

Outbreak Brief #76: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Date of Issue: 29 June 2021

Global case count: 180,844,523 cases and 3,923,825 deaths

Data sources: World Health Organization and African Union Member States

Outbreak Update: Since the last brief (22 June 2021), **2,615,379** new confirmed¹ coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases, including **57,505** new deaths, have been reported globally. To date, a global total of **180,844,523** COVID-19 cases and **3,923,825** 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** 9,443,683 (5%), **European Region** 55,763,610 (31%), **Region of the Americas** 71,957,777 (40%), **South-East Asia Region** 34,666,159 (19%) and **Western Pacific Region** 3,522,008 (2%). In the last seven days, Brazil reported more than 500,000 new cases, India reported more than 300,000 new cases, Colombia reported over 200,000 new cases, while Argentina, Indonesia 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) 29 June 2021, a total of 5,442,372 COVID-19 cases and 141,698 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 (3.6%), Mali (3.6%), Eswatini (3.6%), Niger (3.5%), Chad (3.5%), Malawi (3.3%), Liberia (3.2%), South Africa (3.1%), Gambia (3%), Lesotho (3%), Senegal (2.7%), Algeria (2.7%), Mauritania (2.4%), Angola (2.3%) and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) (2.3%).

For Epi week 25 (21-27 June 2021), **208,464** new COVID-19 cases have been reported, which is a 26% increase in the number of new cases reported when compared to Epi week 24. Most new COVID-19 cases reported for this week are from the Southern Region (72%), followed by the Northern (16%), Eastern (8%), Western (2%) and Central (2%) regions. This week, six countries account for 82% of the new COVID-19 cases reported: South Africa (51%), Tunisia (11%), Zambia

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)

(9%), Namibia (6%), Uganda (3%), and Zimbabwe (2%). The countries reporting the highest incidence (COVID-19 new cases per 100,000 population) this week are Seychelles (993), Namibia (478), Tunisia (199), South Africa (178), Botswana (161) and Zambia (106). Figure 1 shows the trend of new COVID-19 cases reported per day by AU region from 15 February 2020 to 29 June 2021. The number of daily new cases registered has continued to increase across the continent.

