

Partnership for Evidence-based Response to COVID-19

Responding to COVID-19 in African Countries:

Executive Summary of Polling Results: South Africa

August 2020



INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact societies across health, financial and day to day life.

This document provides the findings from public opinion polls in South Africa to understand the public's knowledge, risk perception, attitudes, access to information, reactions, behaviors and practices related to COVID-19.

This Executive Summary is supplemented by an Appendix with the results should readers require additional detail.

METHODOLOGY

The public opinion poll in South Africa was conducted between 3 August and 17 August 2020. The polling was conducted by telephone.

Samples were drawn to be nationally representative of each Member State; weighting was applied by gender and region to align the final data with the population. The unweighted national sample size in South Africa is 1,395 interviews.

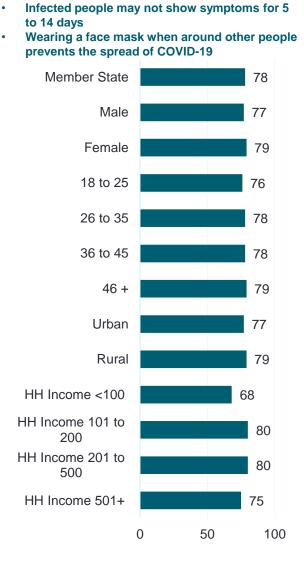


Key Findings

- PHSM support & adherence: Both support for, and adherence to, PHSMs in South Africa are high relative to other African Union (AU) Member States surveyed.
- Risk perceptions & information: Around half of respondents in South Africa believe they are at risk for contracting COVID-19, a significantly higher share than in other AU Member States surveyed, reflecting the country's large epidemic. However, many respondents in South Africa hold misconceptions or believe rumors or myths.
- Essential health services: A high proportion of respondents who needed medical care have had difficulty accessing health care visits (38%) or medicines (31%) during the COVID-19 crisis, and those with longstanding illnesses are particularly affected.
- Economic burden & food security: A majority of respondents (62%) report having lost income compared to last year, and many are facing difficulty accessing food. Only 22% report receiving additional aid from the government in the previous month.



Information, Perception & Misinformation



Washing hands helps prevent getting COVID-19

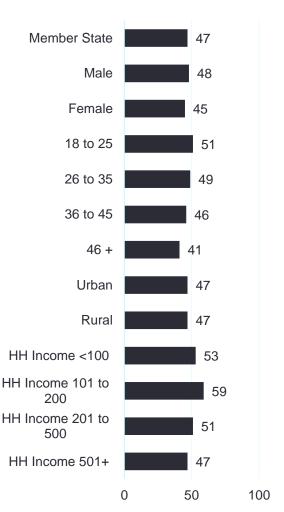
Preventive Measures

% True for ALL three statements:

Reaction to Recovered Patients

% True (one statement):

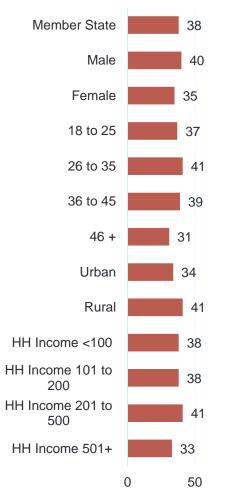
People who have recovered from COVID-19 should be avoided to prevent spreading it.



Misinformation

% True for BOTH statements:

- Foreigners are discrediting African medicines which could cure COVID-19
- Foreigners are trying to test vaccines on us



Q2. 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. If you don't know, say so. (True = Definitely + Probably True)



100

Risk Perceptions

Male Female Age 18-25	25 25 19 27 25	24 23 17 36 24	49 48 51	
	19 27	17 36		
Age 18-25	27		51	
5		24	51	
Age 26-35	25			
Age 36-45		26	51	
Age 46-55	25	32	57	
Age 56+	28	18	46	
Urban	24	24	48	
Rural	26	23	49	
HH Income <100	25	20	45	
HH Income 101 to 200	25	26	51	
HH Income 201 to 500	26	28	54	
HH Income 501+	25	24	49	
C)	5	50 100	

