

COMMUNITYFIRST COVID-19 ACTION PLAN

This Action Plan can be used as:

- An **outline** to develop your CommunityFirst COVID-19 Plan:
 - Add/remove steps as relevant for your community
 - Add resources from the Roadmap website
 - A **checklist** to follow your progress on the [CommunityFirst COVID-19 Roadmap](https://communityfirstcovid19.org) (communityfirstcovid19.org)
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GETTING READY

Appoint a CommunityFirst COVID-19 Committee

- Establish the priorities of the committee and agree on the roles of its members
 - Designate individuals (or sub-committees) responsible for the following areas:
 - Communications
 - Coordination with health authorities and humanitarian actors
 - High-risk and vulnerable groups
 - Hygiene kits and PPE
 - Mental health
 - Vaccine awareness
 - Create a virtual group for the committee
 - Review customized CommunityFirst COVID-19 plans and adapted Roadmaps
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ORGANIZE

1. Are there COVID-19 cases...

- In your country? → Focus on **ORGANIZE**
- Near your community? → Focus on **PREPARE**
- In your community? → Focus on **RESPOND**

2. Identify resources, knowledge, and skills within your community

- Medical and psychological personnel
- Traditional medicine
- Crafts, e.g. textiles for masks, soap-making

- Community spaces
- Communication platforms, e.g. radio, social network groups, loudspeakers
- Community networks
- Food and water, sanitary materials

3. Coordinate with health authorities and other relevant actors

- Identify the gaps
- Understand the capacity of the local health centre(s)
- Identify humanitarian actors and the support they can provide
- Establish the terms of the relationship with humanitarian actors
- Understand the national and local health authorities' COVID-19 response and vaccine roll-out plans (if existing)

4. Protect your community

- Monitor travel in and out of the community
- Screen newcomers for the presence of symptoms and recent contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19
 - Refer anyone with symptoms compatible with COVID-19 and/or a positive contact history for evaluation, preferably by a healthcare professional
- Designate individuals able to leave the community to get essential items

5. Identify high-risk and vulnerable groups

High Risk Groups

- Elders and older people
- Immunocompromised people
- People with comorbidities, especially:
 - Chronic kidney disease
 - Chronic lung disease
 - Diabetes
 - Heart disease
 - Hypertension
 - Obesity
 - Tuberculosis

Vulnerable Groups

- Indigenous peoples
- LGBTQ+
- Migrants
- Survivors of sexual and gender-based violence
- People in detention
- People living with HIV/AIDS
- People experiencing homelessness
- People who use drugs
- People with disabilities
- Women and girls
- Youth

6. Communicate COVID-19 information

- Raise awareness about symptoms, prevention and mental wellness
- Combat myths, stigma and rumours
- Use infographics, radio and social media groups
- Prioritize communications to high-risk groups
- Work with local influencers
- Translate into local languages

7. Share key vaccine information:

- Conduct community survey on vaccine confidence
- Create safe spaces to address people's concerns:
 - Why vaccines are important and how they work
 - Benefits and risks of vaccination to the individual and the community

8. Provide food and essential items

- Support a local store(s) to remain open for food and essential items
- Assemble and deliver food baskets for vulnerable people
- Provide hygiene kits containing masks, soap and disinfectant
- Make a list of essential community services

9. Supply water and sanitation

- Encourage frequent hand-washing
- Increase access to hand-washing stations and soap
- If water is limited, develop local alternatives
- Maintain waste management systems

PREPARE

1. Review health measures

- Stay up-to-date with national and local health authorities' COVID-19 responses and vaccine roll-out plans
- Ensure that gaps are filled
- Identify any new gaps

2. Secure Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Provide PPE for all community workers

3. Train COVID-19 community workers

- Provide training in:

- Health promotion
- Case detection
- Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)
- Contact tracing
- Psychosocial support

- Where possible, train community workers to do virtual community health work

4. Support high-risk and vulnerable groups

- Ensure people with comorbidities can get treatment and support
- Provide food and essential items
- Support mental health and wellbeing

