

Outbreak Brief #74: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 15 June 2021

Global case count: 175,707,065 cases and 3,804,136 deaths

Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States

Outbreak Update: Since the last brief (8 June 2021), **2,685,807** new confirmed¹ coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases, including **76,044** new deaths have been reported globally. To date, a global total of **175,707,065** COVID-19 cases and **3,804,136** 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** 9,078,815 (5%), **European Region** 55,025,257 (31%), **Region of the Americas** 69,690,628 (40%), **South-East Asia Region** 33,519,646 (19%) and **Western Pacific Region** 3,281,532 (2%). The number of new cases being reported from India has continued to decline. In the last seven days, India reported just above 600,000 new cases. During the same period, Brazil reported more than 450,000 new cases, Argentina and Columbia have reported more than 170,000 new cases, while the United States reported more than 100,000 new cases. For more detailed information on cases and deaths being reported outside of Africa, refer to the WHO COVID-19 dashboard.²

As of 9 am East African Time (EAT) 15 June 2021, a total of 5,064,574 COVID-19 cases and 135,158 deaths (CFR: **2.7%**) have been reported in 55 African Union (AU) Member States. This represents 3% of all cases reported globally.³ The 21 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%), Comoros (3.7%), Liberia (3.7%), Tunisia (3.7%), Mali (3.6%), Eswatini (3.6%), Niger (3.5%), Chad (3.5%), Malawi (3.4%), South Africa (3.3%), Gambia (3%), Lesotho (3%), Algeria (2.8%), Senegal (2.7%), Democratic Republic of Congo (2.4%), Mauritania (2.4%), and Angola (2.3%).

For Epi week 23 (7-13 June 2021), **121,170** new COVID-19 cases have been reported, which is a 29% increase in the number of new cases reported when compared to Epi week 22. Most new COVID-19 cases reported for this week are from the Southern Region (61%), followed by the Northern (21%), Eastern (13%), Central (3%) and Western (2%) regions. This week, six countries

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

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

³ [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 74% of the new COVID-19 cases reported: South Africa (42%), Tunisia (10%), Zambia (8%), Namibia (5%), Uganda (5%), and Egypt (4%). The countries reporting the highest incidence (COVID-19 new cases per 100,000 population) this week are Seychelles (948), Namibia (255), Botswana (141), Tunisia (114), Cabo Verde (86), South Africa (85), and Zambia (62). Figure 1 shows the trend of new COVID-19 cases reported per day by AU region from 15 February 2020 to 15 June 2021. The number of daily new cases registered has continued to increase across the continent.

