

Outbreak Brief #75: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 22 June 2021

Global case count: 178,229,144 cases and 3,866,320 deaths

Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States

Outbreak Update: Since the last brief (15 June 2021), **2,552,079** new confirmed¹ coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases, including **62,184** new deaths, have been reported globally. To date, a global total of **178,229,144** COVID-19 cases and **3,866,320** 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** 9,225,259 (5%), **European Region** 55,365,868 (31%), **Region of the Americas** 70,815,310 (40%), **South-East Asia Region** 34,110,785 (19%) and **Western Pacific Region** 3,404,213 (2%). In the last seven days, Brazil reported more than 500,000 new cases, India reported more than 400,000 new cases, while Argentina, Colombia, and the Russian Federation 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.²

As of 9 am East African Time (EAT) 22 June 2021, a total of 5,229,879 COVID-19 cases and 138,000 deaths (**CFR: 2.6%**) 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%), Comoros (3.7%), Tunisia (3.7%), Mali (3.6%), Eswatini (3.6%), Niger (3.5%), Chad (3.5%), Malawi (3.4%), South Africa (3.2%), Liberia (3.2%), Gambia (3%), Lesotho (3%), Algeria (2.8%), Senegal (2.7%), Mauritania (2.4%), Democratic Republic of Congo (2.3%), and Angola (2.3%).

For Epi week 24 (14-20 June 2021), **158,863** new COVID-19 cases have been reported, which is a 30% increase in the number of new cases reported when compared to Epi week 23. Most new COVID-19 cases reported for this week are from the Southern Region (69%), followed by the Northern (17%), Eastern (11%), Central (2%) and Western (2%) regions. This week, six countries account for 82% of the new COVID-19 cases reported: South Africa (48%), Zambia (11%), Tunisia (10%), Namibia (6%), Uganda (5%), and Egypt (3%). The countries reporting the highest incidence

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)

(COVID-19 new cases per 100,000 population) this week are Seychelles (1,013), Namibia (548), Tunisia (184), South Africa (184), Zambia (134) and Botswana (107). Figure 1 shows the trend of new COVID-19 cases reported per day by AU region from 15 February 2020 to 22 June 2021. The number of daily new cases registered has continued to increase across the continent.

