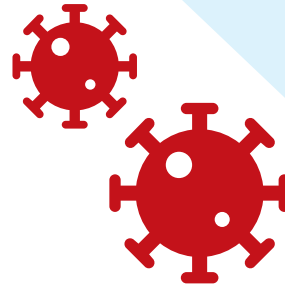




**COVID-19  
RESPONSE**



# Nigeria Police Force

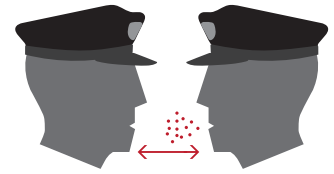
## Guidelines for Policing During the **COVID-19 Emergency**

The officers of Nigeria Police Force (NPF) are recommended to observe the following protocols while performing their duties during the **COVID-19** pandemic

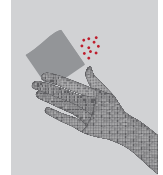


## 1. Remain Vigilant

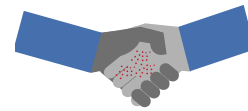
COVID-19 is mostly transmitted through small droplets from the nose or mouth which are spread from person to person.



COVID-19 is also transmitted by touching eyes, nose or mouth after having touched objects or surfaces contaminated by the virus.



Symptoms can include fever, tiredness, dry cough, shortness of breath, and breathing difficulties.



Some patients may also experience aches and pains, nasal congestion, runny nose, sore throat, or diarrhea.

Be aware that not all infectious persons will necessarily display overt symptoms of the disease.

Most people recover from COVID-19 without requiring special treatment.

However, approximately 1 in 6 people who contract COVID-19 will require medical assistance, the elderly and persons with underlying medical conditions have the highest risk of serious illness.

## 2. Take Protective Measures

Practice social distancing – try to stay at least one metre away from other people during professional or social interactions.

Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds after having direct physical contact with anyone.

If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.

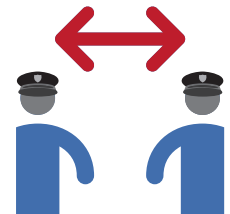


- ❖ Abstain from touching face – especially near the eyes, nose or mouth - with unwashed hands.
- ❖ If available, wear personal protection equipment, which should ideally include a face mask, eye protection and surgical gloves, while interacting with other people.



### 3. While Performing Your Duties

- ❖ Maintain social distancing while working in police stations and offices.
- ❖ Limit unnecessary contact with visitors to police offices.
- ❖ Regularly sanitize exposed office surfaces and office equipment after use.
- ❖ In handling documents, consider that they may be contaminated. Avoid unnecessary contact with documents, use gloves if possible, or wash your hands immediately after handling a document .
- ❖ Consider suspending the enforcement of minor offenses, and traffic violations, to minimize unnecessary public contact.
- ❖ Consider measures in strict compliance with existing national legislation to prevent overcrowding in specific locations, such as clubs or sports stadiums, where the transmission of the **COVID-19** virus might be facilitated.





#### 4. When Assisting with the Collection and Disposal of Bodies of Victims of COVID-19

- Always wear personal protective equipment.
- Try to be as sensitive as possible to the religious and cultural norms of the deceased's family and community.
- Establish the circumstances surrounding the deceased's death.
- Obtain the identifying particulars of the deceased, and of his/her family, and of those in close contact with the deceased.
- Ensure that all protective equipment and any vehicles used for the conveyance of bodies to mortuaries or burial sites are sanitized before and after each use.

#### 5. Limit the Spread of Rumors and False Reporting

- Stay informed about the pandemic from credible authorities such as the Nigerian Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO).
- Refrain from sharing information from unofficial sources.

#### 6. Contact Tracing

- You may be called upon to assist public health officials and related entities in tracing potential individuals who are suspected of carrying the virus.
- Perform your duties in strict compliance with national legislation, in liaison with relevant agencies, and with due regard to and respect for an individual's legal rights.
- When interacting with individuals who may have been infected with COVID-19 wear Personal Protective Equipment and exercise an abundance of caution.



- Be sure to wash or sanitize your hands, and any other surface that may have come into contact with the infection at the earliest opportunity.

## 7. Medical Emergencies

- Only trained personnel wearing appropriate personal protective equipment should have direct contact with individuals displaying COVID-19 symptoms.
- Where available use trained Emergency Medical Service personnel to transport symptomatic individuals to the nearest healthcare facility.

## 8. Transporting Emergency Supplies

- Consider providing a police escort for shipments of emergency supplies to healthcare centers (medical equipment, personal protective equipment, etc.) to ensure it is delivered safely and without interference.

## 9. Managing Public Order Situations

- Wear personal protective equipment – including gloves, eye protection and disposable face mask – before coming in close contact with a crowd.
- Stay calm.
- Explain the need for COVID-19 prevention measures to the crowd and ask them to disperse for their own safety.
- Use force only when absolutely necessary and to the extent proportionate to achieve the required result and in accordance with existing national legislation.
- Clean and disinfect all equipment before and after the use.



## 10. Making Arrests

- It is important to limit as far as possible the number of individuals held in confinement, where they may be especially vulnerable to infection.
- During the current health emergency making an arrest should be considered a last resort, to be used only in relation to serious offences.
- If it should become necessary to search an individual, begin by asking them to display any items of interest on their person, or amongst their personal possessions. Apply physical touch only when doing so is absolutely required, and under safe conditions using personal protective equipment.
- Consider releasing detainees on bail, if the law permits.
- If detention is necessary, consider how and where the detainee can be held safely and for how long; and also who is going to interact with the detainee while he or she is in custody. Enforce social distancing measures as far as is possible.
- Ensure that detention facilities are regularly and thoroughly cleaned, and that operating personnel have access to personal protection equipment and are trained in its proper use.

## 11. Domestic Violence and Abuse

- Be aware that during the COVID-19 emergency domestic violence, child abuse, and gender-based violence is likely to increase, especially in localities where movement restrictions have been imposed, and be alert to the warning signs of such abuse.



- Domestic violence, child abuse, and gender-based violence are serious offences and law enforcement action to prevent and stop them should continue during the **COVID-19** emergency.

## **12. Dealing with Persons who Inject or Abuse Drugs (PWID/ PWUD)**

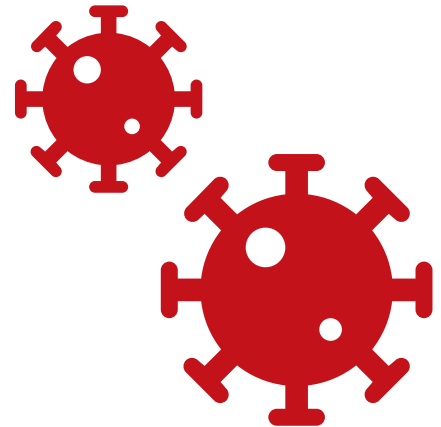
- Be aware that drug users may be apprehensive of arrest and may seek to avoid medical attention even if exposed to infection by **COVID-19**.
- In such circumstances you should suspend enforcement action and encourage such individuals to seek medical treatment if they are displaying symptoms of **COVID-19**.

## **13. Coming Off Duty**

- Maintain social distancing and avoid physical contact with family members or children when you reach home until you can change out of your work clothes.
- Immediately wash exposed body parts with soap and water, and, if possible, take a shower.
- Discard work clothes and get them washed with laundry soap.
- Clean or decontaminate your work equipment, including footwear.
- If you are bringing a vehicle to your home wash it with soap and water.
- Remember, you are equally at risk of potential infection off duty as you are on duty.



# COVID-19 RESPONSE



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