5. Adapt community life to respect health protocols

- Adapt public spaces and workplaces
- Adapt weddings, funerals, burials, religious services and other community gatherings
- Favour gatherings outside with mask-wearing and physical distancing
- Support safe protesting

6. Equip community members

- Encourage mask-wearing, frequent hand-washing and physical distancing
- Encourage people to increase ventilation by opening windows
- Provide hygiene kits to each household with essential supplies
- Offer tips to prevent and recover from infection at home
- Provide information on when to seek in-person medical attention
- Support parents and caregivers with young children

7. Prepare isolation/quarantine

- Prepare homes for isolation of household members with COVID-19
- Repurpose community spaces to isolate people with COVID-19 (e.g. schools, hotels and churches)

8. Mobilize community assets

- Use community resources, knowledge and skills for COVID-19 prevention activities: i.e. mask-making, soap-making, outdoor theatre & music
- Mobilize community social networks to foster connection and solidarity

9. Prepare community for COVID-19 vaccine rollout

- Continue to hold information sessions as needed about COVID-19 vaccines
 - Combat myths, stigma and rumours related to COVID-19 vaccines
 - Ensure healthcare workers and high-risk groups have priority access to vaccines
 - Share information about where and when vaccination will take place and how community members can sign up
 - Include information about the 2nd dose as required
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RESPOND

1. Follow up with health authorities and other relevant actors

- Maintain COVID-19 and other essential health services
- Ask health authorities and humanitarian actors to fill gaps
- Stay up-to-date with national and local health authorities' COVID-19 responses and vaccine roll-out plans

2. Detect COVID-19 cases

- Create a virtual alert network
- Train community workers to conduct COVID-19 screenings
- Refer people whose screenings are positive to the health centre for clinical evaluation and testing
- Prioritize PCR/antigen testing for essential workers and vulnerable populations

3. Isolate suspected* COVID-19 cases

- Suspected cases should isolate at home or in a designated isolation centre
- Suspected cases must keep physically distant and wear a mask at all times
- Anyone in direct contact with a suspected case must wear a mask
- Provide support for people in isolation

4. Trace contacts

- Advise all contacts of each case (suspected* or confirmed) to quarantine in line with local public health guidelines

5. Keep up prevention measures

- Continue to encourage mask-wearing, frequent hand-washing and physical distancing

6. Support mental health and wellness

- Continue to provide resources to support mental health and wellness
- Ensure access to virtual crisis support centres

7. Access online health support

- Facilitate access to:
 - Psychosocial care
 - Clinical follow-up
 - Water and sanitation guidance
 - Logistics support
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SUSTAIN

1. Coordinate with health authorities and other relevant actors

- Keep informed about local public health responses
- Resume regular clinical and mental health services with safety protocols

2. Adjust community protection measures

- Assess whether the community can be open to inter-community travel
- Continue to screen newcomers for symptoms/recent contact with a person with COVID-19
 - Refer anyone with symptoms compatible with COVID-19 and/or a positive contact history for evaluation, preferably by a healthcare professional

3. Maintain personal protection

- Avoid poorly ventilated public places
- Encourage mask-wearing, hand-washing and physical distancing
- Evaluate activities by level of risk
- Maintain mental and physical wellness

4. Communicate COVID-19 information

- Use infographics
- Combat myths, stigma and rumours

- Prioritize communications to high-risk groups
- Share key information about COVID-19 vaccines
- Use radio and social media groups
- Translate into local languages

5. Continue to protect high-risk and vulnerable groups

- Prioritize testing
- Support mental health and wellbeing
- Ensure treatment and care for community members with co-morbidities

6. Modify community life

- Adapt workplaces to protect employees
- Adapt public spaces and community gatherings

7. Support mental health and wellness

- Continue providing mental health resources
- Provide psychosocial support to vulnerable groups, those who have lost loved ones, as well as current and former COVID-19 patients (who may have lasting effects or ongoing symptoms)

**We would prefer to use more positive terminology, such as "person with presumptive COVID-19" in order to avoid stigmatization. However, we are choosing to use "suspected" to be consistent with terminology used by the World Health Organization.*