■% Very High ■% High

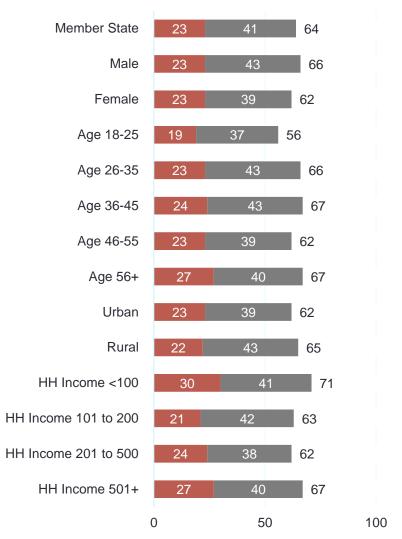
Mombor State

25 24 40

Perceived risk of catching COVID-19:



■ % Extremly Serious ■ % Very Serious



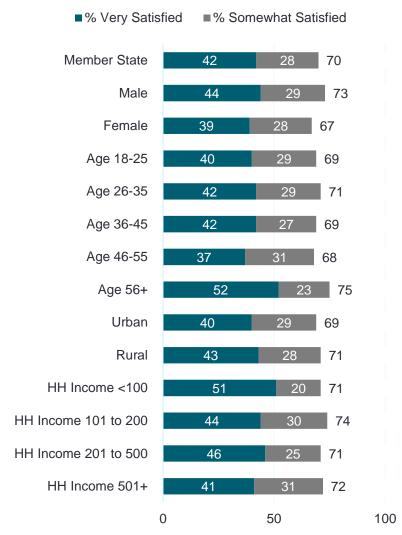
Q9. If you were infected by coronavirus or COVID-19, how seriously do you think it would affect your health? Not at all seriously, Somewhat seriously, Very seriously, Extremely seriously, Don't know / no response

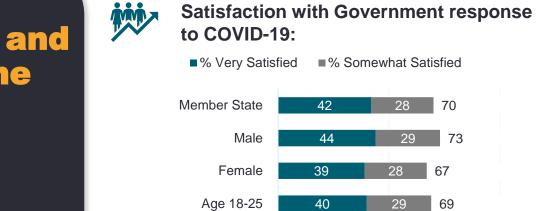
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Q8. Please indicate what you think your level of risk of catching coronavirus or COVID-19 is: Very high, High, Medium, Low, Very Low, Don't know

Satisfaction and Trust with the COVID-19 Response





Trust in handling of COVID-19 % Trust a great deal + fair amount 71% Presidency 77% Ministry of Health 72% Hospitals/ health centers Your own family doctor 82% $\nabla \omega$ 37% **Traditional Healers**

> Q12. To what extent, if at all, do you trust each of the following individuals and organizations' handling of the coronavirus in South Africa? A great deal, A fair amount, Not very much, Not at all, Don't know, Not heard of organisation, Not applicable.



Q11. How satisfied are you with your South Africa government's response to coronavirus or COVID-19? Very satisfied, Somewhat satisfied, Somewhat dissatisfied, Very dissatisfied, Don't know / not sure

SUMMARY OF Public Health and Social Measures (PHSMs)

