

## Outbreak Brief #73: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 8 June 2021

Global case count: 173,021,258 cases and 3,728,092 deaths

*Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States*

**Outbreak Update:** Since the last brief (1 June 2021), **2,959,425** new confirmed<sup>1</sup> coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases, including **187,214** new deaths have been reported globally. To date, a global total of **173,021,258** COVID-19 cases and **3,728,029** related deaths (case fatality ratio (CFR): 2.2%) have been reported from 225 countries and territories to the World Health Organization (WHO). The distribution of cumulative cases (proportion of global cases) from the World Health Organization (WHO) reporting regions (excluding Africa) are as follows: **Eastern Mediterranean Region** 8,907,451 (5%), **European Region** 54,665,868 (32%), **Region of the Americas** 68,533,720 (40%), **South-East Asia Region** 32,772,064 (19%) and **Western Pacific Region** 3,158,408 (2%). Over the last seven days, India reported more than 860,000 new cases; however, the number of new cases reported per day has been declining since 7 May 2021. During the same period, Brazil reported more than 400,000 new cases, Argentina has reported more than 200,000 new cases, while Colombia has reported more than 100,000 new cases. For more detailed information on cases and deaths reported outside of Africa, refer to the WHO COVID-19 dashboard.<sup>2</sup>

**As of 9 a.m. East African Time (EAT) 8 June 2021**, a total of 4,938,325 COVID-19 cases and 132,786 deaths (CFR: **2.7%**) have been reported in 55 African Union (AU) Member States. This represents 3% of all cases reported globally. <sup>3</sup>The twenty AU Member States reporting case fatality ratios higher than the global case fatality ratio of 2.2% are Sudan (7.5%), Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (6.2%), Egypt (5.7%), Somalia (5.2%), Zimbabwe (4.1%), Liberia (3.8%), Comoros (3.7%), Tunisia (3.7%), Mali (3.6%), Eswatini (3.6%), Niger (3.5%), Chad (3.5%), Malawi (3.4%), South Africa (3.4%), Lesotho (3%), Gambia (3%), Algeria (2.8%), Senegal (2.8%), Democratic Republic of Congo (2.5%), and Mauritania (2.4%).

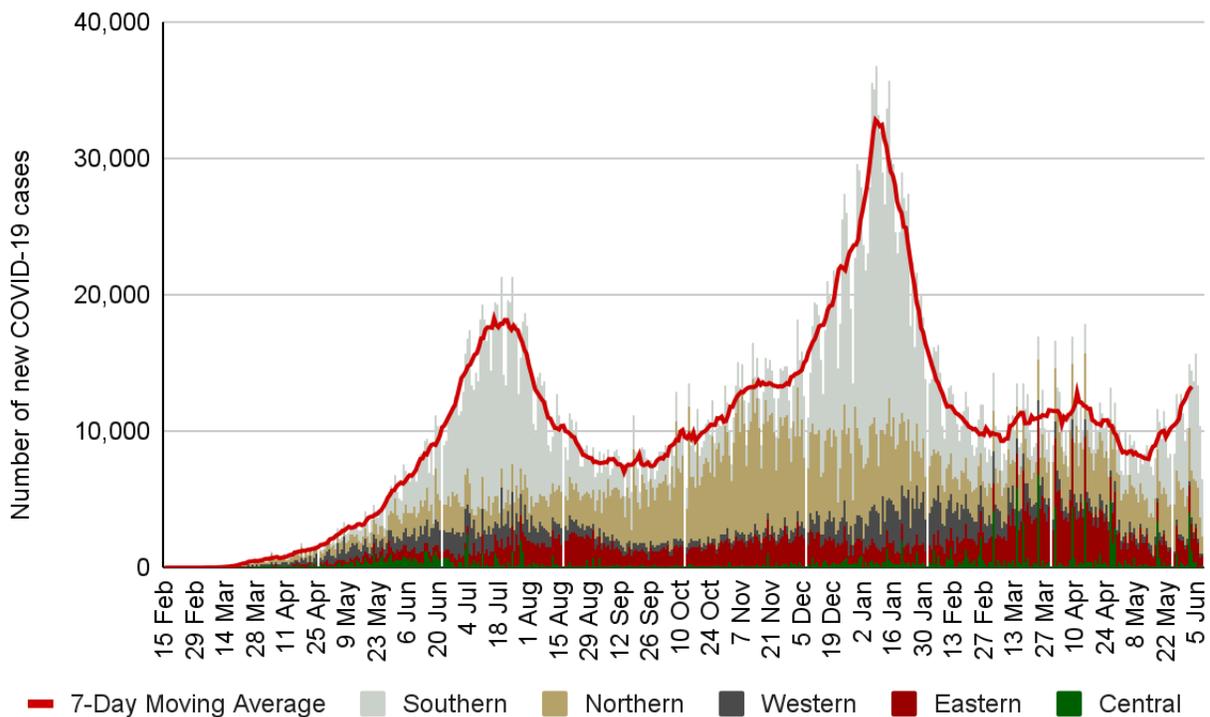
**For Epi week 22 (31 May - 6 June 2021)**, **92,913** new COVID-19 cases have been reported, a 24% increase in the number of new cases reported compared to Epi week 21. The majority of new COVID-19 cases reported for this week are from the Southern region (51%), followed by the Northern (26%), Eastern (13%), Central (7%) and Western (3%) regions. This week, seven countries

