



COVID-19



Responding to COVID-19: Highlights of a Survey in GHANA

Summary

- Almost all Ghanaians know about COVID-19 and basic understanding about transmission and the importance of regular hand washing is high. However, a sizeable minority seek more information, which may help address some misconceptions on avoidance and ‘cures’.
- There is strong support for government response and high levels of trust in information coming from it
- Ghanaians are supportive of a wide range of personal and community PHSMs to help limit the spread of the coronavirus.
- Most of those in Ghana have someone to take of their children should schools be closed.
- Television is a primary media source for those in Ghana.

Background

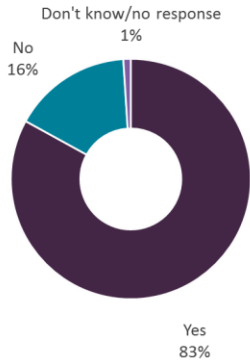
Public health social measures (PHSMs) are an important strategy to delay and reduce the magnitude of COVID-19. PHSMs particularly those that restrict movement or entail the closure of services, can place a significant burden on populations. The effective implementation of NPIs will require public support and compliance. Hence, this survey was conducted to assess public support for, and the likely social impacts of PHSMs in Ghana.

Key Findings of the Survey

Awareness of COVID-19 is high - but a sizeable minority seek more information.

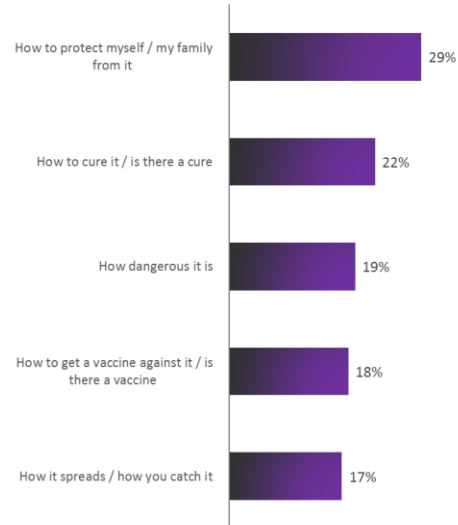
- Awareness of COVID-19 is universal at 100%. Seven in ten or more believe the following are symptoms of the virus: fever (79%), difficulty breathing, shortness of breath (74%) and dry cough (70%). Fewer believe that flu or cold like sickness are symptoms (32%).
- Four in five (83%) Ghanaians feel they have enough information about it.
- The most commonly cited areas for more information are ‘how to protect myself / my family from it’ (29%) and ‘how to cure it / is there a cure’ (22%).

Q10. Do you feel you currently have enough information about the coronavirus/Covid-19 situation?



% who feel they have enough information	
Gender:	
Male	84
Female	83
Age:	
18-25 years	81
26-35 years	83
36-45 years	86
46-55 years	75
56 and older	86
Monthly Household Income:	
\$0-100	80
\$101-200	82
\$201-500	82
\$501+	88

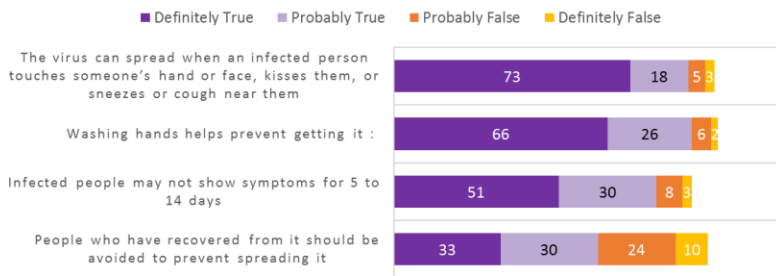
Q11. What are the two things about it that you would like most to have more information about? [Top five mentions]



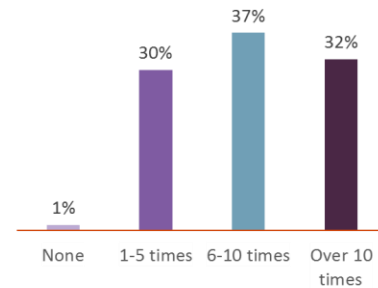
The basic value and benefit of close contact transmission and the importance of handwashing stands high

- Almost all think COVID-19 can be spread by touch, kiss, sneeze, or cough (91%, including 73% thinking this is 'definitely true') and that washing hands helps prevent getting it (92% including 66% 'definitely true'). Six in ten Ghanaians (63%) think people who have recovered from it should be avoided due to risk of spreading the virus.
- Three in four (74%) believe the statement that you can prevent it by drinking lemon and vitamin C to be true, while fewer believe that 'hot climate prevents spread' (49%). Two in five (38%) believe it can be cured with garlic and one in five Ghanaians believes that Africans 'cannot get it' (22%).
- One in three (32%) stated they washed their hands 10+ times in the day prior to their interview compared with a similar proportion washing 5 times or fewer (30%).