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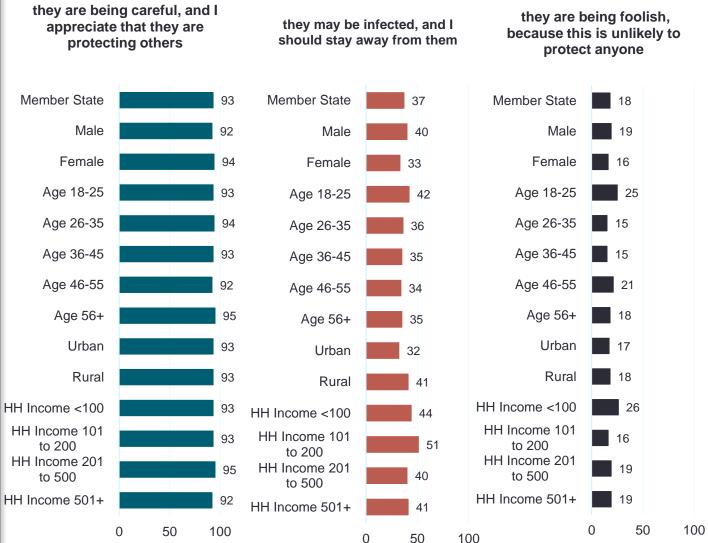
	level to w	hich these a	rence: activities desc onally"	cribe "you	Support: perception of necessity		
	Completely applies	Mostly applies	Sometimes applles	Does not apply to me	Absolutely necessary	Somewhat necessary	Not really necessary
Wear a face mask in public when near others	88	9	2	1	90	7	2
Wash more often than they used to	84	12	4	12	93	6	2
Avoid handshakes and physical greetings	77	14	4	4	82	13	5
PERSONAL PHSMS: SUMMARY	83	12	3	6	88	9	3
Stop joining public gatherings and places of entertainment	74	16	6	4	77	15	7
Stop going to the church/mosque	67	18	6	9	70	17	11
PUBLIC GATHERING PHSMS: SUMMARY	71	17	6	7	74	16	9
Reduce the number of times going to the market or grocery store	61	25	10	4	74	20	6
Staying home instead of going to work, school or other regular activities	59	22	11	8	70	20	10
MOBILITY PHSMS: SUMMARY	60	24	11	6	72	20	8

Please see Appendix for detail by country

Q13. Over the past seven days, to what extent do each of the following describe you personally?

Q14. Thinking of the last four weeks, was asking people to do each of the following absolutely necessary, somewhat necessary, or not really necessary to limiting the spread of COVID-19 in South Africa?

Face masks: Perceptions, Use and Attitudes



When other people wear face masks near me, I think...

they are being for



99% have a face mask ready to wear

Adherence: Wear a Face Mask in Public Around Others: *Completely applies:* 88% Mostly applies: 9%

> Q4. Do you have a face mask of any kind that is ready for you to wear? Q13g. Over the past seven days, to what extent do each of the following describe you personally?: G) Wearing a face mask in public when near others

Q3. I would now like to ask your opinion about face masks, which some people are wearing at the moment. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Showing % agree (Strongly + Somewhat agree)



August, 2020

Impact on Health Care Services

Missed, Delayed or Skipped Health Care Services:

% Yes: (among those requiring services)	40%
People with longstanding illness	56%
Women	44%
Low Income (HH Income <100)	32%
High Income (HH Income 501+)	30%
Urban	42%
Rural	39%

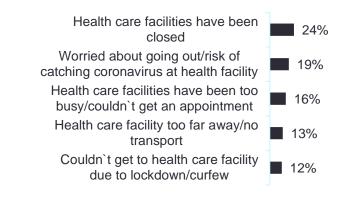
Base = require services (40%)



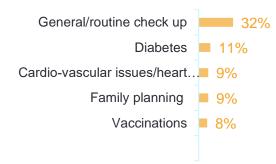
Difficulty accessing medications:

% Much More Difficult (among those requiring medications)	15%
People with longstanding illness	24%
Women	16%
Low Income (HH Income <100)	22%
High Income (HH Income 501+)	14%
Urban	14%
Rural	17%

Reason for Missed, Delayed or Skipped Services:







Base = require medication (83%)

Q21. Have you or any other person in your household delayed, skipped or been unable to complete health care visits since the COVID-19 crisis?

Q24. Has the COVID-19 crisis made it more difficult to obtain medications you need for you or your household or has it had no impact? If you do not need medications, please say so.

Q22. Why have you or another person in your household delayed, skipped or been unable to complete health care visits since the COVID-19 crisis? Q23. And do you mind if I ask what those delayed, missed or not completed health care visits were for?