<sup>1</sup> WHO COVID-19 surveillance guidance and case definition: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/who-2019-nCoV-surveillanceguidance-2020.7>

<sup>2</sup> WHO coronavirus disease (COVID-19) dashboard: <https://covid19.who.int/>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(21\)00441-4/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(21)00441-4/fulltext)

account for 76% of the new COVID-19 cases reported: South Africa (36%), Tunisia (12%), Egypt (7%), Uganda (7%), Zambia (6%), Central African Republic (4%) and Namibia (4%). The countries reporting the highest incidence (COVID-19 new cases per 100,000 population) this week are Seychelles (854), Namibia (143), Botswana (131), Cabo Verde (123), Tunisia (96), Central African Republic (80) and South Africa (57). Figure 1 shows the trend of new COVID-19 cases reported per day by AU region from 15 February 2020 to 8 June 2021. The number of daily new cases registered has been steadily increasing over the last three weeks.



**Figure 1: New COVID-19 cases reported by day in Africa by African Union region, 15 February 2020 - 8 June 2021.**

Genomic surveillance enhances the ability to detect and monitor the variant presence and transmission and the continued evolution of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. It provides evidence-base for public health action and pandemic preparedness.<sup>4</sup>

The Pathogen Genomics Dashboard provides a breakdown of variant types reported by Member State. More information on SARS-COV-2 sequencing in Africa is available on the [Africa Pathogen Genomics Initiative Dashboard](#).

<sup>4</sup> [Genomic sequencing of SARS-CoV-2: a guide to implementation for maximum impact on public health \(who.int\)](#)

**Table 1: SARS-CoV-2 Variants of Concern reported in African Union Member States, as of 8 June 2021 (Note: In keeping with the new WHO convention, Africa CDC will transition to naming SARS-CoV-2 variants by their Pango lineage names, with parenthetic Greek alphabetic labels)<sup>5</sup>.**

Variant	Number of MS	Member States
<b>B.1.1.7 (Alpha)</b>	28	Algeria, Angola, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo Republic, Côte d’Ivoire, DR Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Libya, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, Tunisia and Uganda.
<b>B.1.351 (Beta)</b>	27	Angola, Botswana, Cameroon, Comoros, Côte d’Ivoire, DR Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Gambia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Africa, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.
<b>B.1.617.2 (Delta)</b>	12	Angola, Botswana, DR Congo, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.who.int/en/activities/tracking-SARS-CoV-2-variants/>

Fifty-three (96%) of the 55 AU Member States are experiencing community transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Fifty-three (96%) Member States have experienced a second wave, while 14 (25%) have experienced a third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. Table 2 lists the cumulative COVID-19 cases and deaths reported by Member State and Region in Africa and the new COVID-19 cases and deaths reported during Epi week 22. The table also provides the current epidemic phase for each country.

