Global Governmental Response to COVID-19 in accordance to WHO guidelines

Actions taken by Ghana to prevent the spread of COVID-19 as of February 7, 2021.

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Our Organization

The UN Compliance Research Group is a global organization which specializes in monitoring the work of the United Nations (UN). Through our professional team of academics, scholars, researchers and students we aim to serve as the world's leading independent source of information on members' compliance to UN resolutions and guidelines. Our scope of activity is broad, including assessing the compliance of member states to UN resolutions and plan of actions, adherence to judgments of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines and commitments made at UN pledging conferences. We’re proud to present the international community and global governments with our native research findings on states’ annual compliance with the commitments of the UN and its affiliated agencies. Our goal as world citizens is to foster a global change towards a sustainable future; one which starts with ensuring that the words of delegates are transformed into action and that UN initiatives don’t remain ink on paper. Hence, we offer policy analysis and provide advice on fostering accountability and transparency in UN governance as well as tracing the connection between the UN policy-makers and Non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Yet, we aim to adopt a neutral path and do not engage in advocacy for issues or actions taken by the UN or member states. Acting as such, for the sake of transparency. The UN Compliance Research Group dedicates all its effort to inform the public and scholars about the issues and agenda of the UN and its affiliated agencies.
Purpose

The International Health Regulations (2005) are legally binding on 196 States Parties, Including all WHO Member States. The IHR aims to keep the world informed about public health risks, through committing all signatories to cooperate together in combating any future “illness or medical condition, irrespective of origin or source, that presents or could present significant harm to humans.” Under IHR, countries agreed to strengthen their public health capacities and notify the WHO of any such illness in their populations. The WHO would be the centralized body for all countries facing a health threat, with the power to declare a “public health emergency of international concern,” issue recommendations, and work with countries to tackle a crisis.

Although, with the sudden and rapid spread of COVID-19 in the world, many countries varied in implementing the WHO guidelines and health recommendations. While some countries followed the WHO guidelines, others imposed travel restrictions against the WHO’s recommendations. Some refused to share their data with the organization. Others banned the export of medical equipment, even in the face of global shortages. The UN Compliance Research group will focus during the current cycle on analyzing the compliance of the WHO member states to the organizations guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic.
## WHO Guidelines and Recommendations

### School/educational institutions:
- Decision makers should consider the following if they decide to open or close schools: Current understanding about COVID-19 transmission and severity in children, Local situation and epidemiology of COVID-19 where the school(s) are located, School setting and ability to maintain COVID-19 prevention and control measures.
- Recommended to promote: Hygiene and environmental cleaning to limit exposure, Screening and management of sick students, teachers and other school staff, Communication with parents and students, Physical distancing at school, Tele-schooling and distance learning.

### Workplaces and institutions:
- Partial closure of workplaces as of early March.
- Hand hygiene: Regular and thorough handwashing, Hand hygiene stations.
- Respiratory hygiene: Promote respiratory etiquette, Develop a policy on wearing a mask or a face covering.
- Physical distancing: less people, implementing shifts.
- Reduce and manage work-related travels.
- Regular environmental cleaning and disinfection.
- Risk communication, training, and education: Provide posters, videos, and electronic message boards.
- Management of people with COVID-19 or their contacts: introduce thermal screening.
- Take more measures when it comes to jobs at medium and high risk.

### Public events:
- Restriction to host gatherings or events that exceed a large number of individuals, ex) sport games, religious functions, restaurants, etc.
- Planning phase: Liaison with all relevant stakeholders, Development of a preparedness and response plan, Assessment of capacities and resources.
- Operational phase: Modifications of the event, Risk communication, Surveillance of participants, aimed at detecting and managing individuals developing symptoms during the event.
- Post-event phase: Liaison between event organizers and health authorities.

### Public Transport:
- Reduce crowding, limit access to, or close public spaces, restaurants, sporting events, 24 sports clubs, entertainment venues, places of worship, 25 or venues with limited ventilation.
- Encourage physical distancing in public places and transportation.
- Reduce mixing between individuals and households.
- Communicate to recommend wearing masks in public.
### WHO Guidelines and Recommendations

#### Public Information Campaign:
- Communicate risk clearly with information on how to protect oneself and others.
- Simplify messages, encourage sharing of information.
- Engage with communities in decision-making and to strengthen engagement for public health measures.
- Identify local networks and engage communities, businesses, religious leaders, and local influencers.

#### Domestic/International Travel:
- **Reduction in Travel** to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- International travel should not occur unless in an emergency.
- Recommended to adhere to safety measures while travelling.
- Establish effective contingency plans and arrangements for responding a Public Health Emergency.

#### Testing Framework:
- Set up testing centers in large venues or in check points.
- Require travellers to self-quarantine after being tested.
- Molecular (e.g. PCR) testing of respiratory tract samples is the recommended method for the identification and laboratory confirmation of COVID-19 cases.
- To inform WHO policy on the use of immunodiagnostic rapid tests for COVID-19.