Economic and Food Relief Measures

	Total	Male	Female	Urban	Rural	HH income < 100USD	HH income 500+
EXPERIENCED 'ANY' BARRIER ONE DAY OR MORE:	74	72	76	70	78	77	71
Experienced 1 day or more:							
had difficulties in going to food markets due to restrictions imposed	36	36	36	33	39	44	39
had difficulties in buying food due to most food markets being closed?	37	40	34	35	40	47	37
been unable to buy the amount of food you usually buy because of shortages in the markets	44	46	44	40	47	50	48
been unable to buy the amount of food you usually buy because the price was too high?	59	56	61	54	62	57	53
been unable to buy the amount of food you usually buy because your income has dropped?	54	55	54	51	57	55	49

Q17. In the past 7 days, how many days have you or someone in your household experienced any of the following?



Impact on Income: % Reporting Income is Smaller than last year	62%
Women	62%
Men	61%
Low Income (HH Income <100)	62%
High Income (HH Income 501+)	60%
Urban	64%
Rural	59%

Barriers and Difficulties Purchasing Food

Q18. How does the amount of money you made in the past 7 days compare to the amount you made this time last year? Is it... Bigger, Smaller, Stayed the Same, Don't make any, Don't know.

Impact on Unpaid work: % Reporting More Hours on Unpaid Work	22%
Women	25%
Men	20%
Low Income (HH Income <100)	19%
High Income (HH Income 501+)	21%
Urban	22%
Rural	23%

Q19. Since the crisis began, have you had a change in your hours spent on unpaid work, such as childcare, care of the elderly and housework? More hours, less hours, no change in hours, don't know.



Concerns about resuming normal activities

Male	5	3 19	9 72
Female		60	15 75
Age 18-25	52	2 19	71
Age 26-35		61	16 77
Age 36-45	5	4 1	7 71
Age 46-55	5	57 1	4 71
Age 56+	Ę	58	20 78
Urban	5	4 15	69
Rural		59	19 78
HH Income <100		66	11 77
HH Income 101 to 200	52	2 2	3 75
HH Income 201 to 500	5	5 1	9 74
HH Income 501+	52	2 18	70
	0	50	100

Thinking about resuming normal

me feel very anxious

■ % Strongly Agree

Member State

activities after the lockdown makes

57

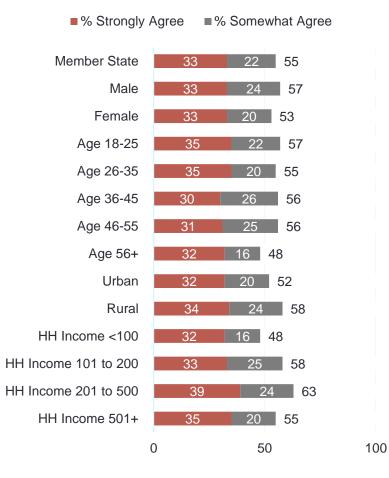
■% Somewhat Agree

17 74

~}}/~



I would feel comfortable taking public transportation such as local buses or trains if it was not too busy



Q15. To what extent to you agree or disagree with the following statements?



Q15. To what extent to you agree or disagree with the following statements?

August, 2020

Expectations about COVID-19

■ Too Much Risk	Need to get E	conomy Moving
Member State	42	57
Male	40	58
Female	44	54
Age 18-25	40	59
Age 26-35	40	59
Age 36-45	45	54
Age 46-55	45	54
Age 56+	49	51
Urban	44	54
Rural	41	59
HH Income <100	49	50
HH Income 101 to 200	46	53
HH Income 201 to 500	45	55
HH Income 501+	37	62
	0 5	50 100