**Table 2: Confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths<sup>6</sup> and current epidemic phases reported in Africa for Epi week 22 (31 May - 6 June 2021).**

Country	Number of cases (new)	Percent change in new cases since the previous brief	Number of deaths (new)	Percent change in new deaths since the previous brief	Epidemic phase <sup>7</sup>
<b>Central Region</b>	<b>180,841 (6,394)</b>	<b>169%</b>	<b>2,851 (58)</b>	<b>205%</b>	
Burundi	4,905 (151)	-42%	6 (0)	NA*	3
Cameroon	79,904 (975)	3%	1,302 (27)	440%	3
Central African Republic	10,952 (3,852)	22559%	98 (0)	-100%	3
Chad	4,939 (10)	100%	174 (1)	NA*	3
Congo	12,026 (181)	-3%	157 (3)	200%	3
Democratic Republic of Congo	32,545 (894)	49%	805 (23)	667%	3
Equatorial Guinea	8,626 (97)	4%	118 (0)	-100%	3

<sup>6</sup> Data is continuously verified for accuracy and reliability, thus may change based on retrospective updates from Member States.

<sup>7</sup> Phases defined according to Africa CDC's Recommendations for a stepwise COVID-19 response -

<https://africacdc.org/download/recommendations-for-stepwise-response-to-covid-19/>: **Phase 0 (No COVID-19 case)**: no reported case in-country; **Phase 1 (Early stage outbreak)**: one or more imported cases, limited local transmission related to imported cases; **Phase 2 (Expanding outbreak)**: increasing number of imported cases, increased local spread but all cases linked to known transmission chains, outbreak clusters with a known common exposure; **Phase 3 (Advancing outbreak)**: localized outbreaks start to merge, one or more cases or deaths occur outside known transmission, multiple generations in transmission chains, cases are detected among severe acute respiratory illness (SARI) case with no known exposure; **Phase 4 (Large outbreak with nationwide transmission)**: widespread sustained community transmission, multiple generation transmission chains can be identified but most cases occurring outside of chains, community-wide transmission throughout all or nearly all of the country.

Country	Number of cases (new)	Percent change in new cases since the previous brief	Number of deaths (new)	Percent change in new deaths since the previous brief	Epidemic phase
Gabon	24,591 (226)	-12%	154 (4)	33%	3
Sao Tome and Principe	2,353 (8)	-11%	37 (0)	NA*	3
<b>Eastern Region</b>	<b>663,857 (11,976)</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>13,055 (280)</b>	<b>-2%</b>	
Comoros	3,956 (7)	-22%	146 (0)	NA*	3
Djibouti	11,562 (35)	3%	154 (0)	-100%	3
Eritrea	4,461 (400)	210%	14 (0)	NA*	3
Ethiopia	272,914 (1,569)	-27%	4,209 (54)	-32%	3
Kenya	172,491 (1,844)	-17%	3,287 (130)	33%	3
Madagascar	41,742 (400)	3%	867 (27)	-18%	3
Mauritius	1,458 (91)	28%	18 (0)	-100%	3
Rwanda	27,245 (327)	42%	360 (8)	167%	3
Seychelles	12,466 (854)	-28%	46 (4)	No change	3
Somalia	14,748 (88)	214%	773 (4)	100%	3
South Sudan	10,688 (0)	-100%	115 (0)	NA*	3
Sudan	35,656 (161)	-47%	2,662 (32)	-48%	3
Tanzania	509 (0)	NA*	21 (0)	NA*	Unknown
Uganda	53,961 (6,200)	68%	383 (21)	425%	3
<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>1,485,350 (24,365)</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>44,866 (791)</b>	<b>-1%</b>	
Algeria	130,958 (2,233)	20%	3,649 (53)	13%	3
Egypt	267,972 (6,306)	-19%	15,352 (305)	-6%	3
Libya	187,685 (1,909)	-13%	3,146 (20)	43%	3
Mauritania	19,817 (323)	-6%	468 (5)	No change	3

