

## Responding to COVID-19: Highlights of a Survey in GUINEA CONAKRY

### Summary

- Almost all Guineans 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.’
- The majority of Guineans are positive about the government’s response to date and trust the information it provides on it, but sizeable minorities are negative.
- Guineans tend to see the virus as both a high personal risk and most see it as a threat to their country. They are supportive of a wide range of personal and community public health social measures (PHSMs) to help limit the spread of the coronavirus at this comparatively early stage of its spread in Guinea Conakry; however, there is considerable variation in support between measures, with only narrow support for closing markets.
- Such interventions may be difficult to comply as many do not have separate rooms at home to isolate those who may become infected, and money and food supplies would only last for a few days.
- TV, followed by radio and social media, are the key information sources the public relies on.

### 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 PHSMs will require public support and compliance. Hence, this survey was conducted to assess public support for, and the likely social impacts of PHSMs in Guinea Conakry.

### Key Findings of the Survey

#### **Awareness of COVID-19 is high - but a sizeable minority seek more information and there is considerable misunderstanding on prevention and ‘cures’**

- Almost everyone has heard of COVID-19 (95%). Two-thirds spontaneously associate the symptoms with fever (66%) and dry cough (65%) with more than two in five citing difficulty breathing (46%), shortness of breath or flu/cold like sickness (42%). Nevertheless, just under half (44%) of Guineans – those with lowest income in particular – feel they do not have enough information about it.
- One in four would like more information on ‘how to protect myself/my family from it’ or ‘how it spreads/how you catch it’ (27% both). Sizeable majorities would also welcome information on ‘how to cure it / is there a cure’ (18%), ‘what causes it’ (17%) and ‘is it real’ (17%).
- Almost three in five believe that hot climate prevents the spread of COVID-19 (57%) and more than one in three think it can be prevented by drinking lemon and Vitamin C (38%) or that ‘Africans can’t get it’ (35%). Three in 10 believe that drinking bleach or using garlic can cure it (29% and 28% respectively). One in five thinks that you can get it from any Chinese person in the country (21%).

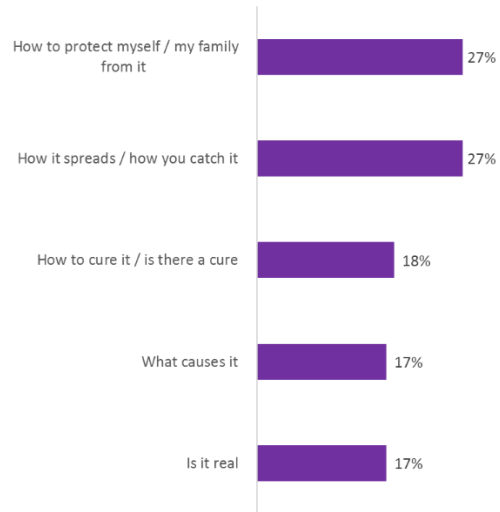


Q10. Do you feel you currently have enough information about the coronavirus/Covid-19 situation?



| % who feel they have enough information |    |
|---|----|
| <b>Gender:</b>                          |    |
| Male                                    | 59 |
| Female                                  | 51 |
| <b>Age:</b>                             |    |
| 18-25 years                             | 49 |
| 26-35 years                             | 63 |
| 36-45 years                             | 57 |
| 46-55 years                             | 63 |
| 56 and older                            | 44 |
| <b>Monthly Household Income:</b>        |    |
| \$0-100                                 | 51 |
| \$101-200                               | 59 |
| \$201-500                               | 60 |
| \$501+                                  | 65 |

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

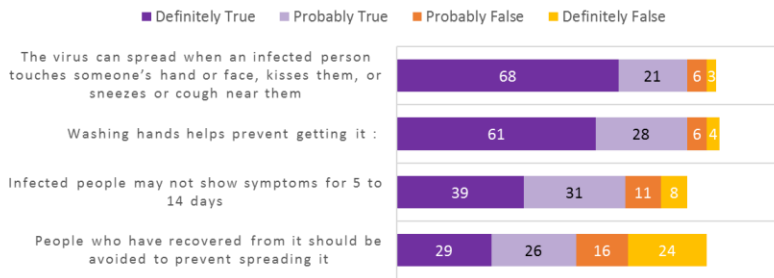


**Nevertheless, the basic understanding of close contact transmission and the importance of hand-washing stands high**

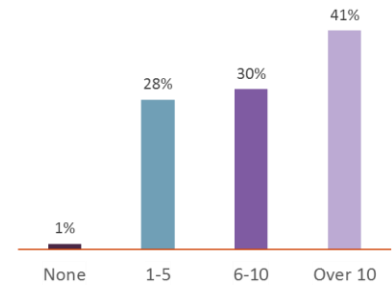
- Nine in 10 think washing hands helps prevent getting COVID-19 (90% including 61% 'definitely true') and that it can be spread by touch, kiss, sneeze, or cough (89%, including 68% thinking this is 'definitely true'). Just over half (55%) think people who have recovered from it should be avoided due to risk spreading the virus.
- Four in 10 stated they washed their hands or used hand sanitizer over 10 times in the day prior to their interview compared with three in 10 washing 5 times or fewer (41% vs. 28%). Men and those with a higher household income tend to wash their hands more often.