Loosening Restrictions: "too risky to loosen

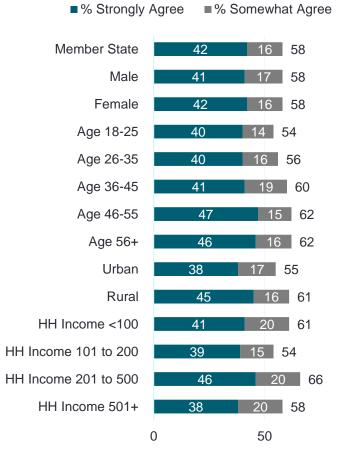
restrictions" versus "there is a low risk and

need to get economy moving"

0

Q16. Some people say that loosening restrictions now puts too many people at risk of contracting COVID-19 and we need to wait at least a few more weeks. Other people say that the health risk is minimal if people follow social distancing rules and we need to get the economy moving again. Which is closer to your point of view?

It will be at least six months before COVID-19 is contained



Q15. To what extent to you agree or disagree with the following statements?



100

For more information, contact:

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Additional Methodology Details

- The public opinion polling was conducted using a telephone interviewing methodology.
- The questionnaire was developed by Resolve to Save Lives, Ipsos and members of the PERC consortium.
- The polling program was approved by local review boards and all respondents gave explicit permission to participate in the polling.
- Note that where referenced, income categories should be interpreted as indicative as sample sizes vary and income reporting can be subject to bias.
- The weighted sample sizes for the demographic breaks in this report are as follows:

	Total	Male	Female	18-25	26-35	36-45	46-55	56+	Urban	Rural	Under 100	101 - 200	201 - 500	501+
Base: All	1200	621	579	240	415	321	133	91	588	612	147	145	195	250

The percentages reported in this document may be different from percentages reported in other PERC products and communication of this data. Differences may be reconciled by investigating the denominator used, as indicated in each instance of use.
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PERSONAL **Public** health and social measure (PHSM)

Male	83	12	95
Female	85	11	96
Age 18-25	80	13	93
Age 26-35	84	12	96
Age 36-45	84	12	96
Age 46-55	85	10	95
Age 56+	91	8	99
Urban	85	11	96
Rural	83	12	95
HH Income <100	79	16	95
HH Income 101 to 200	81	11	92
HH Income 201 to 500	83	12	95
HH Income 501+	80	17	97
	0 5	0	100

Adherence

Mostly applies

12 96

84

Completely applies

Member State

Washing my hands many times per day

Support						
■Absolutely ne	ecessary	■Somewhat necessary	/			
Member State		93	6	99		
Male		92	6	98		
Female		93	5	98		
Age 18-25		93	5	98		
Age 26-35		94	5	99		
Age 36-45		91	7	98		
Age 46-55		93	5	98		
Age 56+		95	5	100		
Urban		92	5	97		
Rural		93	6	99		
HH Income <100		95	4	99		
HH Income 101 to 200		86	10	96		
HH Income 201 to 500		94	5	99		
HH Income 501+		91	8	99		
	0	50	1(00		

Q14. Thinking of the last four weeks, was asking people to do each of the following absolutely necessary, somewhat necessary, or not really necessary to limiting the spread of COVID-19 in South Africa?: ...wash their hands with soap or use hand sanitizer more often than they used to August, 2020



Q13. Over the past seven days, to what extent do each of the following describe you personally?: Washing my hands with soap or using hand sanitizer many times per day

PERSONAL Public health and social measure (PHSM)

■Completely applies ■Mostly applies				
Member State	77	14 91		
Male	76	15 91		
Female	79	14 93		
Age 18-25	69	18 87		
Age 26-35	80	14 94		
Age 36-45	78	13 91		
Age 46-55	79	13 92		
Age 56+	82	13 95		
Urban	79	13 92		
Rural	75	15 90		
HH Income <100	79	8 87		
HH Income 101 to 200	69	21 90		
HH Income 201 to 500	74	16 90		
HH Income 501+	76	16 92		
	0 5	50 100		