Country	Number of cases (new)	Percent change in new cases since the previous brief	Number of deaths (new)	Percent change in new deaths since the previous brief	Epidemic phase
Morocco	521,426 (2,318)	11%	9,178 (35)	67%	3
Tunisia	356,750 (11,276)	24%	13,027 (373)	-2%	3
Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	742 (0)	-100%	46 (0)	-100%	1
<b>Southern Region</b>	<b>2,126,151 (47,772)</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>65,475 (737)</b>	<b>-8%</b>	
Angola	35,772 (1,406)	-27%	797 (33)	-15%	3
Botswana	60,648 (3,132)	48%	885 (36)	-10%	3
Eswatini	18,653 (62)	55%	673 (0)	-100%	3
Lesotho	10,836 (5)	-44%	326 (0)	NA*	3
Malawi	34,390 (55)	8%	1,157 (2)	No change	3
Mozambique	71,114 (334)	76%	837 (1)	-80%	3
Namibia	58,707 (3,566)	62%	912 (88)	49%	3
South Africa	1,696,564 (33,739)	23%	56,974 (535)	-16%	3
Zambia	100,278 (5,228)	183%	1,308 (30)	200%	3
Zimbabwe	39,189 (245)	-6%	1,606 (12)	50%	3
<b>Western Region</b>	<b>475,605 (2,406)</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>6,304 (69)</b>	<b>116%</b>	
Benin	8,082 (24)	-27%	102 (1)	NA*	3
Burkina Faso	13,453 (22)	38%	167 (1)	No change	3
Cape Verde	31,097 (738)	-28%	267 (3)	-63%	3
Côte d'Ivoire	47,490 (257)	14%	306 (3)	-40%	3
Gambia	5,999 (7)	-50%	179 (0)	-100%	3
Ghana	94,228 (217)	-25%	787 (2)	No change	3

Country	Number of cases (new)	Percent change in new cases since the previous brief	Number of deaths (new)	Percent change in new deaths since the previous brief	Epidemic phase
Guinea	23,255 (78)	-38%	162 (1)	-50%	3
Guinea-Bissau	3,787 (21)	40%	68 (0)	NA*	3
Liberia	2,290 (99)	230%	88 (2)	NA*	3
Mali	14,298 (33)	38%	519 (2)	-33%	3
Niger	5,439 (29)	7%	192 (0)	NA*	3
Nigeria	166,767 (452)	53%	2,117 (46)	1050%	3
Senegal	41,680 (293)	20%	1,146 (8)	33%	3
Sierra Leone	4,201 (54)	108%	79 (0)	NA*	3
Togo	13,539 (82)	-1%	125 (0)	NA*	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,931,804 (92,913)</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>132,551 (1,935)</b>	<b>0%</b>	

\*No new cases/deaths reported in the previous week.

**Public Health and Social Measure (PHSM) Highlights**



**Figure 2.** Map of AU Member States by hotspot level on the PERC [dashboard](#). This system is intended to highlight AU Member States in need of attention due to an increasing or widespread outbreak. For specifics on calculations, refer to the dashboard [methodology](#). The table below highlights changes in public health and social measures (PHSMs) based on data from the [Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker](#). An up arrow indicates new PHSMs were announced; a horizontal arrow indicates PHSM were extended; a down arrow indicates PHSMs were loosened/expired. Member States are organized by tiers based on current epidemiological data from 24-30 May.

Country	PHSM Trend	PHSM Change
<b>Tier 4 (High Alert):</b> Daily case incidence per 1M people/day $\geq 80$ and/or positivity rate $\geq 12\%$		
<a href="#">Cabo Verde</a>	→/↑	<b>Cabo Verde</b> <a href="#">extended</a> the national state of calamity until at least 28 June across all islands. Public and private gatherings are restricted and restrictions remain on bars and restaurants. The government announced increased enforcement of these and other COVID-19 measures.
<a href="#">Egypt</a>	↓	<b>Egypt</b> <a href="#">lifted</a> protective measures on 1 June, including the early closure of shops and restaurants.
<a href="#">Madagascar</a>	→/↓	In <b>Madagascar</b> , the state of emergency was <a href="#">extended</a> , but some restrictive measures were lifted. Borders in regions particularly hard-hit by COVID-19 have been reopened, and the lockdown in Analamanga was lifted, allowing places of worship to reopen. Schools and universities were allowed to reopen. A nightly curfew and limits on public gatherings remain in place, however.
<a href="#">Namibia</a>	→/↑	Officials in <b>Namibia</b> <a href="#">extended</a> nationwide COVID-19 measures until 30 June, including a nightly curfew. Capacity limits at public gatherings have been restricted even further, from a maximum of 100 people to just 50 for both indoor and outdoor events.
<a href="#">Seychelles</a>	↑	<b>Seychelles</b> <a href="#">ordered</a> the closure of schools on islands especially impacted by the surge in COVID-19 transmission, including Praslin and La Digue. Resorts were also banned from hosting tourists on the main island of Mahe.
<b>Tier 3 (Moderate Alert):</b> Daily case incidence per 1M people/day is 20 to <80 and/or positivity rate is 5% to <12%		
<a href="#">South Africa</a>	↑	<b>South Africa</b> <a href="#">tightened</a> restrictions amid rising COVID-19 transmission. The country shifted to an Adjusted Alert Level Two, which includes a longer nightly curfew, a reduction in capacity for large indoor gatherings from 250 to 100 people and for outdoor gatherings from 500 to 250 people, and restrictions on certain businesses.
<b>Tier 2 (Low Alert):</b> Daily case incidence per 1M people/day is 5 to <20 and/or positivity rate is 3% to 5%		