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?



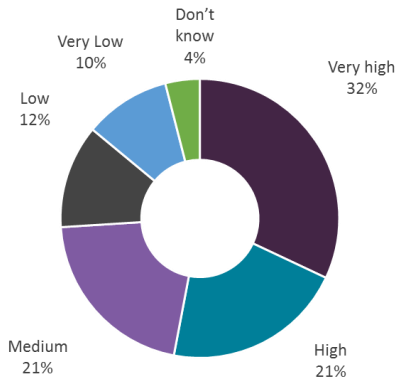
| Q14. Share who agree definitely/probably true (%)   | Gender |        | Age         |             |             |             |             | Monthly Household Income |           |           |        |
|---|--------|--------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------|
|   | Male   | Female | 18-25 years | 26-35 years | 36-45 years | 46-55 years | 56 and over | \$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 | 91     | 87     | 90          | 92          | 89          | 86          | 81          | 88                       | 88        | 91        | 100    |
| Washing hands helps prevent getting it  | 89     | 90     | 91          | 87          | 92          | 90          | 87          | 90                       | 87        | 89        | 96     |
| Infected people may not show symptoms for 5 to 14 days  | 71     | 69     | 74          | 70          | 69          | 71          | 59          | 65                       | 71        | 79        | 85     |
| People who have recovered from it should be avoided to prevent spreading it   | 54     | 57     | 54          | 55          | 58          | 62          | 44          | 57                       | 53        | 45        | 65     |

## 89% of Guineans believe that COVID-19 poses big problem for their country; 53% believe they are a very high or high risk of catching COVID-19.

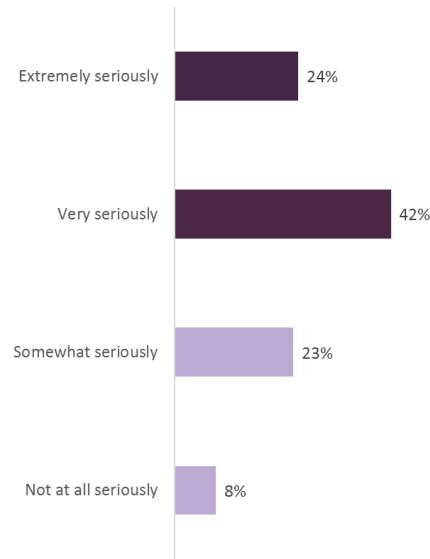
- Nine in 10 Guineans think that the coronavirus will be a problem for their country (89%, including 62% thinking it will become 'a big problem').
- Just over half feel they are at high risk of catching the coronavirus (53%, including 32% 'very high' risk) while one in five believe they are at a low risk (22% low, including 10% 'very low').
- The clear majority believes than infection would seriously affect their health (66% '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' (63%), followed by 'it caused a lot of problems abroad' (25%), 'it seems serious' (13%) and 'it can require hospitalization' (11%).
- Guineans are optimistic about receiving help they would need to deal with the illness if they become infected – with three times as many confident about being able to get immediate help as to those not confident (74% vs. 24%).



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?

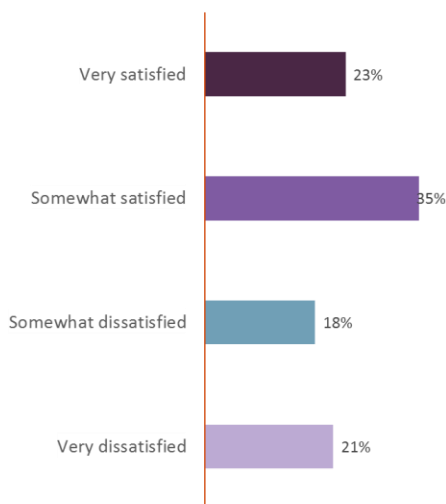


| % who think coronavirus would affect their health extremely seriously/very seriously: |    |
|---|----|
| <b>Gender:</b>  |    |
| Male  | 67 |
| Female  | 64 |
| <b>Age:</b>   |    |
| 18-25 years   | 64 |
| 26-35 years   | 64 |
| 36-45 years   | 69 |
| 46-55 years   | 65 |
| 56 and older  | 65 |
| <b>Monthly Household Income:</b>  |    |
| \$0-100   | 67 |
| \$101-200   | 68 |
| \$201-500   | 56 |
| \$501+  | 57 |