Adherence

Avoiding handshakes and physical greetings

Support					
Absolutely nec	essary	Somew	hat necessar	у	
Member State		82		13	95
Male		81		13	94
Female		83		13	96
Age 18-25		82		14	96
Age 26-35		83		12	95
Age 36-45		81		13	94
Age 46-55		80	ľ	13	93
Age 56+		81		13	94
Urban		85		9	94
Rural		79		16	95
HH Income <100		81		12	93
HH Income 101 to 200		72	16	8	В
HH Income 201 to 500		84		11	95
HH Income 501+		79		16	95
	0	5	0		100

Support

Q14. Thinking of the last four weeks, was asking people to do each of the following absolutely necessary, somewhat necessary, or not really necessary to limiting the spread of COVID-19 in South Africa?: Avoiding handshakes and physical greetings



Q13. Over the past seven days, to what extent do each of the following describe you personally?: Avoiding handshakes and physical greetings

PERSONAL Public health and social measure (PHSM)

			0.
Male	88	8	96
Female	88	10	98
Age 18-25	86	12	98
Age 26-35	90	8	98
Age 36-45	86	9	95
Age 46-55	85	10	95
Age 56+	95	5 3	98
Urban	88	8	96
Rural	87	10	97
HH Income <100	84	11	95
HH Income 101 to 200	87	8	95
HH Income 201 to 500	86	12	98
HH Income 501+	87	9	96
	0 5	60 1	00

Adherence

Mostly applies

9 97

88

Completely applies

Member State

Wearing a face mask in public when near others

■ Absolutely ne	cessary	■Somewhat necessa	ary	
Member State		90	7	97
Male		90	8	98
Female		90	7	97
Age 18-25		89	10	99
Age 26-35		91	7	98
Age 36-45		88	8	96
Age 46-55		93	4	97
Age 56+		94	6	100
Urban		90	6	96
Rural		90	8	98
HH Income <100		88	9	97
HH Income 101 to 200		91	7	98
HH Income 201 to 500		88	11	99
HH Income 501+		89	8	97
	0	50	1(00

Support

Q14. Thinking of the last four weeks, was asking people to do each of the following absolutely necessary, somewhat necessary, or not really necessary to limiting the spread of COVID-19 in South Africa?: Wearing a face mask in public

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Q13. Over the past seven days, to what extent do each of the following describe you personally?: Wearing a face mask in public when near others

PUBLIC GATHERING **Public** health and social measure (PHSM)

Completely applies		■ Mostly	applies	
Member State		67	18	85
Male		64	19	83
Female		70	17	87
Age 18-25		64	19	83
Age 26-35		68	18	86
Age 36-45		66	19	85
Age 46-55		65	21	86
Age 56+		76	12	88
Urban		68	17	85
Rural		67	19	86
HH Income <100		67	18	85
HH Income 101 to 200		64	21	85
HH Income 201 to 500		66	18	84
HH Income 501+		63	20	83
	0	50		100

Adherence

Avoiding the church/mosque

Support Absolutely necessary Somewhat necessary Member State 70 17 87 70 89 Male 19 87 Female 71 16 Age 18-25 70 88 Age 26-35 70 16 86 Age 36-45 71 89 Age 46-55 70 17 87 Age 56+ 72 89 17 70 87 Urban 17 Rural 89 71 18 HH Income <100 69 82 13 HH Income 101 to 200 85 67 18 HH Income 201 to 500 69 89 20 HH Income 501+ 64 88 24 50 0 100

Q14. Thinking of the last four weeks, was asking people to do each of the following absolutely necessary, somewhat necessary, or not really necessary to limiting the spread of COVID-19 in South Africa?: Avoiding the church/mosque

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Q13. Over the past seven days, to what extent do each of the following describe you personally?: Avoiding the church/mosque

PUBLIC GATHERING Public health and social measure (PHSM)

Complete	ely applies	■Mostly a	oplies
Member State		74	16 90
Male		72	16 88
Female		75	16 91
Age 18-25		73	14 87
Age 26-35		73	16 89
Age 36-45		72	18 90
Age 46-55		74	17 91
Age 56+		81	12 93
Urban		75	16 91
Rural		72	17 89
HH Income <100		74	18 92
HH Income 101 to 200		72	19 91
HH Income 201 to 500		70	18 88
HH Income 501+		72	18 90
	0	50	100