#### Contact Tracing:
- Set up relational databases linking lists of contacts to line lists of cases.
- Allow for tailored case investigation forms, contact listing forms, and contact follow-up forms to be set up.
- Used for self-checking and self-reporting of signs and symptoms by people through mobile phone apps or SMS technology.

#### Lockdown/Curfew:
- Implementation of curfew hours.
- Require citizens to stay in home unless of an emergency.
- Monitor locations to abide by the curfew hours.
This report draws on the methodology developed by the G8 Research Group, which has been monitoring G7/8 compliance since 1996 (the International Organisations Research Institute at the Higher School of Economics (IORI HSE) joined this multi-year project in 2005, and Bond University participated in 2014). The use of this methodology builds cross-institutional and cross-member consistency and also allows compatibility with compliance assessments of other institutions. The methodology uses a scale from −1 to +1, where +1 indicates full compliance with the stated commitment, −1 indicates a failure to comply or action taken that is directly opposite to the stated instruments or goal of the commitment, and 0 indicates partial compliance or work in progress, such as initiatives that have been launched but are not yet near completion and whose full results can therefore not be assessed. Each member assessed receives a score of −1, 0 or +1 for each commitment. For convenience, the scores in the tables have been converted to percentages, where −1 equals 0 percent and +1 equals 100 percent.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-1</td>
<td>State does not comply with the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005), nor does it comply with any of the World Health Organization's guidelines and recommendations to curb the spread of the Coronavirus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>State complies with the IHR and partially complies with the WHO recommendations on combating the Coronavirus, through implementing policies and actions which adhere to at least two commitments of the WHO guidelines on curbing the pandemic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+1</td>
<td>State fully complies with the IHR and the WHO guidelines on combating the Coronavirus, through implementing policies and actions which adhere to all nine areas of the WHO guidelines on curbing the pandemic.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>No Compliance</th>
<th>Partial Compliance</th>
<th>Full Compliance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Ghana complied with the International Health Regulations (IHR) but partially complied with the World Health Organization’s guidelines and recommendations on curbing the Coronavirus (COVID-19), through implementing complying policies and actions only in some commitment features. Thus, Ghana receives a compliance score of 0.
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Ghana

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lockdown/ Curfew</th>
<th>Educational Institutions</th>
<th>Domestic/ International Travel</th>
<th>Public Transportation</th>
<th>Workplace and Institutions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>On 20 March 2020</strong>, all restaurants, bars, cinemas, nightclubs, hospitality and entertainment venues were ordered to close until a further notice.</td>
<td><strong>On 16 March 2020</strong>, the Ghanian government ordered the closure of all schools and universities, until a further notice.</td>
<td><strong>On 17 March 2020</strong>, Ghanian banned entry to arrivals from all countries which have recorded more than 200 cases of COVID-19. Ghanaian citizens and permanent residents were allowed to return home. All arrivals to Ghana were required to undergo a 14 day quarantine upon arrival.</td>
<td><strong>On 29 March 2020</strong>, Ghanaian transport authorities limited the number of passengers onboard public transport. Vehicles which initially seated 1-3, 1-4, 1-5 persons were now banned from seating more than 2, 3, 3 persons per row respectively.</td>
<td><strong>On 30 March 2020</strong>, work at the private and public sectors in the areas of Greater Accra and Kumasi Metropolitan was suspended for two weeks due to the total lockdown imposed.</td>
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<td><strong>On 30 March 2020</strong>, the Ghanian government imposed a full 24/7 lockdown on the areas of Greater Accra and Kumasi Metropolitan for a two weeks period. Residents were strictly prohibited from leaving home except to buy grocery or seek medication.</td>
<td><strong>As of 15 June 2020</strong>, universities in addition to junior and senior high schools reopened gradually for final year students.</td>
<td><strong>On 22 March 2020</strong>, the Ghanian president Nana Akufo-Addo ordered the closure of all air, land and sea borders. Accra’s International Airport shut down for all commercial flights including domestic flights.</td>
<td><strong>On 9 April 2020</strong>, the closure of workplace the areas of Greater Accra and Kumasi Metropolitan was extended until April 19th due to the extension of the lockdown.</td>
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<td><strong>On 7 August 2020</strong>, the Ghanian Ministry of Education Matthew Opoku announced that the start of the 2020/2021 academic year which was scheduled in September was postponed.</td>
<td><strong>On 30 March 2020</strong>, domestic travel between different regions using public transport or private vehicles was restricted only to those travelling for essential purposes determined by the government.</td>
<td><strong>On 20 April 2020</strong>, all restaurants were allowed to operate delivery services only.</td>
<td><strong>On 13 May 2020</strong>, all restaurants and hotels were permitted to reopen with social distancing implemented.</td>
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<td><strong>On 20 April 2020</strong>, the lockdown imposed the areas of Greater Accra and Kumasi Metropolitan was lifted.</td>
<td><strong>On 2 January 2021</strong>, the Ministry of Education announced that schools will reopen for in-person instruction mid-month. The University of Ghana announced a hybrid system for the 2021/2022 academic year.</td>
<td><strong>On 5 April 2020</strong>, Ghana extended its borders closure until April 19th.</td>
<td><strong>On 5 June 2020</strong>, all restaurants and hotels were permitted to reopen with social distancing implemented.</td>
<td><strong>On 2 January 2021</strong>, all non essential businesses, bars, nightclubs, cinemas, theaters and beaches remain closed.</td>
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<td><strong>On 13 May 2020</strong>, all restaurants were allowed to operate delivery services only.</td>
<td><strong>On 19 January 2021</strong>, schools across Ghana reopened after 10 of closure.</td>
<td><strong>On 19 April 2020</strong>, the closure of Ghana’s borders was extended until May 5th.</td>
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<td><strong>On 5 June 2020</strong>, all restaurants and hotels were permitted to reopen with social distancing implemented.</td>
<td><strong>On 21 September 2020</strong>, Kotoka International Airport in Accra reopened for international commercial flights. All arrivals above the age of five must present a negative PCR test result issued 72 hours prior to their arrival.</td>
<td><strong>On 1 May 2020</strong>, domestic flights resumed. Borders closure was extended until May 31st.</td>
<td><strong>On 19 January 2021</strong>, schools across Ghana reopened after 10 of closure.</td>
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## Ghana

