

ISER WELCOMES THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH DECISION TO WITHDRAW THE NATIONAL ID REQUIREMENT FOR COVID 19 VACCINATION

PRESS RELEASE

10 March 2021, Kampala, Uganda. On 2 March 2021, the Ministry of Health announced that it [would require a national ID](#) before an eligible person would be able to receive a COVID 19 vaccine. As the Initiative for Social and Economic Rights (ISER) [repeatedly pointed](#) out including in its policy brief, [Government Requirement to Have a National Id Will Exclude Millions](#), this was discriminatory. On [5 March 2021](#), ISER and Unwanted Witness [filed](#) a case, Misc Cause 80 of 2021, before the High Court seeking an injunction against this requirement noting that there were other forms of IDs that could be used including driving permits, local council identification.

On 9 March 2021, the Ministry of Health [announced](#) it would no longer require national ID as sole identity marker and would [allow other forms of IDs](#) like drivers' licenses, refugee identity cards, work permits, passports and verification by Local Council officials and Village Health Teams.

“We welcome the Ministry of Health Policy Reversal. Insisting on National ID would have excluded millions including health workers who have put their lives on the line to combat the COVID 19 Pandemic,” noted Allana Kembabazi, Program Manager, ISER. “We are talking about basic human rights: health, life. Why insist on a national ID as a precondition to receive a health service like a vaccine in the first place?”

“We are glad to see the Ministry of Health has listened to the voice of the people and withdrawn the National ID requirement. The Ministry of Health should issue a circular clarifying this to ensure there is no haphazard implementation on the ground,” said Salima Namusobya, Executive Director, ISER. “We will continue to monitor the situation and work with the Ministry of Health to ensure everyone can receive the COVID 19 vaccine.”

Today the Ministry of Health launched COVID 19 vaccination in Uganda starting with health workers then teachers, older persons above 50 years, security officials, people under 50 years with pre existing conditions. ISER and its partners [continue](#) to call for equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccines and vaccine distribution for all Ugandans including historically underserved communities, underserved areas and rural communities. It is a moral, human rights and public health imperative to ensure that all individuals have equitable access to a vaccine that is free, safe, and effective.

For further information, please contact

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