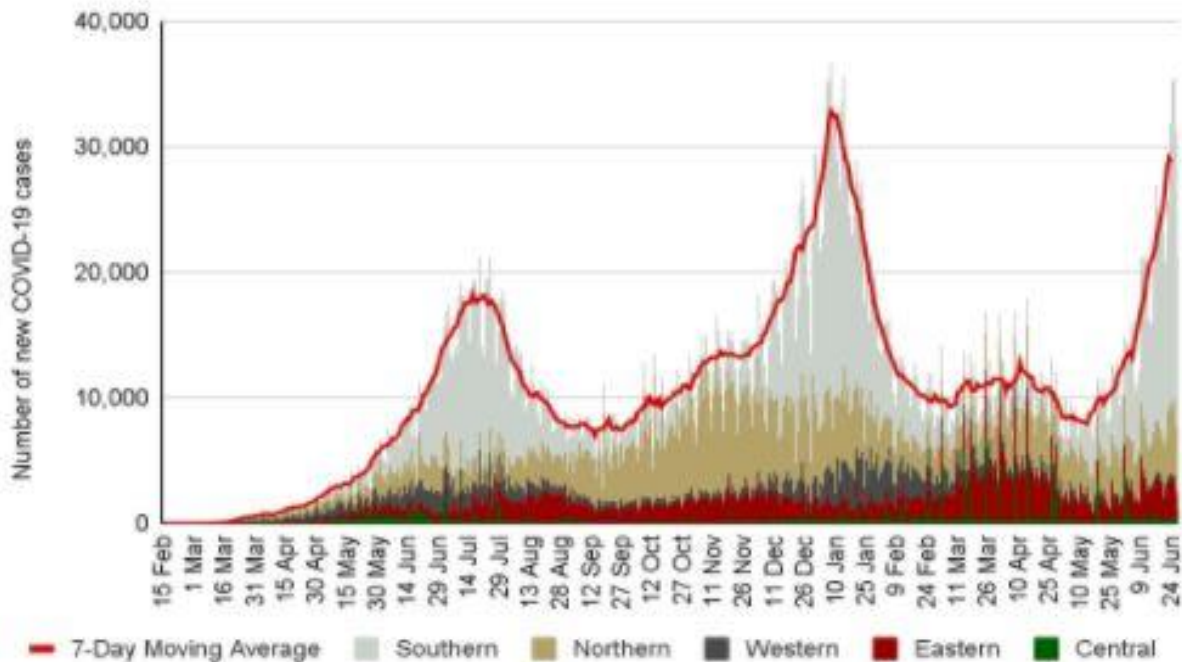


Figure 1: New COVID-19 cases reported by day in Africa by African Union region, 15 February 2020 - 29 June 2021. (The dates are at a two-week interval; the last date is 29 June 2021).

As of 29 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 29 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, 21 (38%) have reported a third wave, and one country (Tunisia) 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 25. 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 25 (21-27 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	191,146 (3,179)	-5%	3,001 (42)	-13%	
Burundi	5,390 (164)	-24%	8 (0)	NA*	3
Cameroon	80,858 (371)	-7%	1,324 (4)	-60%	3
Central African Republic	11,058 (14)	-42%	98 (0)	NA*	3
Chad	4,951 (5)	25%	174 (0)	NA*	3
Congo	12,404 (0)	-100%	164 (0)	-100%	3
Democratic Republic of Congo	40,439 (2,513)	4%	916 (36)	6%	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
Equatorial Guinea	8,723 (15)	-67%	121 (1)	NA*	3
Gabon	24,958 (94)	-28%	159 (1)	No change	3
Sao Tome and Principe	2,365 (3)	-40%	37 (0)	NA*	3
Eastern Region	717,564 (17,657)	-1%	14,258 (480)	30%	
Comoros	3,986 (11)	22%	146 (0)	NA*	3
Djibouti	11,601 (14)	-13%	155 (0)	-100%	3
Eritrea	5,780 (418)	-5%	21 (2)	-33%	3
Ethiopia	275,935 (741)	-24%	4,314 (31)	-14%	3
Kenya	182,597 (3,522)	-2%	3,595 (139)	248%	3
Madagascar	42,194 (68)	-58%	909 (7)	-53%	3
Mauritius	1,852 (79)	1%	18 (0)	NA*	3
Rwanda	36,627 (5,814)	106%	420 (38)	138%	3
Seychelles	15,116 (993)	-8%	63 (8)	-38%	3
Somalia	14,892 (40)	-20%	775 (0)	-100%	3
South Sudan	10,812 (42)	27%	115 (0)	NA*	3
Sudan	36,574 (227)	NA*	2,750 (13)	NA*	3
Tanzania ⁹	509 (0)	NA*	21 (0)	NA*	Unknown
Uganda	79,089 (5,688)	-34%	956 (242)	-1%	3
Northern Region	1,571,629 (34,218)	28%	47,522 (971)	5%	

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
Algeria	138,465 (2,537)	-1%	3,693 (62)	No change	3
Egypt	280,394 (3,106)	-22%	16,092 (233)	-5%	3
Libya	192,786 (1,748)	3%	3,191 (13)	-13%	3
Mauritania	20,635 (299)	17%	486 (5)	No change	3
Morocco	529,676 (3,025)	10%	9,277 (39)	26%	3
Tunisia	408,931 (23,503)	51%	14,737 (619)	9%	3
Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic ¹⁰	742 (0)	NA*	46 (0)	NA*	1
Southern Region	2,459,833 (150,232)	32%	70,174 (2,042)	26%	
Angola	38,556 (878)	-19%	889 (30)	-12%	3
Botswana	69,680 (3,865)	130%	1,125 (56)	-64%	3
Eswatini	19,035 (222)	161%	678 (1)	No change	3
Lesotho	11,239 (132)	-36%	329 (0)	-100%	3
Malawi	35,629 (761)	117%	1,182 (14)	17%	3
Mozambique	75,138 (2,631)	161%	868 (20)	186%	3
Namibia	86,649 (11,967)	20%	1,445 (281)	64%	3
South Africa	1,928,897 (105,578)	32%	59,900 (1,198)	31%	3