### Public Events

- **On 1 February 2021**, the Ghanian President announced that Ghana aims to receive 17.6 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine by June 2021. The first batch of doses is expected to arrive in March.

- **On 16 March 2020**, the Ghanian government ordered the suspension of all public gathering events including weddings, ceremonies, funerals, workshops, conferences in addition to all cultural, religious and sporting events. Churches and Mosques were closed for collective religious practices.

- **On 5 June 2020**, weddings, funerals, workshops and conferences were permitted to take place with a maximum of 100 participant. Religious services also resumed with a maximum of 100 participant or a 25% attendance.

- **On 1 August 2020**, restrictions on the number of worshipers in churches and mosques was lifted.

### Public Info Campaign

- **On 13 March 2020**, the Ghanian Ministry of Health launched two telephone hotlines (0509497700 or 0588439868) to receive reports from all individuals who develop symptoms of COVID-19 and address citizens inquiries.

- **On 5 June 2020**, an online website (https://www.ghanahealthservice.org/covid19/) to display daily update on COVID-19 pandemic and guidelines to public issued by health authorities.

### Testing Framework

- **On 13 March 2020**, the Ghanian Ministry of Health launched a public health campaign on COVID-19 in 8 vulnerable districts in the Upper West Region.

- **On 11 September 2020**, Ghana Health Service announced that it will expand awareness campaigns onboard public transport in the Greater Accra region, where compliance to social distancing remain difficult.

### Contact Tracing

- **As of 12 March 2020**, Ghana launched an extended contact tracing framework. A list of the contacts of positive cases was made. Contacts were then reached out by the health authorities, requesting them to undergo a test for COVID-18.

- **On 15 April 2020**, Ghana launched a smart phone COVID-19 tracing (Ghcovid19). The app is able to identify the contacts of a positive, in addition to individuals who’ve recently returned from high zone countries. In addition to identifying when a user undergoing self-isolation violates the quarantine.

- **On 21 April 2020**, the Ghanian Ministry of Health announced that more than 68,591 contacts have been traced and tested since the start of the full lockdown on March 30th.

- **On 2 October 2020**, Ghanian contact tracing teams received training by the WHO to enhance their technical skills and appliance of the SORMAS (data collection tool for outbreak management, response and analysis.

### Vaccine

- **On 12 March 2020**, Ghana had only three laboratories testing COVID-19 swabs across the country.

- **On 23 April 2020**, Ghana used automated drones to get samples delivered to laboratories from more than 1,000 health facility around the country.

- **On 20 April 2020**, the Ghanian Ministry of Health announced that 100 small testing centers will be established across all regions.

- **On 15 May 2020**, Ghana had 11 laboratories for COVID-19 across the country. The Ministry of Health began adopting pool testing framework. In which a mixture of samples are grouped and tested together. Individuals are then only tested separately if the grouped sample is found positive.

- **On 26 May 2020**, the Ministry of Health conducted random testing for COVID-19 in the Northern region.

- **As of 7 February 2021**, Ghana conducted Albania conducted a total of 25,309/ per 1 million Pop COVID-19 tests.

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Sources


❖ Dzisi, Emmanuel Komla Junior, and Oscar Akunor Dei. "Adherence to social distancing and wearing of masks within public transportation during the COVID 19 pandemic." Transportation Research Interdisciplinary Perspectives 7 (2020): 100191.