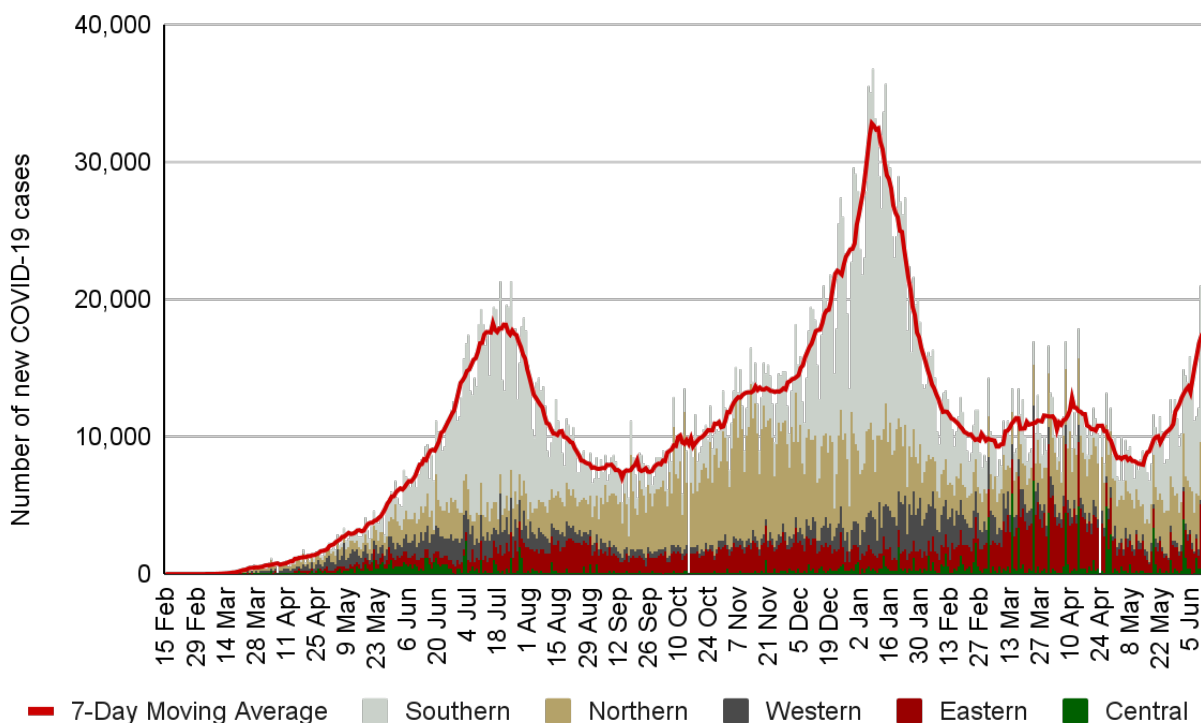


Figure 1: New COVID-19 cases reported by day in Africa by African Union region, 15 February 2020 - 15 June 2021. (The dates on the x axis of the chart are provided at a two-week interval and data does not truncate on 5 June 2021)

As of 15 June 2021, 38 AU Member States (table 1) have reported the presence of either the Alpha previously B.1.1.7 (28 Member States), Beta previously B.1.351 (28), or Delta previously B.1.617.2 (13)⁴.

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](#).

⁴ [Tracking SARS-CoV-2 variants \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int/coronavirus/variants)

Table 1: SARS-CoV-2 Variants of Concern reported in African Union Member States, as of 15 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)⁵.

Variant	Number of Member States	Member States
B.1.1.7 (Alpha)	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.1.351 (Beta)	28	Angola, Botswana, Cameroon, Comoros, Côte d’Ivoire, DR Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Africa, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.
B.1.617.2 (Delta)	13	Angola, Botswana, DR Congo, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Fifty-three (96%) of the 55 AU Member States are reporting community transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Fifty-three (96%) Member States have reported a second wave while 14 (25%) have reported 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 23. The table also provides the current epidemic phase for each country.

⁵ [Tracking SARS-CoV-2 variants \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int/tracking-sars-cov-2)

Table 2: Confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths⁶ and current epidemic phases reported in Africa for Epi week 23 (7 - 13 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 ⁷
Central Region	184,564 (3,691)	-43%	2,909 (58)	No change	
Burundi	5,013 (108)	-28%	8 (2)	NA*	3
Cameroon	80,090 (186)	-81%	1,310 (8)	-70%	3
Central African Republic	10,987 (3)	-100%	98 (0)	NA*	3
Chad	4,942 (3)	-70%	174 (0)	-100%	3
Congo	12,121 (95)	-48%	160 (3)	No change	3
Democratic Republic of Congo	35,668 (3,123)	249%	846 (41)	78%	3
Equatorial Guinea	8,650 (24)	-75%	120 (2)	NA*	3
Gabon	24,736 (145)	-36%	156 (2)	-50%	3
Sao Tome and Principe	2,357 (4)	-50%	37 (0)	NA*	3
Eastern Region	680,702 (15,786)	21%	13,350 (255)	-20%	
Comoros	3,964 (8)	14%	146 (0)	NA*	3
Djibouti	11,572 (10)	-71%	154 (0)	NA*	3
Eritrea	4,848 (387)	-3%	16 (2)	NA*	3
Ethiopia	274,187 (1,273)	-19%	4,242 (33)	-39%	3