<a href="#">Algeria</a>	→	<b>Algeria</b> <a href="#">allowed</a> the resumption of international flights into the country on 1 June. Travellers must show evidence of a negative COVID-19 PCR test upon arrival, and are required to quarantine. In addition, <b>Algeria</b> renewed the nightly curfew for 19 provinces until 22 June.
<a href="#">Ethiopia</a>	↑	Ministry of Health officials in <b>Ethiopia</b> <a href="#">announced</a> that all travelers will be required to present a digital negative COVID-19 certificate upon arrival in-country beginning 7 June.
<a href="#">Gabon</a>	↓	Some restrictions in <b>Gabon</b> have been <a href="#">lifted or loosened</a> , including the nightly curfew, which was shortened by an hour. Vaccinated people are also now allowed to attend religious gatherings and group sports activities, travel freely throughout the country, and visit bars and restaurants in the evenings.
<a href="#">Guinea</a>	→	Authorities in <b>Guinea</b> <a href="#">renewed</a> the national state of health emergency and the accompanying nightly curfew through 26 June.
<a href="#">Kenya</a>	→	<b>Kenya</b> <a href="#">renewed</a> the nationwide nightly curfew and a ban on public gatherings for another 60 days.
<a href="#">Morocco</a>	→/↓	Authorities in <b>Morocco</b> <a href="#">extended</a> the national state of emergency until 10 July. Certain protective measures were <a href="#">loosened</a> , however, including the ban on public gatherings (which was lifted to allow for gatherings of 50 people indoors and 100 people outdoors), increased capacity allowance on public transport and in other venues including museums and libraries, and a gradual reopening of religious institutions.
<b>Tier 1 (Standard Precautions):</b> Daily case incidence per 1M people/day is <5 and/or positivity rate is <3%		
<a href="#">Rwanda</a>	→	Authorities in <b>Rwanda</b> <a href="#">extended</a> COVID-19 measures until 1 July. The nationwide curfew remains in effect, as well as capacity restrictions on businesses and public offices. Outdoor sports are now allowed to resume, and weddings are permitted as long as there are no more than 30 people in attendance.

## **NEW Africa CDC Response Activities**

### **General:**

1. Dr. John Nkengasong, Director of Africa CDC, hosted Africa CDC's weekly press briefing on Thursday 3 June 2021 at 12 p.m. EAT. The recording is available on the [Africa CDC Twitter page](#).
2. As of 7 June 2021, 48 out of 55 African Union Member States have started COVID-19 vaccination programs targeting priority populations. Cumulatively, over 35.8 million doses have been administered and over 27.6 million persons have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine in these countries. More information on COVID-19 vaccination can be found on the [Africa CDC COVID-19 vaccine dashboard](#).

### **Laboratory:**

1. Over 48.8 million tests for COVID-19 have been conducted in Africa since February 2020. The cumulative positivity ratio and test per case ratio are 10.1% and 9.9, respectively. For Epi week 22, a total of 906,031 new tests were conducted, a 5% decrease compared to Epi week 21 when 956,157 tests were conducted.
2. Africa CDC commenced the first round of antigen testing in-country training through Global Health Systems Solutions (GHSS) on 31 May 2021 for participants in 11 Member States. A total of 35 participants from Cameroon were trained.
3. Africa CDC will conduct a Training of Trainers (ToT) on the Antigen Rapid Diagnostic Testing (Ag-RDT) for 25 participants in Malawi on 9 - 11 June 2021.

