



PRESIDENTIAL TASK FORCE ON COVID-19

Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation

Shehu Shagari Complex, Three Arms Zone, Abuja

Phone: 08036001627, 08135050005 Email: ptfccovid19@osgf.gov.ng

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES FOR PHASE THREE OF EASED LOCKDOWN

5th September, 2020

Section I. Guidance for Extension of Lockdown

The Presidential Task Force (PTF) on COVID-19 has reviewed the country's COVID-19 response in light of the progress made in reducing transmission and curbing the rising trend of new infections throughout the country. The decision to move to Phase Three of the eased lockdown that started on 1st June, 2020 is to enable subsequent minor adjustments to accommodate the gradual re-opening of the economy while addressing challenges in key aspects of the response, including disbelief, stigma and low compliance with non-pharmaceutical interventions among the populace. The PTF continues to rely on the best use of science, data and adaptation of global best practices to drive the National Response to the epidemic. The National Response would continue to focus on delicately achieving a balance between preserving lives and livelihoods while addressing the socio-economic disruptions caused by the pandemic.

Despite the progressive stabilisation of the pandemic based on recent data showing a reduction in the daily number of confirmed cases and the increasing number of recoveries, the PTF continues to be concerned about the increased apathy, low risk perception and poor demand for testing despite the widespread availability of molecular laboratories now in the country. Drawing from the experiences from other countries that have witnessed a resurgence of the epidemic, there is a strong need for cautious optimism tempered with heightened vigilance, as the country proceeds to the next relaxation Phase of the response.

While measures have been implemented to reduce transmissions, preserve lives, and address disruptions caused by the pandemic, the data and public engagement does not support a complete relaxation and easing of restrictions at this time. It is important that at this point of the response, greater ownership is required by the public and institutions to support the response.

It is therefore the informed recommendation of the PTF that Nigeria **advance to a Phase Three of the response with further changes to address economic, socio-political and health concerns**. It is believed that with the measures further outlined, we will continue to manage the pandemic, strengthen our public health systems and help preserve more Nigerian lives.

Further to the considered opinion above and effective from 0001h Friday, 4th September, 2020, the measures put in place for Phase Three of the eased lockdown will come into effect, characterised by:

- Adjusting the current nationwide curfew to now start from 12am to 4am;
- Maintaining the restrictions on mass gatherings outside the workplace, expand allowance for gatherings in enclosed spaces (weddings, funerals, etc) to no more than 50 persons, provided physical distancing measures and other non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) are in place and enforceable;
- Re-opening of the international air space within established parameters;
- Risk assessment of the level of preparedness of schools with States to commence plans for phased re-opening of educational institutions during this phase of the response;
- Federal and State government offices to operate normal working hours, but maintaining restrictions with only essential staff from GL.12 and above to resume work;
- Limit government meetings to virtual as much as possible while maintaining restrictions on physical meetings including official trips, oversight visits and board meetings until further notice;
- Maintain the relaxation on outdoor communal sports and allow recreational parks, event centres and restaurants to open for outdoor service only. Gyms and cinemas can open to the public at half-capacity, but bars and night clubs shall remain closed until further notice;
- Mandatory use of non-medical facemasks in public spaces with access to government and commercial premises to be denied for persons not wearing facemasks. 'No mask, no entry. No mask, no service'; and
- Elections to proceed in line with strict guidance on conducting safe elections during the COVID-19 pandemic. 'No Mask, No Voting' policy to be enforced.

It is believed that these steps will help consolidate the gains made thus far and position the country to effectively overcome the pandemic going forward.

Section II. Protocols for Easing of Lockdown:

We have made these recommendations in line with the three established thematic areas:

- Movement;
- Industry and Labour; and
- Community Activities.

