



Guinea

Background

Public health and social measures (PHSMs) are an important strategy to slow transmission of COVID-19 and reduce the burden on health care systems. Effective implementation of PHSMs requires public support and adherence, but they can place a significant burden on people, especially when they restrict movement or entail the closure of services. This situational analysis, based on publicly available data and a recent phone survey, aims to inform efforts in Guinea to balance PHSMs to mitigate COVID-19 with other priorities, including public acceptance and social impacts.

Effective Implementation of Public Health and Social Measures in Guinea: Situational Analysis

Highlights¹

Public health and social measures should respond to data about the growth of the epidemic and be implemented in a way that engages communities. Communities should be involved in helping to determine strategies for adapting measures to the local context, protecting livelihoods, and introducing appropriate relief measures to counteract the economic impact of these measures. The government should counter misinformation with appropriate risk communication and engage with communities to ensure voluntary adherence to COVID-19 response measures.

- The COVID-19 epidemic in Guinea has been increasing steadily with a total of 1,351 confirmed cases, following the disease dynamics of African Union Member States with the highest caseload. However, mortality from the disease is reportedly low, at only seven deaths.
- The government has adopted strong measures to slow the epidemic, and is one of the few African Union Member States to require people to wear masks in public. There is strong support for closing schools but limited support for measures that would affect access to markets or workplaces.
- The Guinean government has also released substantial relief measures to offset the economic and social burden of COVID-19.
- While Guineans are aware of the epidemic and expect it to have a significant impact on their country, there is a concerning degree of misinformation and lack of trust in some information sources including government officials and doctors.
- Guineans have a high degree of confidence of being able to get care for COVID-19 if they get sick. Many Guineans believe that they cannot contract COVID-19 or are personally at low risk.
- There have been a number of COVID-19-related security incidents reported, including heavy-handed enforcement of PHSMs and looting by police/security forces.

ABOUT PERC

The Partnership for Evidence-Based Response to COVID-19 (PERC) is a public-private partnership that supports evidence-based measures to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on African Union Member States. PERC member organizations are: Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention; Resolve to Save Lives, an initiative of Vital Strategies; the World Health Organization; the UK Public Health Rapid Support Team; and the World Economic Forum. Ipsos and Novetta Mission Analytics bring market research expertise and years of data analytic support to the partnership.

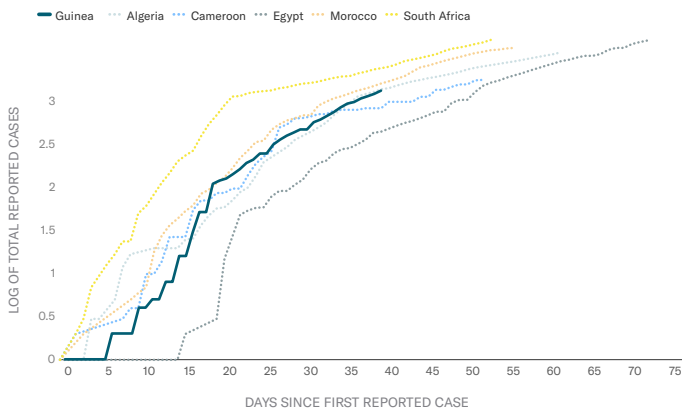
¹ This situational analysis brief is based on data from available sources as of the date of publication, and may not reflect more recent developments or data from other sources not referenced. Information about data sources available here: <https://preventepidemics.org/coronavirus/perc/data>

Disease Dynamics

GUINEA'S CASELOAD HAS BEEN GROWING RAPIDLY AFTER A TWO-WEEK LAG FROM THE FIRST REPORTED CASE IN MID-MARCH, MIRRORING THE DYNAMICS OF THE AFRICAN UNION MEMBER STATES WITH THE LARGEST CASELOADS.