¹⁰ Last report received 29-May-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
Zambia	148,568 (19,535)	12%	2,022 (378)	37%	3
Zimbabwe	46,442 (4,663)	120%	1,736 (64)	28%	3
Western Region	484,573 (3,178)	6%	6,429 (57)	78%	
Benin	8,170 (30)	NA*	104 (1)	NA*	3
Burkina Faso	13,478 (9)	-10%	168 (1)	NA*	3
Cape Verde	32,372 (408)	22%	286 (5)	-29%	3
Côte d'Ivoire	48,192 (148)	-48%	312 (4)	100%	3
Gambia	6,069 (24)	-20%	181 (0)	NA*	3
Ghana	95,476 (217)	-37%	795 (1)	No change	3
Guinea	23,692 (149)	-18%	168 (0)	-100%	3
Guinea-Bissau	3,846 (21)	-16%	69 (0)	NA*	3
Liberia	3,794 (685)	20%	123 (24)	100%	3
Mali	14,417 (36)	9%	525 (1)	No change	3
Niger	5,478 (9)	-47%	193 (0)	-100%	3
Nigeria	167,467 (261)	22%	2,119 (2)	100%	3
Senegal	42,904 (500)	21%	1,164 (6)	50%	3
Sierra Leone	5,381 (565)	27%	94 (12)	NA*	3
Togo	13,837 (116)	16%	128 (0)	-100%	3
Total	5,424,745 (208,464)	26%	141,384 (3,592)	20%	

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

Public Health and Social Measure (PHSM) Highlights

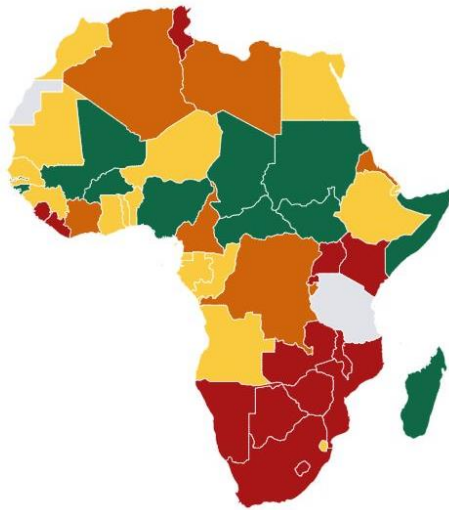


Figure 2. Map of AU Member States by hotspot level¹¹ on the PERC [dashboard](#). This system is intended to highlight AU Member States needing attention due to an increasing or widespread outbreak. For specifics on calculations, refer to the dashboard [methodology](#).

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 18 - 24 June 2021.

Table 3: Changes in Public Health and Social Measures, selected countries, 18-24 June 2021.

Country	PHSM Trend	PHSM Change
Tier 4 (High Alert): Daily case incidence per 1M people/day ≥ 80 and/or positivity rate $\geq 12\%$		
DRC	↑	Additional restrictions were imposed in Kinshasa, the capital city of DRC . Restrictions include a ban on gatherings of more than 20 people (both indoor and outdoor), capacity limits on religious institutions and public transportation, and a ban on street vendors.
Liberia	↑	Authorities in Liberia tightened COVID-19 measures amid rising cases. Public gatherings of more than 20 people are no longer permitted, and face masks must be worn in public places. Passengers from India, Pakistan, or Bangladesh are also no longer permitted to enter Liberia .
Tunisia	↑	Lockdown measures were imposed on four governorates in Tunisia amid surges in COVID-19 transmission. Measures include a nightly curfew, a ban on all gatherings of any sort, and mandatory facemasks in public with threat of a fine for noncompliance.
Uganda	↑	Authorities in Uganda implemented additional COVID-19 measures nationwide, including a full ban on all public and private transportation and expanded curfew hours, from 19:00-5:30.
Zambia	↑	Zambia re-imposed COVID-19 restrictions amid increasing transmission. Measures include closure of schools, limits on public gatherings, and restrictions on religious services.

¹¹ 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.

