

# Ghana Upstream Petroleum Chamber enforces COVID-19 protocols

### News Desk Report

THE Ghana Upstream Petroleum Chamber is enforcing guidelines on the COVID 19 pandemic provided by the government in order to work with members to strictly follow government recommendations.

The chamber is working with companies in the sector to take precautionary measures to avoid the spread of the virus by putting in place a full procedural protocol to prevent and support treatment, should there be a case of an infection.

### Operational policies

The companies have also implemented extensive operational policies and procedures to ensure the safety of staff and crew, prevent the transmission of the virus and make sure operations continue.

Commenting on the situation, the CEO of the Chamber, Mr David Ampofo said, "the government has taken the lead with a host of measures including a mandatory 14-day quarantine for anyone entering the country and a two-week shutdown of some major cities in

the country.

"Clearly no effort is being spared to reduce the rate of transmission and guarantee business continuity. The industry recognises the urgency of the situation and is fully in support of the government's efforts," he said.

### Protecting workforce

He said as part of the stringent measures being put in place by the chamber, "anyone suspected of having an infection both offshore and onshore will be placed in immediate quarantine following the guidelines provided by the government, the respective company guidelines and safety measures."

Mr Ampofo explained that offshore travel restrictions were being observed and many



**The global death toll of the COVID-19 pandemic has risen to more than 35,000.**

**There is a growing concern about the impact of the virus on the oil and gas industry and the economy as a whole.**

### Essential services

Mr Ampofo explained that the member companies rendered essential services, "since we are all dependent on the need for oil and gas to continue to flow at this critical period.

"The operators and government are working together to ensure safety and business

expatriate staff outside the country had deferred travel until a later date, while employees who had recently travelled from high risk areas of the world were not allowed to travel offshore, regardless of whether they had symptoms or not.

"Those who have travelled from low risk countries are required to self-quarantine and seek medical advice if they have the symptoms," he said.

continuity," he gave the assurance, adding that the industry looked forward to being included in the exemption list in the current lockdown.

He was happy that so far, no one in the industry had tested positive for the virus and members of the chamber were being urged to do all in their power to reduce the workforce's risk of exposure.

### Emergency response plans

"To support the government's effort and to protect staff, stakeholders and the communities we operate in, some companies have also implemented and activated their emergency response plans and business continuity plans," he stated.

Mr Ampofo explained that by the protocols, it meant that all non-essential and non-critical operational staff were working from home, or remotely.

"We continue to monitor events and will work closely with government to minimise the spread of the corona virus in the oil and gas industry and the country as a whole," he concluded.