Total cases	Total deaths	Case-fatality rate (%)	Total # of days to double case count	Date of first reported case
1,351	7	0.52	9	March 14

Rate of growth of caseload in Guinea has been similar to the highest-caseload African Union Member States
 as of April 30, 2020

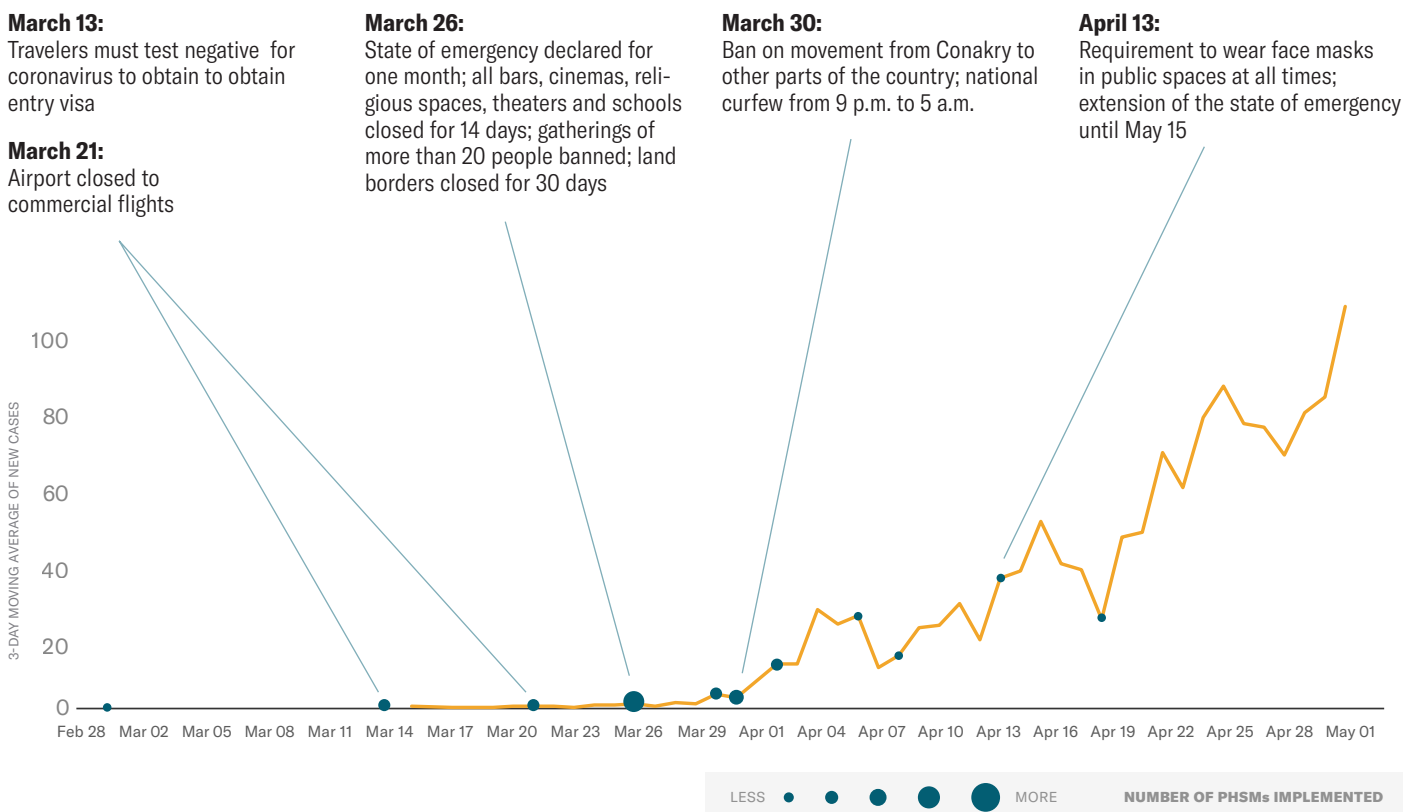


- The epidemic in Guinea has grown at the same pace as the five African Union Member States with the highest caseloads.
- The daily number of new reported cases has been increasing since the beginning of April. However, reported mortality from COVID-19 remains very low, at only seven deaths.
- In Guinea, the most recent doubling time is 9 days, which indicates a slowing growth in cases. Doubling time is the number of days it took for cases to double to reach their current level. This metric can be used to estimate the recent rate of transmission, with higher doubling times indicating slower growth. In general, doubling times exceeding seven to 10 days and increasing over time suggest a slowing of the epidemic.
- If testing is deemed to be sufficient or is increasing, then changes in case counts per day can also be used to assess COVID-19 transmission. No data on testing are publicly available for Guinea, so the degree to which reported cases reflect disease transmission is difficult to assess.

