretation services during news pressers and ensure that the media team and broadcasters are able to fully ensure that the interpreter is visible on the broadcast screen.

With this effort, we are sure of enabling the inclusion of deaf people in the response against COVID-19 that will go a long way to ensure that deaf people stay safe and healthy during the pandemic.

For more information, kindly reach out to our information Officer by email info@deaf.org

We look forward to your positive response.

Kind regards

Jack Smith
Team Leader