

7 indicators of how well a country has done in Covid-19 fight



The ability to detect and break transmission chains

- How quickly a country is able to pick up new cases, and scale up testing and contact tracing capabilities in the face of increased demand.
- One set of data to look at would be the percentage of cases which were found through contact tracing.



The ability of healthcare system to minimise deaths and severe complications

- Governments can assess this by collating the number of deaths per million population as well as the ventilator capacity per million population.
- These must be measured consistently over time as they indicate the resilience of the hospital system, including emergency departments, general wards and intensive care units, and their capabilities to respond to increased patient demand.



The ability to protect and support vulnerable and neglected groups

- These include low-income earners and the elderly, who might not be in the know about the latest Covid-19 developments and the precautions they should take.
- One way to assess the impact on these groups would be based on the number and size of recent clusters among them.



The ability of healthcare system to maintain its usual health services, including those which are unrelated to the pandemic

- Essential health services should never be reduced throughout the pandemic while non-essential services should be restored promptly.
- Some disturbances to routine health services are inevitable as some among the healthcare workforce will be assigned to outbreak management, and some people may be deterred from using routine health services during the outbreak.
- Such challenges can be mitigated through the use of telemedicine and the ring-fencing of selected hospitals for non-Covid-19 procedures.



The ability to maintain adequate and steady food and medical supply chains – a macroeconomic issue given the prolonged duration of the pandemic



The amount of financial support for individuals and companies, especially for those who need treatment

- Scale and size of the programmes rolled out for those in isolation or quarantine as well as for groups adversely impacted by social restrictions.