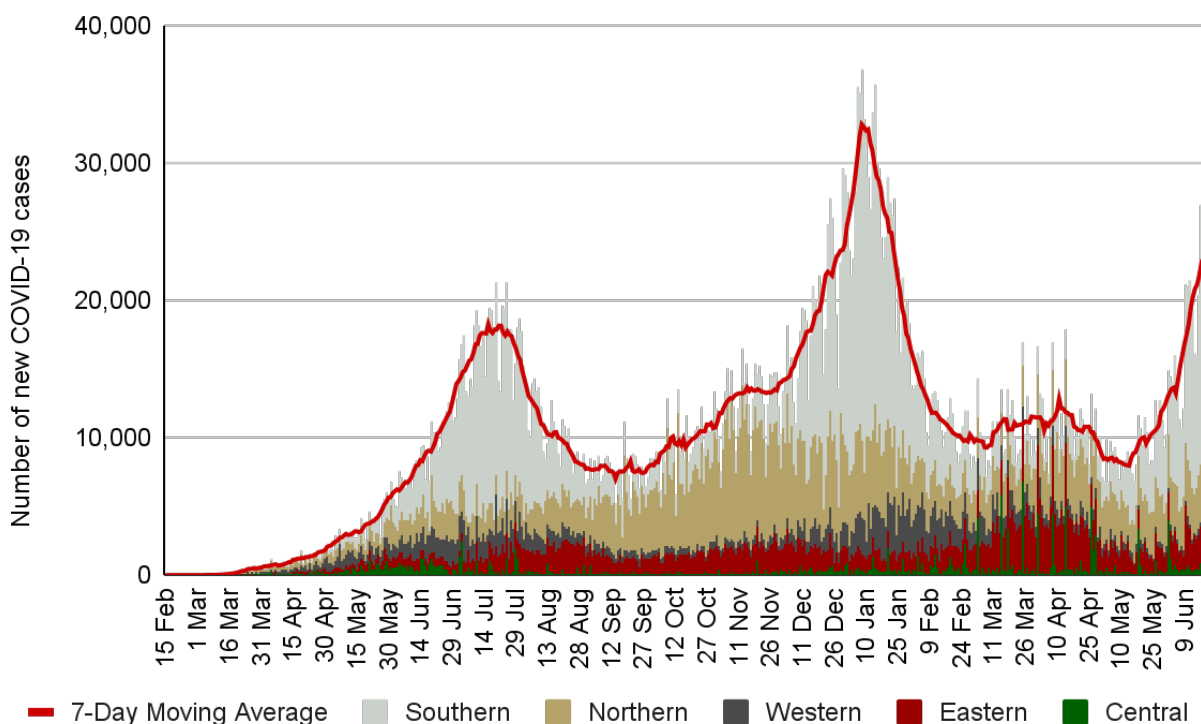


Figure 1: New COVID-19 cases reported by day in Africa by African Union region, 15 February 2020 - 22 June 2021. (The dates are at a two-week interval; the last date is 22 June 2021)

As of 22 June 2021, 40 AU Member States (Table 1) have reported the presence of new variants; the Alpha variant (B.1.1.7) 30 Member States, the Beta variant (B.1.351) 29 Member States, and the Delta variant (B.1.617.2) 13 Member States⁴. Some Member States (23) have reported multiple variants.

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/tracking-sars-cov-2-variants)

Table 1: SARS-CoV-2 Variants of Concern (VoC)⁵ 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 Greek alphabetic labels)⁶.

Variant	Number of Member States	Member States
Alpha (B.1.1.7)	30	Algeria, Angola, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, DR Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Libya, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Togo, Tunisia, and Uganda.
Beta (B.1.351)	29	Angola, Botswana, Cameroon, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, DR Congo, Djibouti, 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.
Delta (B.1.617.2)	13	Botswana, DR Congo, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

⁵ Variant of concern is associated with one or more of: Increase in transmissibility or detrimental change in COVID-19 epidemiology or Increase in virulence or change in clinical disease presentation; or Decrease in effectiveness of public health and social measures or available diagnostics, vaccines, therapeutics.

⁶ [Tracking SARS-CoV-2 variants \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int/tracking-sars-cov-2)

Fifty-three (96%) of the 55 AU Member States have reported community transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Fifty-three (96%) Member States have reported a second wave, 19 (35%) have reported a third wave, and one (2%) country has reported a fourth 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 24. The table also provides the current epidemic phase for each country.

Table 2: Confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths⁷ and current epidemic phases reported in Africa for Epi week 24 (14 - 20 June 2021).

Country	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	Percent change in new cases since Epi week 23	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	Percent change in new deaths since Epi week 23	Epidemic phase ⁸
Central Region	187,861 (3,151)	4%	2,956 (46)	-22%	
Burundi	5,226 (213)	97%	8 (0)	-100%	3
Cameroon	80,487 (397)	113%	1,320 (10)	25%	3
Central African Republic	11,044 (20)	-50%	98 (0)	NA*	3
Chad	4,946 (4)	33%	174 (0)	NA*	3
Congo	12,298 (80)	-58%	161 (0)	-100%	3
Democratic Republic of Congo	37,926 (2,258)	-3%	880 (34)	-17%	3
Equatorial Guinea	8,708 (46)	28%	120 (0)	-100%	3
Gabon	24,864 (128)	-12%	158 (2)	No change	3

⁷ Data is continuously verified for accuracy and reliability, thus may change based on retrospective updates from Member States.