Implementation of Key PHSMs

WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF ITS FIRST REPORTED CASE, GUINEA STRONGLY RESTRICTED POPULATION MOVEMENT, AND IS ONE OF THE FEW AFRICAN UNION MEMBER STATES REQUIRING PEOPLE TO WEAR MASKS IN PUBLIC.

3-day moving average of new cases and date of PHSM implementation

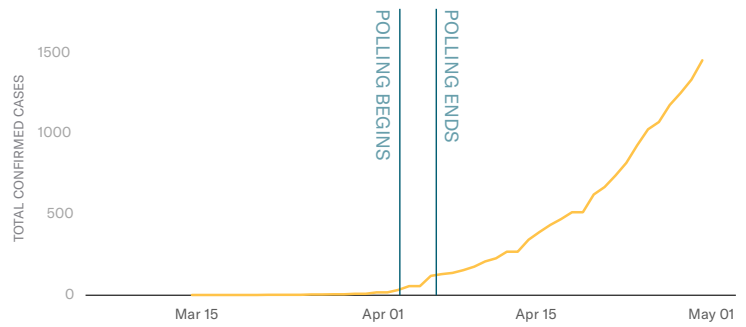


Public Reactions to COVID-19 and Related PHSMs

RESULTS FROM RECENT POLLING

Market research firm Ipsos conducted a telephone poll of 1,034 adults in Conakry between April 2 and April 5. At the time of polling, Guinea had 30 to 111 confirmed COVID-19 cases.

Timing of poll in Guinea

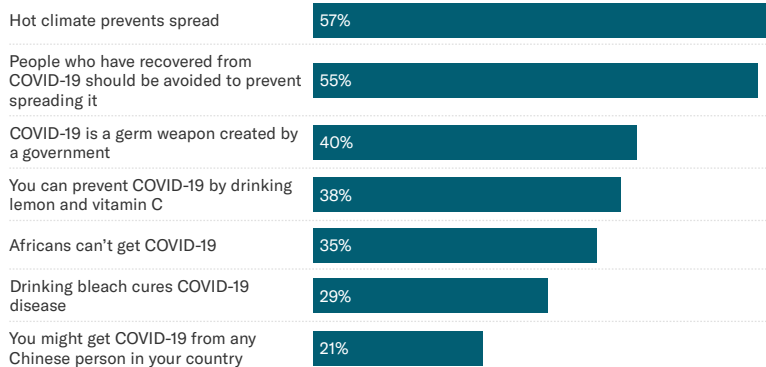


Information on COVID-19

Urban Guineans had high awareness of the epidemic (95%). However, many continued to hold misperceptions, including some that could offer a misplaced sense of protection or contribute to stigma. For example, 57% said that hot climate prevents spread, and 40% said it was a germ weapon created by a government. Almost half (44%) said they are seeking more information, particularly on prevention, transmission and causes.

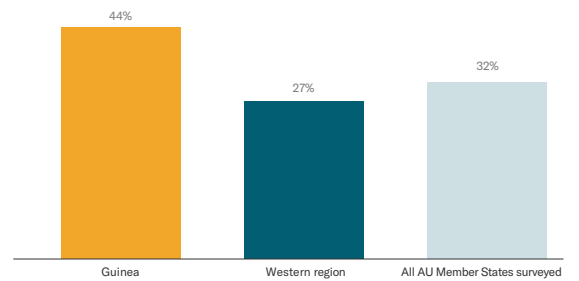
Belief in Misinformation and Rumors

Percentage believing each false statement is probably or definitely true

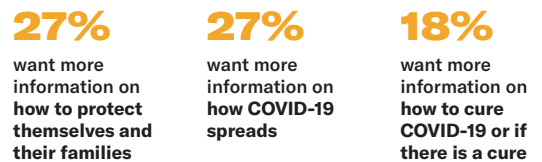


Demand for Information

Percentage reporting they **do not** currently have enough information about COVID-19



