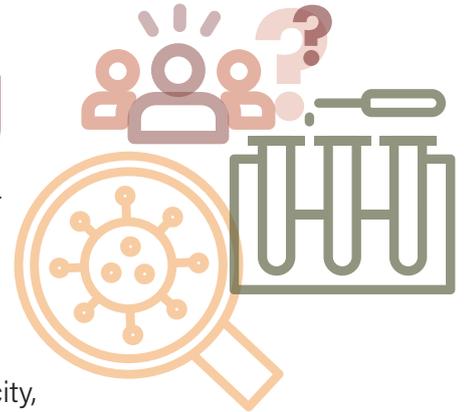


# Know Your Epidemic through COVID-19 Testing



Africa CDC is working with Member States to rapidly increase testing for SARS-CoV2, the virus which causes COVID-19. Most Member States have detected COVID-19 in travellers, and the number of locally transmitted cases is increasing daily. Member States must increase testing to understand the direction and magnitude of transmission and guide control interventions.

Depending on the stage of COVID-19 epidemic in-country and laboratory capacity, Africa CDC recommends the follow testing strategy:

## If no known community transmission:

- Anyone with fever and acute respiratory symptoms who have been in a place in the last 14 days where COVID-19 is transmitting, and who is currently in a location without local transmission.
- All symptomatic contacts of a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19.
- All cases of Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) and selected Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) samples reported through National Influenza Sentinel Surveillance.
- Healthcare workers with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 disease regardless of exposure.

## If known community transmission:

- All cases of SARI and ILI reported through the Influenza Sentinel Surveillance System to identify undetected transmission areas.
- Severe acute respiratory infections presenting to hospitals.
- Healthcare workers with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 disease regardless of exposure.

Modelling of the pandemic indicates that Member States must use a combination of community and individual social distancing, social distancing of the elderly and others most at-risk of severe disease, home isolation of cases, and household quarantine of family members. Testing to know your epidemic is essential to guide these responses.

In collaboration with partners, Africa CDC is working to ensure continuous supply of test kits to Member States.

## RESOURCES

1. [https://www.who.int/publications-detail/global-surveillance-for-human-infection-with-novel-coronavirus-\(2019-ncov\)](https://www.who.int/publications-detail/global-surveillance-for-human-infection-with-novel-coronavirus-(2019-ncov))
2. <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/medicine/sph/ide/gida-fellowships/Imperial-College-COVID19-NPI-modelling-16-03-2020.pdf>