## Guineans' perceptions of the governmental response to COVID-19 is broadly positive, although a large minority is negative

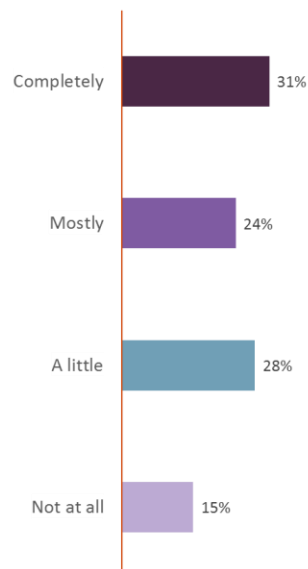
- The majority is satisfied with their government's response (58% vs. 39% dissatisfied).
- Guineans are also more likely than not to trust the information provided by the government (54% including 31% 'completely trust' vs. 43% including 15% 'not at all'). Older Guineans are more likely to trust the information from their government.

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?

| % who are very/somewhat satisfied with government's response : |    |
|--|----|
| <b>Gender:</b>   |    |
| Male   | 57 |
| Female   | 60 |
| <b>Age:</b>  |    |
| 18-25 years  | 58 |
| 26-35 years  | 53 |
| 36-45 years  | 64 |
| 46-55 years  | 63 |
| 56 and older   | 52 |
| <b>Monthly Household Income</b>                                |    |
| \$0-100  | 58 |
| \$101-200  | 55 |
| \$201-500  | 59 |
| \$501+   | 75 |



**Support for personal health social measures (PHSMs) runs high**

- The clear majority supports stopping handshake/kiss greetings (94%); requiring those with COVID-19 to remain home until they are well (76%); and requiring those who have contact with infected people to self-isolate (73%). Broadly, those with higher income tend to be more supportive of these measures.

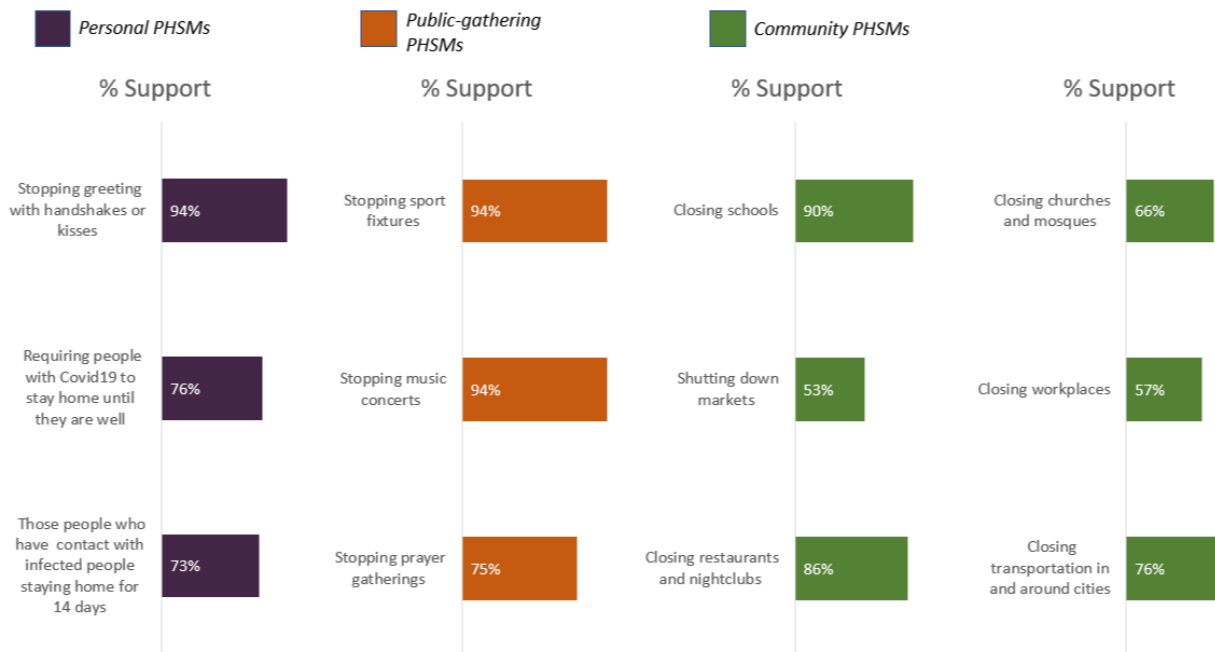
**Guineans also support restricting public gatherings**