Adherence

Avoiding public gatherings and places of entertainment

Absolutely necessary Somewhat necessary Member State 15 92 77 Male 76 14 90 Female 79 15 94 Age 18-25 77 13 90 Age 26-35 91 78 13 Age 36-45 78 94 16 Age 46-55 76 94 Age 56+ 75 16 91 15 92 Urban 77 Rural 78 92 14 HH Income <100 89 75 14 HH Income 101 to 200 75 17 92 HH Income 201 to 500 77 16 93 HH Income 501+ 77 16 93 50 100 0

Support

Q14. Thinking of the last four weeks, was asking people to do each of the following absolutely necessary, somewhat necessary, or not really necessary to limiting the spread of COVID-19 in South Africa?: Avoiding public gatherings and places of entertainment



Q13. Over the past seven days, to what extent do each of the following describe you personally?: Avoiding public gatherings and places of entertainment

MOBILITY **Public** health and social measure (PHSM)

Adherence						
■ Completely applies ■ Mostly applies						
Member State	59	22	81			
Male	57	23	80			
Female	61	21	82			
Age 18-25	56	25	81			
Age 26-35	63	18	81			
Age 36-45	53	27	80			
Age 46-55	59	21	80			
Age 56+	71	1	88			
Urban	60	20	80			
Rural	58	24	82			
HH Income <100	59	20	79			
HH Income 101 to 200	58	25	83			
HH Income 201 to 500	60	21	81			
HH Income 501+	48	26	74			
0 50 100						

Staying home instead of going to work, school or other regular activities

Support					
Absolutely nec	essary	■ Somew	/hat ne	cessary	/
Member State		70		20	90
Male		68		20	88
Female		71		19	90
Age 18-25		73		18	91
Age 26-35		69		19	88
Age 36-45		70		20	90
Age 46-55		61		26	87
Age 56+		76		15	91
Urban		70		20	90
Rural		69		20	89
HH Income <100		72		11	83
HH Income 101 to 200		62		23	85
HH Income 201 to 500		70		17	87
HH Income 501+		60		29	89
0 50 100					100

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Q13. Over the past seven days, to what extent do each of the following describe you personally ?: Staying home instead of going to work, school or other regular activities

Q14. Thinking of the last four weeks, was asking people to do each of the following absolutely necessary, somewhat necessary, or not really necessary to limiting the spread of COVID-19 in South Africa?: Staying home instead of going to work, school or other regular activities

MOBILITY Public health and social measure (PHSM)

Adherence						
Completely applies Mostly applies						
Member State	61	25 86				
Male	60	26 86				
Female	62	25 87				
Age 18-25	58	25 83				
Age 26-35	64	23 87				
Age 36-45	63	25 88				
Age 46-55	51	35 86				
Age 56+	65	21 86				
Urban	63	25 88				
Rural	60	25 85				
HH Income <100	64	23 87				
HH Income 101 to 200	58	20 78				
HH Income 201 to 500	58	27 85				
HH Income 501+	58	26 84				
0 50 1						

Reducing the number of times I go to the market or grocery store

Absolutely necessary Somewhat necessary Member State 74 94 72 22 Male 94 Female 76 17 93 Age 18-25 73 93 20 Age 26-35 78 94 16 Age 36-45 72 93 21 Age 46-55 66 93 Age 56+ 79 95 16 92 Urban 73 75 95 Rural 20 HH Income <100 81 11 92 HH Income 101 to 200 70 92 HH Income 201 to 500 74 18 92 HH Income 501+ 70 25 95 50 100 0

Support

Q14. Thinking of the last four weeks, was asking people to do each of the following absolutely necessary, somewhat necessary, or not really necessary to limiting the spread of COVID-19 in South Africa?: Reducing the number of times I go to the market or grocery store



Q13. Over the past seven days, to what extent do each of the following describe you personally?: Reducing the number of times I go to the market or grocery store

August, 2020