Q14. I'm going to read things people have said about coronavirus or Covid-19. Please tell me if you think each is definitely true, probably true, probably false, or definitely false. %



Q40. Yesterday, how many times did you wash your hands with soap or use hand sanitizer?

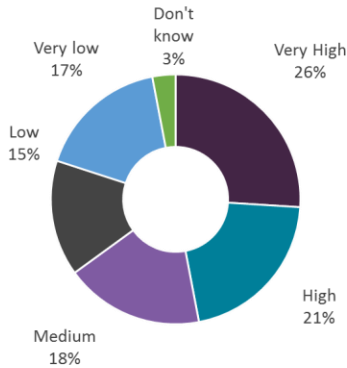


Q14. Share who agree definitely/probably true	Male	Female	18-25 years	26-35 years	36-45 years	46-55 years	56 and older	\$0-100	\$101-200	\$201- 500	\$501+
The virus can spread when an infected person touches someone's hand or face, kisses them, or sneezes or cough near them	93	90	90	91	91	92	94	90	91	90	91
Washing hands helps prevent getting it	92	91	91	91	93	89	93	93	90	91	89
Infected people may not show symptoms for 5 to 14 days	81	82	81	77	84	83	85	82	89	87	87
People who have recovered from it should be avoided to prevent spreading it	63	62	65	62	61	64	63	70	67	66	67

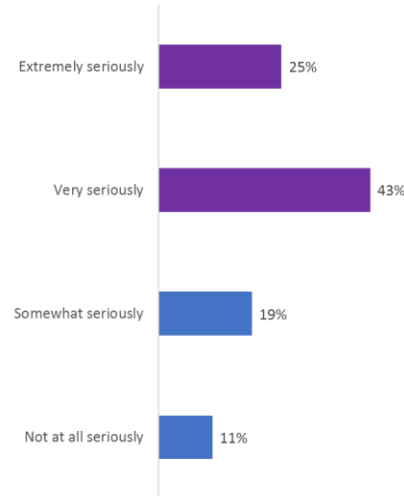
85% of Ghanaians believe that COVID-19 will be a big problem in their country; 47% believe they are at very high or high risk of infection.

- Four in ten (43%) believe that the coronavirus will be a 'big problem' in their country, with six percent indicating it will be 'not much of a problem.' An additional four in ten (42%) indicate that it is going to be a big problem but will be dealt with. Younger Ghanaians are less like to see COVID-19 as a big problem (37%).
- Almost one in two Ghanaians believe they are at 'very high/high risk' of catching COVID-19 (47%, including 26% 'very high') versus fewer than one in five who believes they are at 'very low risk' (17%).
- A majority believes than infection would seriously affect their health (68% 'extremely/very seriously' vs. 30% 'somewhat/not very seriously'.
- The most commonly cited rationale for understanding the perceived effect on health is 'it could kill me/make me very sick' (64%), followed by it causing 'problems in other countries' (36%), that it 'could require hospitalization' (35%) and 'perceived seriousness' (33%).
- Three-quarters (74%) are confident about being able to immediately get the help they need versus one-quarter (24%) who are not confident.

Q5. Please indicate what you think your level of risk of catching coronavirus or Covid-19 is?



Q6. If you were infected by coronavirus or Covid-19, how seriously do you think it would affect your health?