⁸ 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	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	Percent change in new cases since Epi week 23	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	Percent change in new deaths since Epi week 23	Epidemic phase ⁸
Sao Tome and Principe	2,362 (5)	25%	37 (0)	NA*	3
Eastern Region	699,185 (16,936)	-2%	13,744 (355)	21%	
Comoros	3,975 (11)	38%	146 (0)	NA*	3
Djibouti	11,587 (15)	50%	155 (1)	NA*	3
Eritrea	5,362 (514)	33%	19 (3)	50%	3
Ethiopia	275,194 (1,007)	-21%	4,283 (41)	24%	3
Kenya	179,075 (3,738)	31%	3,456 (46)	-63%	3
Madagascar	42,126 (178)	-14%	902 (17)	-6%	3
Mauritius	1,773 (93)	-58%	18 (0)	NA*	3
Rwanda	30,813 (2,440)	116%	382 (12)	20%	3
Seychelles	14,123 (709)	-25%	55 (9)	NA*	3
Somalia	14,852 (35)	-49%	775 (1)	No change	3
South Sudan	10,770 (19)	-68%	115 (0)	NA*	3
Sudan	36,347 (19)	-93%	2,737 (4)	-89%	3
Tanzania ⁹	509 (0)	NA*	21 (0)	NA*	Unknown
Uganda	72,679 (8,158)	-17%	680 (221)	211%	3
Northern Region	1,537,411 (26,628)	5%	46,682 (893)	-3%	
Algeria	135,928 (2,540)	5%	3,762 (60)	13%	3
Egypt	277,288 (4,106)	-21%	15,859 (236)	-13%	3
Libya	191,038 (1,754)	10%	3,178 (13)	-32%	3
Mauritania	20,336 (263)	3%	481 (6)	-14%	3
Morocco	526,651 (2,761)	12%	9,238 (27)	-18%	3

⁹ Last report received 7-May-2020.

Country	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	Percent change in new cases since Epi week 23	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	Percent change in new deaths since Epi week 23	Epidemic phase ⁸
Tunisia	385,428 (15,204)	13%	14,118 (551)	2%	3
Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	742 (0)	NA*	46 (0)	NA*	1
Southern Region	2,309,601 (109,403)	48%	68,003 (1,469)	39%	
Angola	37,678 (1,078)	30%	859 (34)	21%	3
Botswana	65,815 (1,794)	-47%	940 (14)	-66%	3
Eswatini	18,813 (77)	-7%	677 (1)	-67%	3
Lesotho	11,107 (186)	127%	329 (3)	NA*	3
Malawi	34,868 (362)	212%	1,168 (9)	350%	3
Mozambique	72,507 (969)	129%	848 (7)	75%	3
Namibia	74,682 (9,593)	50%	1,164 (169)	104%	3
South Africa	1,823,319 (76,237)	51%	58,702 (937)	18%	3
Zambia	129,033 (17,287)	51%	1,644 (255)	215%	3
Zimbabwe	41,779 (1,820)	136%	1,672 (40)	54%	3
Western Region	481,081 (2,745)	6%	6,372 (28)	-26%	
Benin	8,140 (31)	15%	103 (1)	NA*	3
Burkina Faso	13,469 (10)	67%	167 (0)	NA*	3
Cape Verde	31,964 (349)	-33%	281 (6)	-25%	3
Côte d'Ivoire	48,044 (382)	122%	308 (2)	NA*	3
Gambia	6,024 (8)	-43%	181 (1)	No change	3
Ghana	95,059 (235)	-48%	794 (4)	300%	3
Guinea	23,450 (52)	-64%	168 (1)	-80%	3
Guinea-Bissau	3,825 (22)	38%	69 (0)	-100%	3
Liberia	3,109 (534)	87%	99 (5)	-17%	3

Country	Cumulative number of cases (new cases)	Percent change in new cases since Epi week 23	Cumulative number of deaths (new deaths)	Percent change in new deaths since Epi week 23	Epidemic phase ⁸
Mali	14,381 (31)	-40%	524 (1)	-75%	3
Niger	5,469 (23)	229%	193 (1)	NA*	3
Nigeria	167,206 (140)	-53%	2,117 (0)	NA*	3
Senegal	42,404 (406)	28%	1,158 (4)	-50%	3
Sierra Leone	4,816 (428)	129%	82 (0)	-100%	3
Togo	13,721 (94)	7%	128 (2)	100%	3
Total	5,215,139 (158,863)	30%	137,757 (2,791)	18%	