- Support runs high for restricting public gatherings to help limit a COVID-19 outbreak by stopping music concerts (94%); sports fixtures (94%); and prayer gatherings (75% - with men more likely to be in favor). When asked about what would make stopping prayer gatherings easier, Guineans talk about radio broadcasts (39%), calls from a minister or imam (28%), TV or internet broadcast (23%) or having small groups instead of large gatherings (20%).

**Most Guineans also support other temporary ‘community PHSMs’ to help slow the COVID-19 outbreak – although the degree of support varies considerably depending on measure**

- This includes closing restaurants/nightclubs (86%); churches and mosques (66%); and markets (53%). Broadly, men are more likely to express support for these PHSMs. On closing markets, women are more likely to oppose this than support it (52% vs. 48%), as are those in the \$201-500 monthly household income bracket (54% oppose vs. 46% support).
- More than three in five would support closing a city off for two weeks (71%); closing transport between cities (68%); and closing transport in and around cities (63%).
- Nine in 10 (90%) would support school closures. Of those with children, around three in five say they would have someone to look after them.

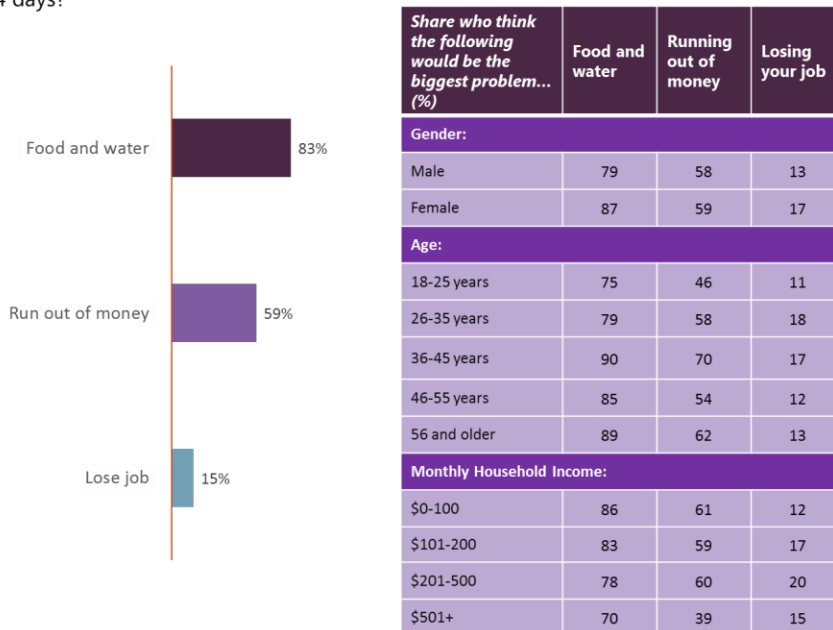
**Level of support for Public health social measures (PHSMs) by type of intervention**



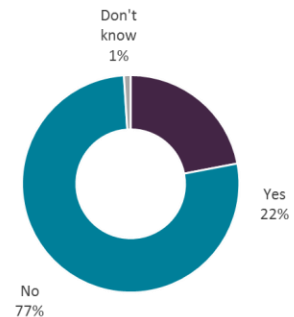
## PHSMs may place a significant burden on many Guineans

- Four times as many work outside the home as in it to earn money (47% vs. 12%). Half of those who work outside their home doubt that their workplace could accommodate staggered shifts (51%).
- Only one in five have a separate room to isolate someone who becomes sick (22%).
- When asked about the biggest problems posed by staying at home for two weeks, most spontaneously talk about access to food and water (83%), followed by running out of money (59%) and losing their job (15%).
- If asked to stay at home, on median average, Guineans would need to get food after 3 days and money after 2 days, with these periods being longer for those with higher income.

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



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



## TV is the main source of information relied on for finding out what is happening in the country, followed by social media and radio

- Half of Guineans say they normally get their information on what’s happening in the country from TV (50%); with sizeable reach also coming from social media (27%) and radio (23%). Same sources are relied on for local news – TV (50%), social media (27%) and radio (25%).

### Technical Note

The fieldwork on this study was conducted by Ipsos with results based on 1,034 interviews with adults aged 18+ in Conakry. 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 April 2 and April 5, 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 PHSMs 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.