



# Test, Trace and Treat:

## Partnership to Accelerate COVID-19 Testing (PACT) in Africa

To help increase continental testing efforts and reduce COVID-19 transmission in Africa, Africa CDC has launched the Partnership to Accelerate COVID-19 Testing (PACT): Test, Trace, Treat. PACT will mobilize experts, community workers, supplies and other resources to **TEST, TRACE** and **TREAT** COVID-19 cases in a timely manner to minimize the impact of the pandemic on the Africa continent. Anchored on the African Union Joint Continental Strategy for COVID-19 Outbreak<sup>1</sup>, PACT will ultimately help prevent transmission and deaths, and minimize the social and economic harm associated with COVID-19.

In support of the AU Joint Continental Strategy, Africa aims to achieve the following PACT targets by October 2020.

Conduct

**10 million**

COVID-19 tests

Deploy

**1 million**

community health workers

Train

**100,000**

healthcare workers to support COVID-19 response

Establish a continent-wide

**procurement platform** for laboratory and medical supplies

**All stakeholders are being called on to coordinate, communicate, collaborate, and cooperate to support the PACT Initiative to control COVID-19 in Africa.**



## TEST

to diagnose cases

To increase targeted testing, actions will focus on:

- **Ensuring** uninterrupted supply of test kits, reagents, and other essential testing supplies
- **Decentralizing** testing to other qualified laboratories within countries
- **Automating**, streamlining, and ensuring uninterrupted laboratory processes
- **Pooling** testing
- **Considering** rapid diagnostics where this can be validated and standardized
- **Ensuring** a rapid and reliable specimen transport system
- **Reinforcing** and expanding the existing workforce by training additional laboratorians to run tests



## TRACE

to identify cases and their contacts

To accelerate case-finding for rapid isolation of cases and quarantining of contacts, actions will focus on:

- **Smart screening** in at-risk populations
- **Conducting** active case searching while investigating known cases
- **Tracing** all case contacts
- **Sensitizing** and activating local detection points like patent medicine vendors, traditional healers, and laboratories to identify cases
- **Engaging** and empowering community members to self-report and seek care
- **Training** and deploying community health workers to assist with contact tracing, community engagement and education
- **Facilitating** and encouraging care-seeking for symptomatic individuals



## TREAT

to provide supportive care in symptomatic cases

To ensure access to supportive care for symptomatic COVID-19 patients and minimize related deaths, actions should include:

- **Providing** guidance on home-based care to individuals experiencing mild symptoms
- **Immediate triage and testing** of symptomatic individuals at the healthcare setting
- **Early identification** and evidence informed management of those with moderate to critical illness and the medically vulnerable (e.g. older patients, existing comorbidities)
- **Implementation** of infection prevention and control practices
- **Ensuring** that critical equipment is in place and functioning (e.g. oxygen and oxygen-delivering interfaces)