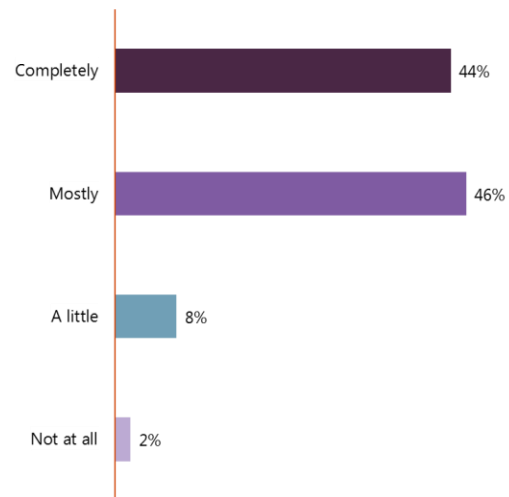
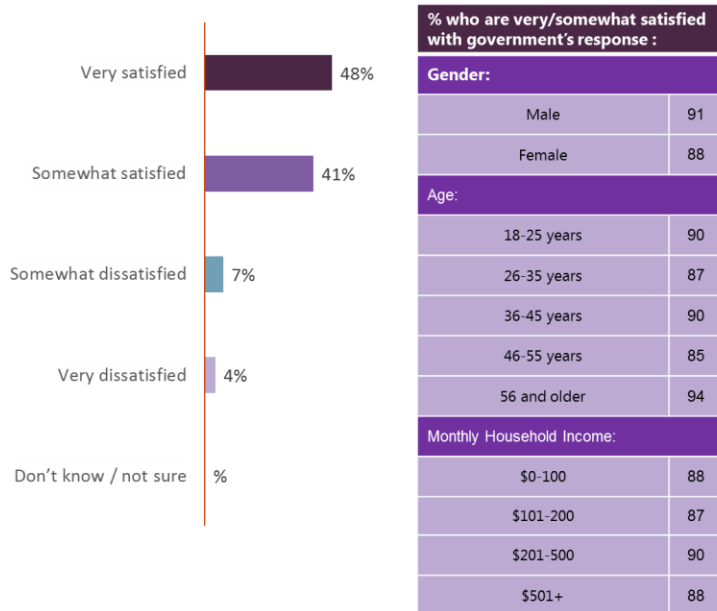
% who think coronavirus would affect their health extremely seriously/very seriously:	
Gender:	
Male	68
Female	67
Age:	
18-25 years	61
26-35 years	73
36-45 years	67
46-55 years	72
56 and older	67
Monthly Household Income:	
\$0-100	68
\$101-200	65
\$201-500	64
\$501+	70

Perceptions of the governmental response to COVID-19 is very positive.

- There is a relatively high degree of satisfaction with the government’s response to COVID-19 with 89% satisfied, including nearly one in two (48%) ‘very satisfied’
- The levels of satisfaction are reflected in the trust in information from the government with 44% indicating they completely trust the information received and 46% who mostly trust the information.

Q12. How satisfied are you with the government's response to coronavirus or Covid-19?

Q13. How much do you trust information from the government about the coronavirus or Covid-19?



Widespread support for Public health social measures (PHSMs)

- Almost all Ghanaians support stopping handshake/kiss greetings (96%); requiring those who have contact with infected people to self-isolate (94%); and requiring those with COVID-19 to remain home until they are well (94%).

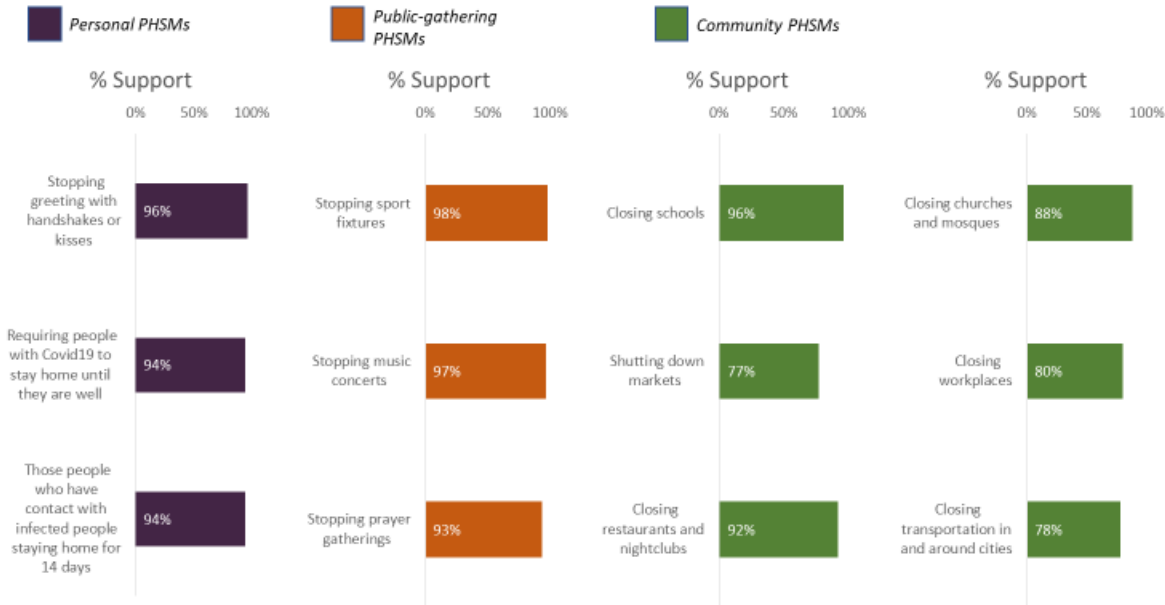
Ghanaians also support restricting public gatherings