Tier 3 (Moderate Alert): Daily case incidence per 1M people/day is 20 to <80 and/or positivity rate is 5% to <12%		
Egypt	↓	Travel requirements to enter Egypt have been altered : vaccinated travelers are no longer required to present a negative PCR test upon arrival.
Kenya	↑	Kenya imposed additional COVID-19 restrictions in the Lake Basin region of the country, including restrictions on gatherings and a ban on non-food markets for 30 days.
Mozambique	↑	Officials in Mozambique extended and strengthened some COVID-19 restrictions, including lengthening of the nightly curfew by one hour, closing all beaches, theaters, and cultural centers, and reducing capacity at religious services.
Rwanda	↑	Rwanda instituted additional measures to reduce COVID-19 transmission, including restrictions on inter-district movement (particularly to and from Kigali), a ban on all public and private gatherings, and capacity limits on government offices.
Tier 2 (Low Alert): Daily case incidence per 1M people/day is 5 to <20 and/or positivity rate is 3% to 5%		
Algeria	→	The government in Algeria announced the extension of COVID-19 curfews in 14 governorates for an additional 21 days.
Sierra Leone	↑	Sierra Leone announced new COVID-19 measures, including a one-month ban on nightclubs and movie theaters, restrictions on the length of religious services, and the mandatory use of facemasks in public places.
Zimbabwe	↑	Zimbabwe announced localized lockdowns in 3 of the nation's hardest-hit provinces: Mashonaland West, Masvingo and Bulawayo. New measures include a ban on non-essential movement and a nightly curfew from 18:00-6:00. There are media reports of increased enforcement in these areas as well.
Tier 1 (Standard Precautions): Daily case incidence per 1M people/day is <5 and/or positivity rate is <3%		
Burundi	↓	Officials in Burundi reopened land borders with Tanzania.
Niger	↓	Niger reopened its land borders, which have been closed since March 2020, in response to slow reported COVID-19 transmission across the country.
Togo	→	Officials in Togo extended the state of health emergency until September, which includes accompanying measures such as a ban on public gatherings and mandatory facemasks in public.

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, 24 June 2021. The recording is available on the [Africa CDC Twitter page](#).
2. As of 29 June 2021, 51 out of 55 African Union Member States have started COVID-19 vaccination campaigns targeting priority populations. Cumulatively, over 49.2 million doses

have been administered, and over 35.6 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 52 million tests for COVID-19 have been conducted in Africa since February 2020. The cumulative positivity rate and test per case ratio are 10.4% and 9.6, respectively. For Epi week 25, a total of 1,370,903 new tests were conducted, a 14% increase compared to Epi week 24 when 1,198,988 tests were conducted.
2. Africa CDC conducted a training on Laboratory Quality Management System (LQMS) using the One Health approach for 28 participants on 21 - 25 June 2021 in Lusaka, Zambia.

Healthcare Preparedness and Medical Countermeasures:

Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC)

1. Africa CDC held a special webinar session for the newly published IPC checklist for the Primary Healthcare Facilities in English with French interpretation, for 630 participants from 40 African Union Member States on Wednesday 23 June 2021, at 1 pm EAT.
2. Africa CDC and partners held the sixth session of the seventh IPC webinar series on “Injection safety: sharps and waste management” for 114 participants on Thursday 24 June 2021, at 1 pm EAT for the French session.

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-19¹² surveillance efforts to include:
 - a. Syndromic surveillance for influenza-like illness (ILI) and severe acute respiratory infections (SARI).¹³

¹² [WHO COVID-19 Case definition](#)

¹³ 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](#)

- b. Rapid mortality surveillance includes collection, analysis and the use of all-cause mortality data collected through the facility- or community-based surveillance.¹⁴
 - c. Genomic surveillance¹⁵ to monitor the presence of variants, the spread and the continuous evolution of the virus.
2. Member States should continue to perform contact tracing¹⁶ of confirmed cases based on transmission type and country capacity and enhance diagnostic screening efforts using the rapid antigen tests¹⁷.
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.¹⁸

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>

¹⁴ Revealing the toll of COVID-19: A technical package for Member States – Africa CDC

¹⁵ Genomic sequencing of SARS-CoV-2: a guide to implementation for maximum impact on public health

¹⁶ Africa CDC Guidance on Contact Tracing for COVID-19 Pandemic: <https://africacdc.org/download/guidance-on-contact-tracing-for-covid-19-pandemic/>

¹⁷ [Interim Guidance on the Use of Rapid Antigen tests for COVID-19 Response – Africa CDC](#)

¹⁸ [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](#)