Information Needs

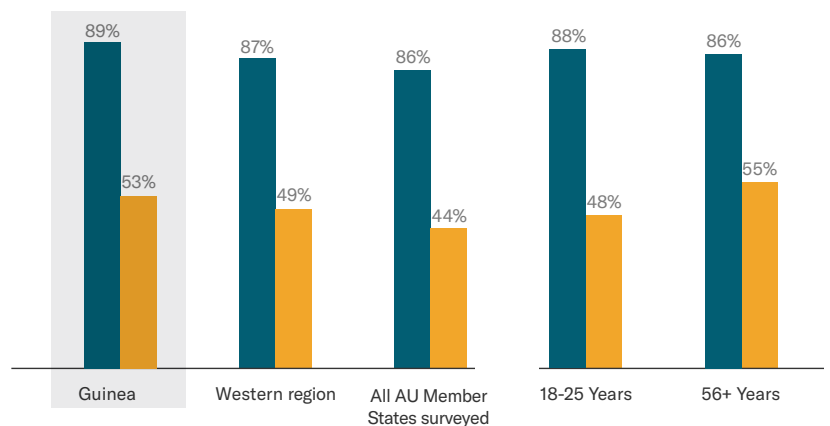


Risk Perceptions

While 89% of urban Guineans reported that the virus will be a problem for the country, a much lower share (53%) said that they were at a high personal risk of contracting COVID-19.

RISK PERCEPTIONS IN GUINEA IN CONTEXT

RISK PERCEPTIONS IN GUINEA BY AGE



■ Percentage reporting COVID-19 will be a problem in the country
 ■ Percentage reporting personal risk of catching COVID-19 high/very high

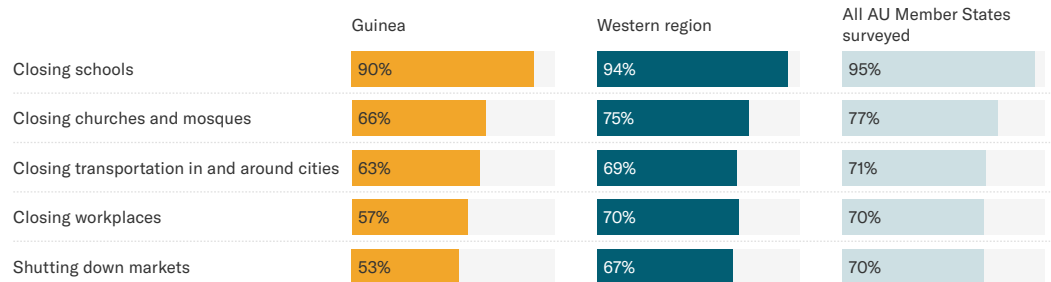
Support for Government and PHSMs

Only 58% of respondents were satisfied with the government’s response to date and only 54% trust the information provided by the government on COVID-19. Four of five (80%) reported that they trust health information from doctors, with the presidency trusted by 43%. Seven of 10 (74%) respondents felt confident they would get the help they needed immediately if they were to fall sick.

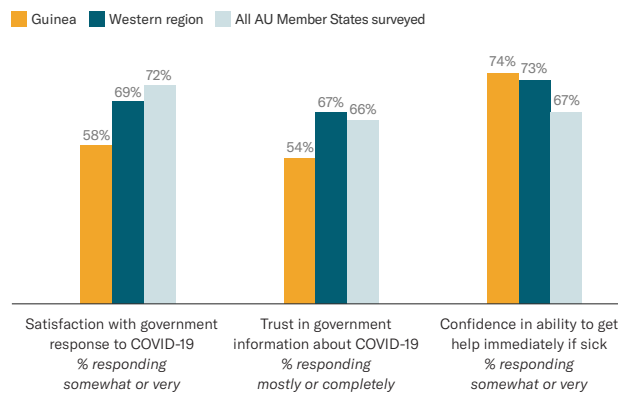
Urban Guineans were supportive of PHSMs that restricted gatherings to help limit the spread of COVID-19, such as closing schools (90%). Support is lower for shutting down spaces and services that are essential to the economy (63% support shutting transport; 57% support shutting workplaces; and 53% support shutting markets).