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

⁷ 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 ⁷
Kenya	175,337 (2,846)	54%	3,410 (123)	-5%	3
Madagascar	41,948 (206)	-49%	885 (18)	-33%	3
Mauritius	1,680 (222)	144%	18 (0)	NA*	3
Rwanda	28,373 (1,128)	245%	370 (10)	25%	3
Seychelles	13,414 (948)	11%	46 (0)	-100%	3
Somalia	14,817 (69)	-22%	774 (1)	-75%	3
South Sudan	10,751 (60)	NA*	115 (0)	NA*	3
Sudan	36,203 (199)	-61%	2,719 (22)	-67%	3
Tanzania ⁸	509 (0)	NA*	21 (0)	NA*	Unknown
Uganda	63,099 (8,430)	22%	434 (46)	77%	3
Northern Region	1,510,783 (25,433)	4%	45,789 (923)	17%	
Algeria	133,388 (2,430)	9%	3,702 (53)	No change	3
Egypt	273,182 (5,210)	-17%	15,623 (271)	-11%	3
Libya	189,284 (1,599)	-16%	3,165 (19)	-5%	3
Mauritania	20,073 (256)	-21%	475 (7)	40%	3
Morocco	523,890 (2,464)	6%	9,211 (33)	-6%	3
Tunisia	370,224 (13,474)	19%	13,567 (540)	45%	1
Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	742 (0)	NA*	46 (0)	NA*	3
Southern Region	2,200,198 (74,044)	55%	66,534 (1,059)	44%	
Angola	36,600 (828)	-41%	825 (28)	-15%	3
Botswana	64,021 (3,373)	8%	926 (41)	14%	3
Eswatini	18,736 (83)	34%	676 (3)	NA*	3
Lesotho	10,921 (82)	925%	326 (0)	NA*	3
Malawi	34,506 (116)	111%	1,159 (2)	No change	3

⁸ Last report received 7-May-2020.

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 ⁷
Mozambique	71,538 (424)	27%	841 (4)	300%	3
Namibia	65,089 (6,382)	79%	995 (83)	-6%	3
South Africa	1,747,082 (50,518)	50%	57,765 (791)	48%	3
Zambia	111,746 (11,468)	119%	1,389 (81)	170%	3
Zimbabwe	39,959 (770)	214%	1,632 (26)	117%	3
Western Region	477,965 (2,216)	-13%	6,342 (36)	-49%	
Benin	8,109 (27)	13%	102 (0)	-100%	3
Burkina Faso	13,459 (6)	-73%	167 (0)	-100%	3
Cape Verde	31,615 (518)	-30%	275 (8)	167%	3
Côte d'Ivoire	47,662 (172)	-33%	306 (0)	-100%	3
Gambia	6,016 (14)	40%	180 (1)	NA*	3
Ghana	94,493 (124)	-65%	789 (0)	-100%	3
Guinea	23,398 (143)	83%	167 (5)	400%	3
Guinea-Bissau	3,803 (16)	-24%	69 (1)	NA*	3
Liberia	2,535 (245)	147%	93 (5)	150%	3
Mali	14,350 (52)	58%	523 (4)	100%	3
Niger	5,446 (7)	-76%	192 (0)	NA*	3
Nigeria	167,066 (299)	-34%	2,117 (0)	-100%	3
Senegal	41,998 (318)	9%	1,154 (8)	No change	3
Sierra Leone	4,388 (187)	246%	82 (3)	NA*	3
Togo	13,627 (88)	7%	126 (1)	NA*	3
Total	5,054,212 (121,170)	29%	134,924 (2,331)	18%	

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

Public Health and Social Measure (PHSM) Highlights

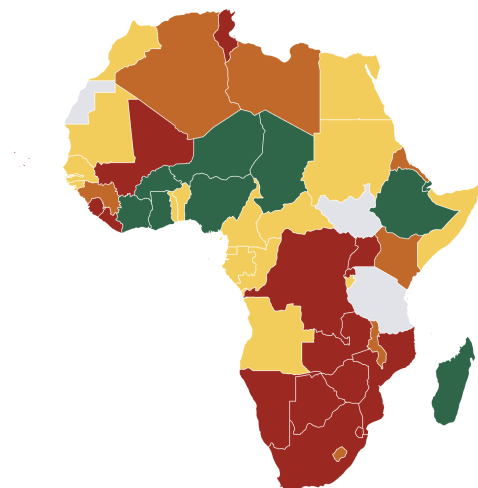


Figure 2. Map of AU Member States by hotspot level⁹ on the PERC [dashboard](#). This system is intended to highlight AU Member States needing attention due to an increasing or widespread outbreak. For specifics on calculations, refer to the dashboard [methodology](#).

