



## Implementing COVID-19 Public Health and Social Measures in Africa

Public health and social measures (PHSMs) that encourage physical distancing, such as school closures, business closures and stay-at-home orders, have contributed to limiting the spread of COVID-19. Their direct applicability in many resource-constrained settings, where economic and social conditions are considerably different from those in high-income countries, remains unclear.

Evidence-based adaptation of PHSMs to suit local contexts, including appropriate relief measures, will improve effectiveness and limit social and economic disruption.

Clear information on the data “triggers” for increasing or decreasing PHSMs will help member states in Africa adapt PHSMs to local circumstances, and to be responsive to a changing epidemiological, social, and economic landscape.

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## Evidence-Based Public Health Interventions: The PERC Consortium

Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) has joined with Resolve to Save Lives, an initiative of Vital Strategies, the World Health Organization's African Regional Office and Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office, the UK Public Health Rapid Support Team, and the World Economic Forum to form the Partnership for Evidence-Based Response to COVID-19 (PERC). This consortium is supported by Ipsos and Novetta Mission Analytics. PERC will collect social, economic, and impact data from African countries to help determine the acceptability, impact, and effectiveness of public health and social measures (PHSMs), and will translate these findings into actionable recommendations for governments and policymakers.

PERC will also work with governments to mitigate social and economic disruption and other unintended consequences of PHSMs.

### Partner contributions:

- + **Africa CDC** is working with the UK Public Health Rapid Support Team and other partners to support the interpretation of key data sources and to translate these into policy and guidance. Africa CDC is a specialized technical institution of the African Union leading the continental response to COVID-19. Within the PERC collaboration, Africa CDC is providing technical leadership on generating and communicating data-driven evidence for public health social measures as a leverage for policy decisions in member states.
- + **Resolve to Save Lives, an initiative of Vital Strategies**, will support Africa CDC and WHO to translate insight from Ipsos data and other sources into country-level, tailored guidelines that support implementation of PSHMs while protecting people from potential negative impacts of PHSMs.
- + **Ipsos and Novetta Mission Analytics** will collect and help analyze data on the acceptability and impact of distancing measures to prevent COVID-19, as well as on effectiveness of control measures put in place in African countries.
- + **The World Health Organisation** will provide technical leadership, shaping strategy by ensuring that new evidence is quickly adopted by member states to adjust their COVID-19 response interventions. WHO will also play a key role in capacity building and ensuring that best practices are quickly shared amongst member states. Finally, WHO will leverage the close links with a range of United Nations (UN) agencies at the country and regional level to promote socio-economic impact-mitigating multi-sectoral action.
- + **World Economic Forum** will work with its vast network of public- and private-sector partners to galvanize a community of action to accelerate the dissemination of real-time data throughout their networks across the African continent.

PERC's reports, including regional and country-level briefings, are available at <https://preventepidemics.org/coronavirus/perc/>. PERC produces a weekly summary of key indicators, and updated regional data are available on a rolling basis.