



**PRESIDENTIAL STEERING COMMITTEE ON COVID-19**  
**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERATION**

10<sup>th</sup> May, 2021

**IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES FOR PHASED RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT**

**Section I. Guidance:**

The Presidential Steering Committee (PSC) on COVID-19 has reviewed the country's COVID-19 response in light of the rising trend in several countries and the high risk of a surge in cases in Africa.

In the week of 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2021, the PSC took a precautionary step by restricting travel from three countries - Brazil, India and Turkey – where there is a high incidence of cases, high fatality rate and widespread prevalence of variants of concern. Additionally, the PSC continues to reinforce the surveillance system at the country's Points-of Entry.

While the country's vaccine roll-out has begun, there is a shortage in global supplies affected by the current situation in India. This translates to a delay in vaccinating a large proportion of the population, and therefore a risk of a large outbreak especially in the context of poor adherence to the recommended public health and social measures.

There are strong concerns about the non-compliance to public health and social measures contained in the CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) HEALTH PROTECTION REGULATIONS 2021. Specifically, the level of adherence to the use of facemasks, physical distancing, temperature checks in public places, hand washing and limitations placed on large gatherings remain very poor. In some areas and instance, non-existent.

In line with the increasing risk of a surge in cases, the PSC is re-instituting the enforcement of the COVID-19 Health Protection Regulations. This is to mitigate the risk of a spike in new cases, while the nationwide vaccine rollout continues. The national response continues to focus on achieving a balance between preserving lives and livelihoods while working towards long term epidemic control.

Further to this recommendation and effective from 00:01 hours of Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2021, this Phase Four of the phased restriction of movements shall come into effect:

- Restrictions on mass gatherings outside workplace settings, with a maximum number of 50 people in enclosed spaces (weddings, funerals etc.). Approved gatherings must be held with physical distancing measures and other non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) in place and enforced;
- Enforcement of mandatory requirements for a 7-day quarantine for all international passengers arriving from all countries, while institutional quarantine for international passengers arriving from specific high burden countries;
- Enforce temperature checks and “No-Mask, No-Entry” policy in all public settings, workplace buildings, businesses, places of worship, recreational facilities, markets and motor parks. Access to government and commercial premises should be denied for persons not wearing facemasks;
- Maintain restriction on resumption to work of government staff from GL.12 and below;
- Limit government meetings to virtual platforms as much as possible while maintaining restrictions on physical meetings including official trips, oversight visits and board meetings until further notice;

- Event centres, bars and night clubs shall remain closed until further notice; and
- Restaurants to provide eat-in at 50% capacity and provide takeaways, drive throughs and home delivery.

These measures are to enable the Government of Nigeria effectively prevent and/or control the resurgence of an acute phase of this pandemic, continue to strengthen our public health systems, and to protect the lives of Nigerians and our economy.

It is critical that greater ownership and responsibility for these measures are secured from both the general public and government institutions across Federal and State levels, with enforcement by the relevant authorities.

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 Restrictions:**

The PSC has 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 **State** Governments may further build on, to strengthen their responses based on their local circumstances. States should continue to consider them as the minimum guidelines 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
NATIONWIDE CURFEW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The nationwide curfew imposed from 12 Midnight to 04:00am remains in force.</li> </ul>
GENERAL MOVEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No formal restrictions on movement within the country. Given the risks, citizens are encouraged to refrain from non-essential movement and comply with non-pharmaceutical interventions 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 travelers must abide by all existing protocols earlier issued by the <b>PSC</b>;</li> <li>▪ Passengers to ensure they arrive early for all flights taking into consideration the delays likely to arise from these additional measures (<b>1.5 hours</b> for domestic flights and <b>3 hours</b> international flights); 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;</li> <li>▪ Personalised services to ensure face masks are worn when selling goods or providing services and ensure provision of sanitizers and appropriate PPEs to all workers; and</li> <li>▪ Encourage the use of approved Ag-Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDT) as recommended in the GUIDANCE FOR THE USE OF APPROVED COVID-19 Ag-RDTs IN NIGERIA (on NCDC website).</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 continue to stay at home until 11th June, 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 to remain restricted to 50 persons except with explicit permission of the State Government;</li> <li>▪ All bars, night clubs, pubs and event centres are to remain closed;</li> <li>▪ All restaurants to adhere to 50% eat-in capacity, 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>▪ Observe all mandatory non-pharmaceutical interventions.</li> <li>▪ For schools with accommodation facilities, consider the use of approved Ag-Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDT) as recommended in the GUIDANCE FOR THE USE OF APPROVED COVID-19 Ag-RDTs IN NIGERIA</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 indoor sports facilities are to close until 11<sup>th</sup> June, 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>
<p>Mass Political Gatherings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All political activities involving large gatherings are to strictly adhere to COVID-19 Guidelines issued by INEC.</li> </ul>
<p>Violations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Each state Government to set up mobile tribunal for the prosecution of violators; and</li> <li>▪ Security agents are empowered to make arrests for violations under the Health Protection Regulation 2021.</li> </ul>