Table 3 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 4 - 11 June 2021.

Table 3: Changes in Public Health and Social Measures, 4-11 June 2021

Country	PHSM Trend	PHSM Change
Tier 4 (High Alert): Daily case incidence per 1M people/day ≥ 80 and/or positivity rate $\geq 12\%$		
South Africa	→	Officials in South Africa extended the national state of disaster until 15 July. Several lockdown measures remain in place, including a nightly curfew and limits on public gatherings.
Tunisia	↑	Tunisia imposed a one-week lockdown in the Kairouan governorate to slow COVID-19 transmission. Measures include a nightly curfew, suspension of all religious services and cultural and sports activities, and restrictions on restaurants and cafes.
Uganda	↑	Uganda implemented a 42-day lockdown to address the recent surge in COVID-19 transmission. Measures include the closure of schools, the suspension of inter-district travel, and the suspension of religious services.
Tier 3 (Moderate Alert): Daily case incidence per 1M people/day is 20 to <80 and/or positivity rate is 5% to $<12\%$		

⁹ The delineation of the international and other boundaries used on this map don't imply official endorsement or acceptance by the African Union or Africa CDC.

<u>Sao Tome and Principe</u>	→	Sao Tome and Principe <u>extended</u> the national state of calamity and accompanying measures, including a nightly curfew and limits on public gatherings, until 30 June.
Tier 2 (Low Alert): Daily case incidence per 1M people/day is 5 to <20 and/or positivity rate is 3% to 5%		
<u>Angola</u>	→	Officials in Angola <u>extended</u> the national state of calamity for an additional 30 days, which include restrictions on movements and operation hours for most businesses. Stricter measures are in effect in Luanda, including shorter hours of operation for restaurants and other businesses, and the closure of some entertainment venues, such as cinemas.
<u>Gabon</u>	↓	Some domestic restrictions in Gabon have been <u>loosened</u> . The nightly curfew has been reduced by 3 hours, and hotels and bars are permitted to reopen. Restrictions for international travelers have been tightened, as authorities imposed a 24-hour quarantine on incoming travelers upon arrival at their expense.
<u>Morocco</u>	↓	Morocco will <u>reopen</u> airports to international flights starting 15 June, primarily to repatriate nationals living abroad. Foreign nationals will also be permitted to enter with a negative PCR test or proof of COVID-19 vaccination.

NEW Africa CDC Response Activities

General:

1. Dr. John Nkengasong, Director of Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), hosted Africa CDC's weekly press briefing on Thursday 10 June 2021. He was joined by Ambassador Jessica Lapenn, Head of the US Mission to the African Union, who gave more information on the recent announcement made by the U.S Government donating five million doses of COVID-19 Vaccines to Africa through Africa CDC. The recording is available on the [Africa CDC Twitter page](#).
2. As of 15 June 2021, 51 out of 55 African Union Member States have started COVID-19 vaccination programs targeting priority populations. Cumulatively, over 41.8 million doses have been administered and over 31.6 million persons have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine in these countries. Tanzania, Saharawi Republic, Eritrea, and Burundi are the four remaining AU Member States yet to start COVID-19 vaccine roll out. More information on COVID-19 vaccination can be found on the [Africa CDC COVID-19 vaccine dashboard](#).
3. The Mastercard Foundation [announced](#) a three year partnership with Africa CDC on Tuesday, 8 June 2021. The Foundation will deploy \$1.3 billion to support the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative whereby Africa CDC will acquire vaccines for at least 50 million people, support the delivery of vaccinations to millions more across the continent, lay the groundwork for vaccine manufacturing in Africa through a focus on human capital

development. The new partnership builds on the efforts of the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access facility (COVAX), the COVID-19 African Vaccine Acquisition Task Team (AVATT), and the global community to expand access to vaccines across Africa.

