



**PRESIDENTIAL TASK FORCE ON COVID-19**  
**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERATION**

**24<sup>th</sup> December, 2020**

**IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES FOR PHASE THREE OF EASED LOCKDOWN**

**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 rising trend of new infections throughout the country. The decision to move to Phase Three of the eased lockdown that started on 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2020 was 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. It has become imperative for the PTF to roll back the relaxations instituted in Phase III in order to overcome the current spike in cases, interrupt transmission of COVID-19 and restore epidemic control, making the best use of science, data and adaptation of global best practices. The National Response would continue to focus on delicately achieving a balance between preserving lives and livelihoods while working towards long term epidemic control through vaccination.

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. While measures have been implemented to reduce transmission, preserve lives, and address disruptions caused by the pandemic, the data and public engagement point to a clear need for additional rather than easing of restrictions at this time. It is important that at this point of the response, greater ownership is secured from both the

general public and government institutions to support the response, with the full engagement and co-operation of the sub-nationals.

It is therefore the informed recommendation of the PTF that Nigeria **reinstates specific restrictions to discourage mass gatherings, enforce wearing of facemasks in the public space and promote other non-pharmaceutical interventions that are critical to restoring the country back to a safe level of epidemic control** until such a time that additional preventive tools such as vaccines are available in the country. 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 of Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020, the following additional modifications to Phase Three of the eased lockdown will come into effect:

- Maintaining the current nationwide curfew from 12am to 4am;
- Reintroducing the restrictions on mass gatherings, outside the workplace, maintaining allowance for gatherings in enclosed spaces (weddings, funerals etc.) to no more than 50 persons, ensuring physical distancing measures and other non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) are in place and enforceable;
- Introduce mandatory boarding requirements for international passengers arriving from specific high burden countries;
- Delay the resumption of schools nationwide until at least 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2021 to allow time for the new measures to take effect;
- Reduce the congestion in government offices and prevent further outbreaks of COVID-19 by ensuring only essential government staff from GL.12 and above can come into 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;

- Impose temporary restrictions on recreational venues, gyms and sports facilities until 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2021. Event centres, bars and night clubs shall remain closed until further notice. Restaurants to close except those providing for hotel guests, takeaways, drive throughs and home delivery; and
- 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.'

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.

These safety protocols provide a baseline from which States may further build on to strengthen their responses based on their local circumstances. The recommendations should be considered as the minimum required to ensure an acceptable level of epidemic control nationwide.

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"> <li>▪ Maintain curfew from midnight to 4am</li> </ul>
GENERAL MOVEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No formal restrictions on movement within the country. But the risk remains, therefore citizens are encouraged to refrain from non-essential movement and comply with non-pharmaceutical guidelines such as the mandatory use of facemask/ facial coverings in public; and</li> <li>▪ <b>Those aged 60 and above or with co-morbidities (e.g. diabetes, cardiovascular disease) are strongly urged to stay home and avoid crowds.</b></li> </ul>
AIR TRANSPORT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Actively discourage travel – both domestic and international during the holiday season;</li> <li>▪ Both international and domestic travellers must abide by all existing protocols earlier issued by the PTF;</li> <li>▪ Passengers to ensure they arrive early for all flights taking into consideration the delays likely to arise from these additional measures (<u>1.5</u> hours domestic and <u>3</u> hours international); and</li> <li>▪ All arriving international passengers must register with the Nigeria International Travel Portal (<a href="https://nitp.ncdc.gov.ng">https://nitp.ncdc.gov.ng</a>) and abide by the travel guidelines.</li> </ul>
LAND AND RAIL TRANSPORT (previously divided into inter-state and intra-state travel)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No limitations on inter or intra-state travel;</li> <li>▪ All vendors and service providers must abide by stated stipulations from the Federal Ministry of Transportation;</li> <li>▪ All passengers and commuters must wear face masks, wash their hands with soap under running water and sanitize with alcohol-based sanitizers before and after each trip; and</li> <li>▪ Security agencies to enforce the use of non-pharmaceutical interventions including the use of facemasks, hand sanitisers and temperature checks in all rail stations, bus and motor parks.</li> </ul>

INDUSTRY & LABOUR

ASPECT	RECOMMENDATION
<p>WORKING ARRANGEMENT (Private Sector)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Encourage virtual meetings by offices. Avoid large meetings, decongest offices and ensure they are well-ventilated;</li> <li>▪ Encourage staff to work from home where possible;</li> <li>▪ Mobile courts to enforce on-the-spot fines and close premises that repeatedly violate rules;</li> <li>▪ Mandatory use of face masks and other NPIs. NO FACE MASK, NO ENTRY; and</li> <li>▪ Personalised services to ensure face masks are worn when selling goods or providing services and ensure provision of sanitisers and appropriate PPEs to all workers.</li> </ul>
<p>WORKING ARRANGEMENT (Public Sector)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All Government staff on GL. 12 and below are to stay at home for the next 5 weeks (until 25 Jan. 2021);</li> <li>▪ Permanent Secretaries and Chief Executives to be held accountable for enforcing NPI rules in their domains with frequent spot checks; and</li> <li>▪ Ensure that all NPIs are observed. Mandatory and proper use of face masks in all government premises.</li> </ul>
<p>COMMUNAL COMMERCIAL SPACES (Markets/Stores)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Spot checks of commercial premises to be conducted regularly;</li> <li>▪ Observe all mandatory non-pharmaceutical interventions; and</li> <li>▪ Facility owners/managers and store owners to ensure that physical distancing is observed, provision of hand sanitisers and handwashing facilities, ensure the mandatory use of face masks and maintain environmental hygiene.</li> </ul>
<p>HOSPITALITY AND ENTERTAINMENT FACILITIES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All mass gatherings of more than 50 persons to cease immediately;</li> <li>▪ All bars, night clubs, pubs and event centres to close immediately;</li> <li>▪ All restaurants to close, except those providing services to hotel residents, takeaways, home deliveries and drive-ins are allowed; and</li> <li>▪ Hotels to remain open but must observe all non-pharmaceutical interventions.</li> </ul>

## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

ASPECT	RECOMMENDATION
<p>EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS (Daycare, Primary, Secondary and Tertiary)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Schools shall delay resumption until at least <b>18<sup>th</sup> January, 2021</b>. Virtual teaching are allowed where possible; and</li> <li>▪ Observe all mandatory non-pharmaceutical interventions.</li> </ul>
<p>RELIGIOUS CENTRES (Churches/Mosques etc)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All gatherings linked to religious events should be limited to less than 50% capacity to ensure physical distancing; face masks are mandatory;</li> <li>▪ Gatherings of more than 50 persons must be held outdoors only; and</li> <li>▪ Observe all mandatory non-pharmaceutical interventions.</li> </ul>
<p>RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND SPORTS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All recreational venues, gyms and sports facilities are to close for the next 5 weeks (until 25 Jan. 2021).</li> </ul>
<p>GATHERINGS (Weddings, Parties, Meetings etc)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All informal and formal festivity events including weddings, conferences, congresses, office parties, seminars, end of year events involving more than 50 persons are no longer allowed. Concerts, carnivals and street parties are banned until further notice;</li> <li>▪ Mandatory wearing of facemasks;</li> <li>▪ All attendees must wash or sanitize their hands before and after attendance; and</li> <li>▪ Physical distancing must be adhered to for all attendees.</li> </ul>