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

Public Health and Social Measure (PHSM) Highlights

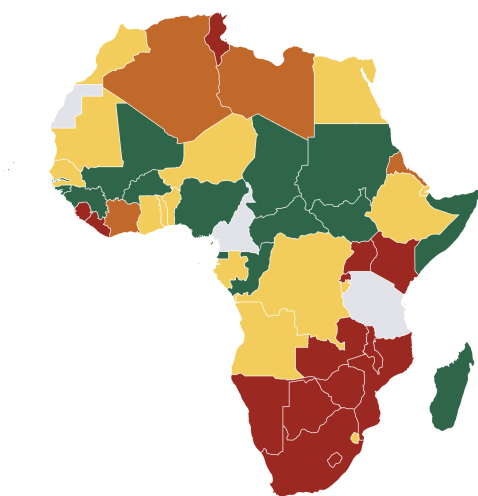


Figure 2. Map of AU Member States by hotspot level¹⁰ on the PERC [dashboard](#). This system is intended to highlight AU Member States needing attention due to an increasing or widespread outbreak. For specifics on calculations, refer to the dashboard [methodology](#).

Table 3 below highlights changes in public health and social measures (PHSMs) for selected countries based on data from the [Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker](#). An up arrow indicates new PHSMs were announced; a horizontal arrow indicates PHSM was extended; a down arrow indicates PHSMs were loosened/expired. Member States are organized by tiers based on current epidemiological data from 12 - 17 June 2021.

¹⁰ 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.

Table 3: Changes in Public Health and Social Measures, selected countries, 12-17 June 2021.

Country	PHSM Trend	PHSM Change
Tier 4 (High Alert): Daily case incidence per 1M people/day ≥ 80 and/or positivity rate $\geq 12\%$		
Congo	↑	Authorities in Congo have imposed a 20-person limit on public gatherings and closed nightclubs amid increasing COVID-19 transmission.
DRC	↑	Additional restrictions were imposed in the Democratic Republic of Congo to combat rising transmission, including closure of nightclubs and a two-week ban on funerals.
Eswatini	↑	Eswatini implemented measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19, including restrictions on alcohol sales, public gatherings, religious institutions, and arts and sporting events.
Mauritius	↓	Mauritius announced they will reopen their air borders for international travellers on 15 July.
Namibia	↑	Lockdown measures were imposed on the capital city of Namibia , Windhoek. Restrictions include limits on public gatherings to just 10 people, the closure of schools and institutes of higher education, and restrictions on spectators at sporting events.
Rwanda	↑	Rwanda instituted stricter COVID-19 restrictions, including a nightly curfew, capacity limits on public transportation, and restrictions on religious gatherings. Media reports of increased enforcement of individual protective measures as well.
South Africa	↑	Amid rising cases, officials in South Africa have tightened some COVID-19 restrictions. The nightly curfew has been lengthened by an hour, alcohol sales are limited, and capacity restrictions for indoor public gatherings were reduced to 50 people indoors and 100 people outdoors.
Zimbabwe	↑	Zimbabwe reimposed lockdown measures amid rising cases, including a ban on all public gatherings except funerals (which have a capacity limit of 30 people).
Tier 3 (Moderate Alert): Daily case incidence per 1M people/day is 20 to <80 and/or positivity rate is 5% to $<12\%$		
Kenya	↑	Officials in Kenya lengthened the nightly curfew by 3 hours in 13 counties most affected by rising COVID-19 transmission.
Tier 2 (Low Alert): Daily case incidence per 1M people/day is 5 to <20 and/or positivity rate is 3% to 5%		
Burundi	↓	Burundi lifted the mandatory quarantine period for travellers, both international and domestic.
Tier 1 (Standard Precautions): Daily case incidence per 1M people/day is <5 and/or positivity rate is $<3\%$		
Madagascar	→/↓	The state of health emergency in Madagascar was extended for an additional 15 days. This means that the nightly curfew is renewed, although some other restrictions have been loosened. Public gatherings, for example, are now limited to 200 people compared to the earlier 100-person limit.