### **Healthcare Preparedness and Medical Countermeasures:**

#### *Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC)*

1. Africa CDC and partners held the fourth session of the seventh IPC webinar series on "Design of health services for droplet and airborne diseases: IPC considerations" in English on Wednesday, 2 June 2021. A total of 540 persons attended the webinar. To access the record, click [here](#)
2. Africa CDC and partners held the third session of the seventh IPC webinar series titled "Ebola and COVID-19 vaccination roll-out: understanding the IPC measures" in French on Thursday, 3 June 2021. A total of 109 persons participated in the webinar. To access the record, click [here](#)
3. Africa CDC and partners will hold the fifth session of the seventh IPC webinar series on "Dealing with endemic infectious disease outbreak" on Wednesday 9 June 2021, at 1 p.m. EAT for the English session. [Register here](#).
4. Africa CDC and partners will hold the fourth session of the seventh IPC webinar series on "Design of health facilities for droplet and airborne diseases: IPC considerations" on Thursday, 10 June 2021, at 1 p.m. EAT for the French session. [Register here](#).

### Surveillance:

1. Africa CDC held its weekly surveillance webinar titled “COVID-19 sero-surveillance in Africa: experience from Zambia” for 90 participants on Wednesday 2 June 2021, at 4 p.m. EAT.
2. Africa CDC surveillance TWG will continue its weekly webinar series titled “Findings from PERC regional analysis part three: Responding to COVID-19 in Africa” on Wednesday 9 June 2021, at 4 p.m. EAT. [Register here](#).
3. To better estimate the number of infections and the pandemic burden among African populations, Africa CDC is supporting population-based serological survey studies in 17 African countries. So far, we received preliminary results from 5 Member States while data collection is ongoing in Malawi and Togo.

### Sciences, Standards and Regulations:

1. Subscribe [here](#) to receive the weekly Partnership for Evidence-Based Response to COVID-19 (PERC) update and all other products, or visit the [PERC](#) and [Africa CDC website](#).

### Recommendations for the Member States

1. Member States should continue to enhance their COVID-19<sup>8</sup> surveillance efforts to include:
  - a. Syndromic surveillance for influenza like-illness (ILI) and severe acute respiratory infections (SARI).<sup>9</sup>
  - b. Rapid mortality surveillance that includes the collection, analysis and use of all-cause mortality data collected through the facility- or community-based surveillance.<sup>10</sup>
  - c. Genomic surveillance<sup>11</sup> to monitor variant presence and spread as well as the continued evolution of the virus.
2. Member States should continue to perform contact tracing<sup>12</sup> of confirmed cases based on transmission type and country capacity and enhance diagnostic screening efforts using rapid antigen tests<sup>13</sup>.
3. All Member States should notify and routinely share data with WHO and Africa CDC regarding confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths, recoveries, tests conducted and healthcare workers infected to continually inform these and other updates. Notify Africa CDC by emailing: [AfricaCDCEBS@africa-union.org](mailto:AfricaCDCEBS@africa-union.org).

<sup>8</sup> [WHO COVID-19 Case definition](#)

<sup>9</sup> Africa CDC Protocol for enhanced surveillance for COVID-19 in Africa: [Protocol for Enhanced Severe Acute Respiratory Illness and Influenza-Like Illness Surveillance for COVID-19 in Africa – Africa CDC](#)

<sup>10</sup> Revealing the toll of COVID-19: A technical package for Member States – Africa CDC

<sup>11</sup> Genomic sequencing of SARS-CoV-2: a guide to implementation for maximum impact on public health

<sup>12</sup> Africa CDC Guidance on Contact Tracing for COVID-19 Pandemic: <https://africacdc.org/download/guidance-on-contact-tracing-for-covid-19-pandemic/>

<sup>13</sup> [Interim Guidance on the Use of Rapid Antigen tests for COVID-19 Response – Africa CDC](#)

4. Member States should continue to guide the general public about seeking immediate medical care for those who develop severe symptoms (e.g. difficulty breathing).
5. Member States should put in place or strengthen existing public health and social measures if COVID-19 incidence starts to rise.<sup>14</sup>

**Resources for more information**

- Africa CDC COVID-19 updates: <https://africacdc.org/covid-19/>
- Africa CDC Resources, policy guidelines, and infographics: <https://africacdc.org/covid-19/covid-19-resources/>
- Partnership for Evidence-Based Response to COVID-19 (PERC) <https://preventepidemics.org/covid19/perc/>
- WHO. Technical Guidance. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance>

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<sup>14</sup> [Recommendations for Stepwise response to COVID-19 – Africa CDC](#), [COVID-19 guidance for educational settings – Africa CDC](#), [COVID-19 guidance for the transportation sector – Africa CDC](#)