Support for PHSMs

Percentage of respondents that somewhat or strongly support

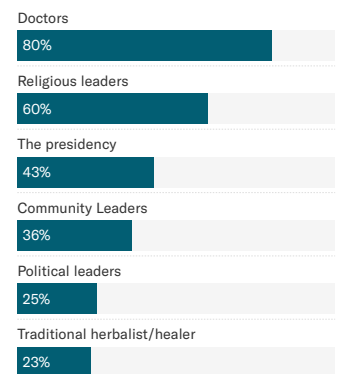


Perceptions of Government & Health System



Trust in Information Sources

Percentage that completely or mostly trust each source for health information



Barriers to Adherence

It may be difficult for households to comply with stay-at-home orders, as most would run out of food (82%) and money (74%) within a week, particularly low-income households. In addition, only one in five (22%) households had a separate room to isolate sick people.

22%

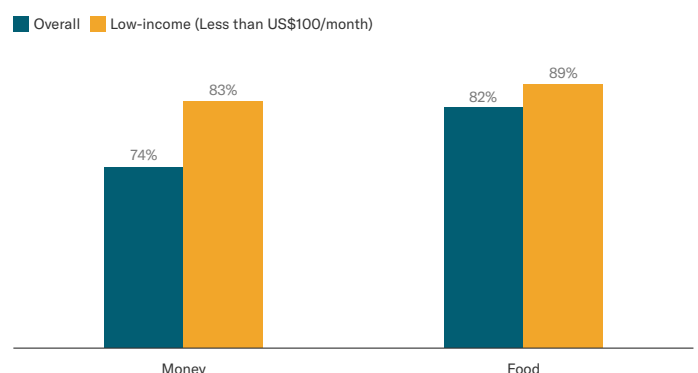
of respondents have a separate room in the home to isolate someone with COVID-19

19%

of respondents in families making less than US\$100 per month have a separate room in the home to isolate someone with COVID-19

Supplies of Food & Money

Percentage who expect to run out in 1 week or less



Economic and Relief Measures

The government announced a US\$290 million economic response plan on April 6 to offset the economic impact of COVID-19, representing an estimated 2% of GDP.

- **Health care:** A National Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan, supported by donors, will increase capacity for entry screening, testing, quarantine, and treatment, and support the cost of medical equipment and a communication campaign. The COVID-19 Economic Plan also includes efforts to strengthen health infrastructure.
- **Social support:** The COVID-19 Economic Plan includes labor-intensive public works, a new cash transfer program, and waived utility fees (electricity and water) for vulnerable households for three months. The cash transfer program will provide 250,000 GNF (US\$26) per month to 240,000 households (1.6 million people) for seven months, from June to December. The social protection agency will also distribute sanitation kits to 130,900 households.

Overview of Security Incidents Related to COVID-19

A rise in unrest or insecurity—including peaceful protests as well as riots and violence by and against civilians—can affect adherence to PHSMs and serve as a warning sign of the burden such measures are imposing on the population. The number of security incidents reported in Guinea related to COVID-19 has been rising, including demonstrations, clashes between police and protesters, looting, and violent measures used to enforce PHSMs. Abuses by security forces, including harassment, intimidation, and arrests of opposition supporters, have been reported and risk fueling distrust of authorities. There were also 10 deaths due to election violence in March in the context of the COVID-19 crisis.

INFORMATION ABOUT DATA SOURCES AVAILABLE HERE: [HTTPS://PREVENTEPIDEMICS.ORG/CORONAVIRUS/PERC/DATA](https://preventepidemics.org/coronavirus/perc/data)



2 <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/04/29/guinea-respecting-rights-key-amid-covid-19-0>