The table below expands on each of the thematic areas mentioned in this paragraph (underlines passages reflect new changes to protocol):

GENERAL MOVEMENT

ASPECT	RECOMMENDATION
CURFEW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Modify curfew hours to 12am – 4am nationwide
GENERAL MOVEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No formal restrictions on movement within the country. But the risk remains, therefore citizens are encouraged to refrain from unnecessary movement; and ▪ Comply with non-pharmaceutical guidelines such as the mandatory use of face-mask/coverings in public.
AIR TRANSPORT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aviation services to fully resume on 5th September, when the international airspace will be opened and joined with already existing domestic aviation services; ▪ New guidelines on risk reduction will be published by the PTF for international travellers; ▪ Only travellers and airport staff to be allowed into airport structures at this time; and ▪ Passengers to ensure they arrive early for all flights taking into consideration the delays likely to arise from these additional measures (1.5 hours domestic and 3 hours international).
LAND AND RAIL TRANSPORT (previously divided into inter-state and intra-state travel)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No limitations on inter- or intra-state travel, but all vendors and service providers must abide by stated stipulations from the Federal Ministry of Transportation and ensure that PPEs are used and where applicable, physical distancing is observed; and ▪ Security agencies to enforce the use of non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) including the use of facemasks, hand sanitisers, temperature checks, while rail stations/bus parks are to provide handwashing facilities.

INDUSTRY & LABOUR

ASPECT	RECOMMENDATION
WORKING ARRANGEMENT (Private Sector)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain normal working hours; ▪ Offices to determine optimal working capacity to ensure enough physical distancing and preserve the healthcare of workers in their employ; ▪ Ensure that all necessary PPEs are available and NPIs are observed; and ▪ Personalised services to ensure face masks when selling goods or providing services and ensure provision of sanitisers and appropriate PPEs to all workers.



WORKING ARRANGEMENT (Public Sector)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain normal working hours; Encourage work at home policy for civil/public servants below GL.12, with essential staff of GL.12 and above allowed to come to work; and Ensure that all necessary PPEs and NPIs are observed.
COMMUNAL COMMERCIAL SPACES (Markets/Stores)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Observe all mandatory NPIs, while removing all restrictions on opening days and limits in stores; Store owners to take responsibility by abiding by non-pharmaceutical interventions and policies to safeguard their staff and patrons of their facilities; and Facility owners/managers to ensure that physical distancing is observed, provision of hand sanitisers and handwashing facilities, ensure the mandatory use of face masks and work on environmental hygiene
HOSPITALITY AND ENTERTAINMENT FACILITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hotels to remain open and observe all non-pharmaceutical interventions; Bars and Night clubs to remain closed till further notice; Amusement Parks, Gyms and Cinemas to open at half-capacity; Event centres with outdoor spaces to open; Eateries and Restaurants to open only outdoor seating service; and Each authority to provide guidelines for minimising risk in their estates, facilities and industries.
NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE CORPS (NYSC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NYSC to consolidate on safety measures currently being put in place in preparation of reopening of orientation camps when educational institutions open; and Guidelines are being developed together with the PTF.
INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure compliance with the publicised policy on conducting safe elections in the context of COVID-19; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No face mask, no voting; Provision of hand sanitisers at polling units; Temperature checks at polling units; Observation of physical distancing in all electoral activities; and Ensure compliance with all other electoral protocols issued by relevant health authorities.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

ASPECT	RECOMMENDATION
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS (Daycare, Primary, Secondary and Tertiary)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All daycare and educational institutions to remain closed to in-person classes and engagement till further evaluation; Federal and State governments to ensure guidelines are in place for the safe reopening of educational institutions in line with COVID-19 protocols; Opening to be staged and carried out in phases – Universities, Secondary and Primary schools; States to conduct risk assessment to ensure all schools are at a level of compliance and create a monitoring mechanism to assess and monitor the level of compliance; Educational institutions to begin working towards potentially reopening within this phase; and Meanwhile, schools are encouraged to continue with e-learning and visual teaching.
RELIGIOUS CENTRES (Churches/Mosques etc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restricted opening subject to the protocols agreed by respective State Governments and FCT; Centres to prioritise multiple services to prevent overcrowding and facilitate physical distancing; and Observe all mandatory non-pharmaceutical interventions.
RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND SPORTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restriction is removed on outdoor communal (non-contact) sports and use of recreational parks for supervised physical exercise; and Sporting leagues to resume with no fans in stadiums and with necessary NPIs to be directed by the Federal Ministry of Sports and Youth Development and the NCDC.
GATHERINGS (Weddings, Parties, Meetings etc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited to 50 people in enclosed spaces; All attendees must wash or sanitize their hands before and after attendance; and Physical distancing must be adhered to for all attendees.
HOSPITAL SERVICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visiting patients is still limited to immediate family

Signed-

Boss Mustapha

Secretary to the Government of the Federation/ Chairman,
Presidential Task Force on COVID-19