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, 17 June 2021. He was joined by Jeremy Konyndyk, USAID COVID-19 Task Force Executive Director; they discussed the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic in African countries, including vaccine sharing. The recording is available on the [Africa CDC Twitter page](#).
2. Africa CDC released the [Adapted Africa Joint Continental Strategy](#) on 13 June 2021 in response to an evolving COVID-19 pandemic situation globally and within Africa.
3. As of 21 June 2021, 51 out of 55 African Union Member States have started COVID-19 vaccination campaigns targeting priority populations. Cumulatively, over 48.9 million doses have been administered, and over 34.4 million persons have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Tanzania, Saharawi Republic, Eritrea, and Burundi are the four AU Member States yet to start the COVID-19 vaccine rollout. More information on COVID-19 vaccination can be found on the [Africa CDC COVID-19 vaccine dashboard](#).

Laboratory:

1. Over 51 million tests for COVID-19 have been conducted in Africa since February 2020. The cumulative positivity ratio and test per case ratio are 10.3% and 9.8, respectively. For Epi week 24, a total of 1,136,929 new tests were conducted, a 12% increase compared to Epi week 23 when 1,014,234 tests were conducted.

Healthcare Preparedness and Medical Countermeasures:

Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC)

1. Africa CDC and partners held the sixth session of the seventh IPC webinar series on "Injection safety: sharps and waste management" in English on Wednesday, 16 June 2021. A total of 630 persons attended the webinar.
2. Africa CDC and partners held the fifth session of the seventh IPC webinar series titled "IPC considerations for managing endemic disease outbreak" in French on Thursday, 17 June 2021. A total of 115 persons participated in the webinar.
3. Africa CDC will hold a special webinar session for the newly published IPC checklist for the Primary Healthcare Facilities in English with French interpretation, Wednesday 23 June 2021, at 1 pm EAT. [Register here](#).
4. Africa CDC and partners will hold the sixth session of the seventh IPC webinar series on "Injection safety: sharps and waste management" on Thursday 24 June 2021, at 1 pm EAT for the French session. [Register here](#).

Case Management

1. Africa CDC supported Cameroon to conduct a Training of Trainers on 16-18 June 2021 for 30 clinicians on COVID-19 case management and orientation on new protocols of COVID-19 treatment for use at community and health facility levels.

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-19¹¹ surveillance efforts to include:
 - a. Syndromic surveillance for influenza-like illness (ILI) and severe acute respiratory infections (SARI).¹²
 - b. Rapid mortality surveillance includes collection, analysis and the use of all-cause mortality data collected through the facility- or community-based surveillance.¹³
 - c. Genomic surveillance¹⁴ to monitor the presence of variants, the spread and the continuous evolution of the virus.
2. Member States should continue to perform contact tracing¹⁵ of confirmed cases based on transmission type and country capacity and enhance diagnostic screening efforts using the rapid antigen tests¹⁶.
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 infected healthcare workers for updated information for action. 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.¹⁷

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)

¹¹ [WHO COVID-19 Case definition](#)

¹² [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](#)

¹³ [Revealing the toll of COVID-19: A technical package for Member States – Africa CDC](#)

¹⁴ [Genomic sequencing of SARS-CoV-2: a guide to implementation for maximum impact on public health](#)

¹⁵ [Africa CDC Guidance on Contact Tracing for COVID-19 Pandemic: <https://africacdc.org/download/guidance-on-contact-tracing-for-covid-19-pandemic/>](#)

¹⁶ [Interim Guidance on the Use of Rapid Antigen tests for COVID-19 Response – Africa CDC](#)

¹⁷ [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](#)

- <https://preventepidemics.org/covid19/perc/>
- WHO. Technical Guidance. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance>