

# Strengthening and adjusting public health measures throughout the COVID-19 transition phases

Policy considerations  
for the WHO  
European Region

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Four key components to managing transitions and modulating restrictive measures:



1. Public health and epidemiological considerations must drive the decision-making process



2. Available capacity for dual-track health system management to reinstate regular health services, while at the same time continuing to address COVID-19



3. Leveraging social and behavioural perspectives as tools for responsive engagement with populations



4. Social and economic support to mitigate the devastating effects of COVID-19 on individuals, families and communities

Four cross-cutting mechanisms are essential enablers throughout the transition process:



1. Governance of health systems



2. Data analytics to inform decisions



3. Digital technologies to support public health measures



4. Responsive communication with populations

Six conditions should be used as the basis to implement/adapt transitioning of measures:



1. Evidence shows that COVID-19 transmission is controlled



4. Preventive measures are established in workplaces, with physical distancing, handwashing facilities and respiratory etiquette in place, and potentially thermal monitoring



2. Sufficient public health and health system capacities are in place to identify, isolate, test and treat all cases, and to trace and quarantine contacts



5. Manage the risk of exporting and importing cases from communities with high-risks of transmission



3. Outbreak risks are minimized in high-vulnerability settings, such as long-term care facilities (i.e. nursing homes, rehabilitative and mental health centres) and congregate settings



6. Communities have a voice, are informed, engaged and participatory in the transition