- Support is almost universal for restricting public gatherings to help limit a COVID-19 outbreak by stopping sports fixtures (98%), music concerts (97%) and stopping prayer gatherings (93%).
- The most frequently cited way to make prayer or religious gatherings easier would be to offer services on TV or internet (64%) and similar proportions suggest radio broadcasts of religious services (58%). One-third propose prayer groups over phone or Internet (32%).

There is majority support – in some cases strong support – for closures to prevent the spread of the virus

- Over nine in ten support closure of schools (96%), closing restaurants and nightclubs (92%) and, slightly lower, shutting down markets (77%).
- Almost nine in ten support closing churches or mosques (88%), closing transportation around cities (78%) or closing workplaces (80%).

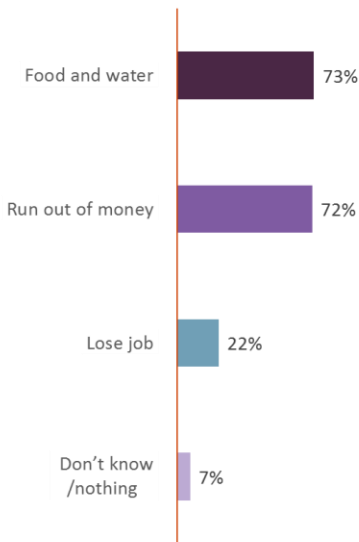
Level of support for Public health social measures (PHSMs) by type of intervention



Results suggest that quarantines could be challenging for many Ghanaians

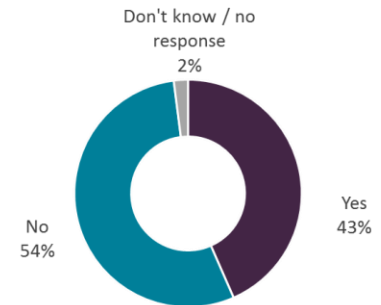
- Close to one in two (45%) work outside the home and 26 percent work within the home. Three in ten (28%) indicate they are not working. Of those employed outside the home, just over one in two (54%) indicate that their workplace could accommodate staggered shifts.
- However, fewer than half have a separate room to isolate someone who becomes sick (43%).
- Almost three-quarters (73%) indicate that food and water would be a problem if they had to be at home for 14 days and similar proportions indicate they would run out of money (72%). One in five (22%) believe they would lose their job.
- One in two (52%) would have someone to take care of their children if schools were closed; however, as 22% do not have children this rises to 68% of parents.
- If asked to stay at home, on median average, Ghanaians would need to get food after 6 days and money after 5 days.

Q17: What would be the biggest problems for people like you to stay at home for 14 days?



Share who think the following would be the biggest problem... (%)	Food and water	Running out of money	Losing your job
Gender:			
Male	73	71	21
Female	72	73	24
Age:			
18-25 years	73	72	30
26-35 years	75	75	25
36-45 years	70	70	17
46-55 years	75	70	30
56 and older	74	68	12
Monthly Household Income:			
\$0-100	85	65	16
\$101-200	70	71	19
\$201-500	66	66	27
\$501+	66	72	16

Q38. Would you have a separate room in your home to keep someone isolated if they are sick?



Television receives the highest of any of the media tested for those in Ghana.

- One in two say they use television as a major media source (49%), lower among those aged 18 to 25 (40%). WhatsApp (19%) and radio (18%) follow television as a media source.
- Local television and local radio are selected most often as means of receiving information about what is going on in the country (69% and 40% respectively).

Technical Note

The fieldwork on this study was conducted by Ipsos with results based on 1,001 interviews with adults aged 18+ in Accra. Fieldwork was administered by Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) using a Random Digit Dial (RDD) approach incorporating both landline and mobile sample. Data are representative of the populations of the urban area (s) included and are unweighted. Fieldwork took place between March 29 to April 1, 2020.

This program of research is an outcome of a partnership between Resolve to Save Lives, an initiative of Vital Strategies, Africa CDC, the World Health Organization’s African Regional Office (AFRO) and Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO), and the World Economic Forum to form a new public-private partnership to support evidence-based implementation of NPIs to reduce COVID-19 transmission in African countries (“flattening the curve”) while working with governments to mitigate social and economic disruption and other unintended consequences.