Laboratory:

1. Over 49.8 million tests for COVID-19 have been conducted in Africa since February 2020. The cumulative positivity ratio and test per case ratio are 10.2% and 9.8 respectively. For Epi week 23, a total of 987,288 new tests were conducted, a 7% increase compared to Epi week 22 when 923,483 tests were conducted.
2. Laboratory TWG conducted on-site assessment of COVID-19 Ag RDT testing sites in six Member States. (Uganda, Zambia, Nigeria, Cameroon, Zimbabwe, and Ethiopia) where over 200 sites were assessed in these countries.
3. Africa CDC facilitated a Training of Trainer (TOT) on antigen rapid diagnostic testing workshop in Lilongwe, Malawi from 9-11 June 2021. The training was organized in collaboration with the public health institute of Malawi and was attended by 26 participants from health facilities and the public health institute. Malawi has secured 500,000 Antigen testing kits to expand Antigen testing to 220 sites in the country over the next two weeks.
4. A Step-down training on SARS-CoV-2 antigen testing using RDT will be conducted from 14-16 June 2021 for 50 laboratory personnel from two regions of Zimbabwe.

Healthcare Preparedness and Medical Countermeasures:

Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC)

1. Africa CDC and partners held the fifth session of the seventh IPC webinar series on “IPC considerations for managing endemic disease outbreak” in English on Wednesday 9 June 2021. A total of 526 persons attended the webinar. The recording is available on the [Africa CDC Twitter page](#).
2. Africa CDC and partners held the fourth session of the seventh IPC webinar series titled “Design of health facilities for droplet and air-borne diseases: IPC view” in French on Thursday 10 June 2021. A total of 111 persons participated in the webinar. The recording is available on the [Africa CDC Twitter page](#).
3. Africa CDC and partners will hold the sixth session of the seventh IPC webinar series on “Injection safety: sharps and waste management” on Wednesday 16 June 2021, at 1 pm EAT for the English session. [Register here](#).
4. Africa CDC and partners will hold the fifth session of the seventh IPC webinar series on “PC considerations for managing endemic disease outbreak” on Thursday 17 June 2021, at 1 pm EAT for the French session. [Register here](#).

Surveillance:

1. Africa CDC held its weekly surveillance webinar titled “Findings from PERC regional analysis part three: Responding to COVID-19 in Africa” for 80 participants on Wednesday, 9 June 2021.

2. To better estimate the numbers 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 six Member States while data collection is ongoing in Malawi and Togo.

Sciences, Standards and Regulations:

1. Access the biweekly COVID-19 Scientific and Public Health Policy Update [here](#).
2. 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-19¹⁰ surveillance efforts to include:
 - a. Syndromic surveillance for influenza like illness (ILI) and severe acute respiratory infections (SARI).¹¹
 - b. Rapid mortality surveillance that includes the collection, analysis and use of all-cause mortality data collected through the facility- or community-based surveillance.¹²
 - c. Genomic surveillance¹³ to monitor the presence of variants, spread as well as the continuous evolution of the virus.
2. Member States should continue to perform contact tracing¹⁴ of confirmed cases based on transmission type and country capacity and enhance diagnostic screening efforts with the use of rapid antigen tests¹⁵.
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.
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.¹⁶

¹⁰ [WHO COVID-19 Case definition](#)

¹¹ 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](#)

¹² Revealing the toll of COVID-19: A technical package for Member States – Africa CDC

¹³ Genomic sequencing of SARS-CoV-2: a guide to implementation for maximum impact on public health

¹⁴ Africa CDC Guidance on Contact Tracing for COVID-19 Pandemic: <https://africacdc.org/download/guidance-on-contact-tracing-for-covid-19-pandemic/>

¹⁵ [Interim Guidance on the Use of Rapid Antigen tests for COVID-19 Response – Africa CDC](#)

¹⁶ [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](#)

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>