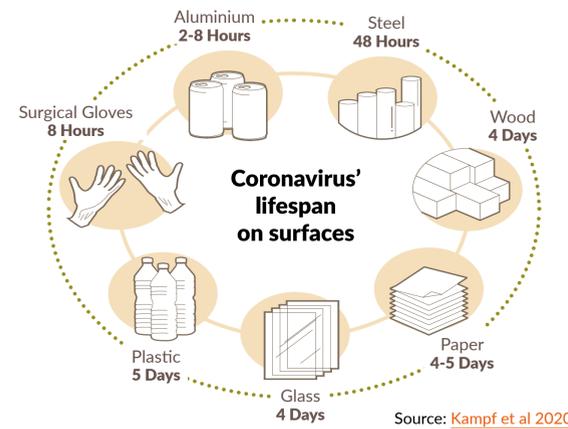


COVID-19 GUIDELINES FOR INFORMAL TRADERS (in streets, markets and Spaza shops)

The coronavirus COVID-19 is highly infectious.

It spreads through contact with people who already have the virus – even those who do not show symptoms – or from touching contaminated surfaces and then touching your eyes, mouth or nose. COVID-19 sticks to surfaces – cardboard, plastic, wood, metal and money. It can survive for up to five days.

Informal traders can trade as safely as supermarkets as long as these guidelines are followed.



STAY AT HOME:

Doctors advise staying at home, if you can. This is why direct income support from national government to all informal workers is critical.

- Elderly people are particularly at risk if they contract the virus – If you are elderly or live with elderly people (those over 60), you should stay at home.
- If you are unwell with an existing condition, or older than 60, you should ask someone else to run your business for you during the COVID-19 epidemic.
- If you develop flu-like symptoms, please stay at home and call 0800 029 999 for guidance.



IF YOU ARE AT WORK AS AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE PROVIDER:

1 Wash your hands with soap and water often:

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds. Clean all parts of your hands and fists, washing between fingers and fingertips and halfway up your forearms.
- Wash your hands before you start your workday, throughout the day, and especially before eating.
- Wash your hands after coughing or sneezing.
- Wash your hands after touching any object that others regularly touch.
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home.

NOTE: Hand sanitisers do not work as a preventative measure on dirty hands – because the virus sticks to the dirt on your hands. Make sure you do not touch the tap with your hands before and after washing by using a piece of newspaper that you throw away after.

2 Avoid touching your face – especially your eyes, mouth and nose.

3 When you cough or sneeze, cover your face with the inside of your elbow.

4 Avoid touching people. Do not greet people by touching them.

Keep 2 metres away from people. Where this is impossible, then at least keep at arm's length.

5 Customers should keep two metres distance from each other, by queuing alongside trader / market stalls or outside spazas. Drawing lines on the ground is a simple way to show how people should queue and how far they should stay from you and your stall / shop. Don't let people jump the queue or others will not keep to the distances.

6 Give priority to high-risk customers (such as pensioners or pregnant women) by giving them preference in queues or for spazas setting aside designated shopping hours.

7 Ask customers not to touch products (as far as possible).

Warning on the use of gloves:
The advice from public health specialists is - if you use disposable gloves to protect yourself, they should be thrown away after each task. The virus sits on gloves and cannot be washed off in the same way as washing hands. Used gloves should be treated as contaminated. It is much better to be able to wash your hands with soap and water than to use gloves.

8 Clean all frequently touched surfaces, including your cell phone screen but also door handles and railings.

9 Street and market traders: clean your tables, and products with disinfectant.

Spaza shop owners and employees: wipe down surfaces such as countertops, tills, and handles. Provide sanitizers for customers entering and leaving if possible.

How to build a wash station:
If you do not have running water on site for you or your customers, consider building one. In an urban setting place a basin under the bottle to catch the waste water. See instructions [here](#)

How to make your own disinfectant:
If you do not have sanitizers 1 cup of bleach in 6 cups of water is an effective disinfectant.

bleach + water

10 Avoid handling cash:

Encourage customers to deposit cash in a box or jar. Coins can be dropped into a soapy/bleach solution first. Use sanitiser between customers.

Use digital payment methods where possible. Consider signing up for Snapscan. If you have a card payment facility, like Yoco, iKhokha, FLASH, and bank card machines, clean these with bleach solution these before and after each use.

POLICY ISSUES:

On April 2, national government declared Spaza shops and informal uncooked food traders as essential service workers – see pg 12 [here](#)

PRESSURE AUTHORITIES TO:

- provide unlimited water points so that traders can wash their hands and workplaces and products frequently.
- provide face masks, sanitisers and/or bleach as a matter of urgency.
- have a moratorium on all fees charged.
- be flexible about trading layouts so that street and market traders can practise physical distancing.
- provide security, in coordination with other security services, in trading areas and around spaza shops. This will assist people in keeping the 2 metre social distance, but also deal with the risk of looting in these times when some people are in desperate need.

REMEMBER: If you or your family develop symptoms, please call the toll free number 0800 029 999.

These guidelines were developed by WIEGO in close consultation with experts in public health (Professors Rajen Naidoo and Leslie London) and the informal economy / food systems. April 2020.

