



COVID-19 Triage and Service Continuity in Ghana

Globally, healthcare facilities are developing contingency plans on how to serve COVID-19 patients and maintain other routine services while keeping all patients safe. Our consortium conducted a survey¹ of healthcare workers in Ghana from 29 April through 8 May, 2020 to gather data on the contingency plans developed and routine service provision at hospitals.

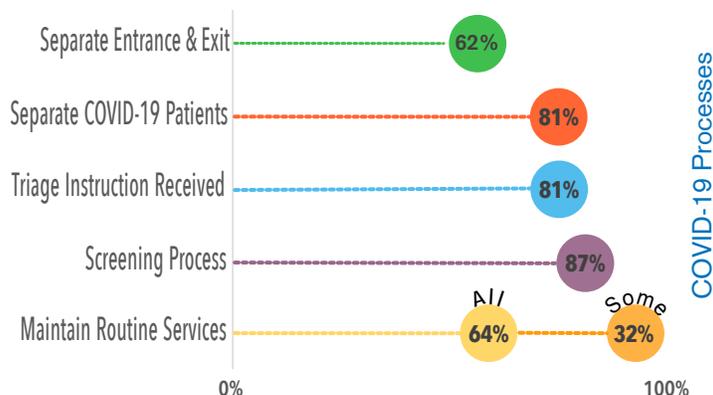


Processes in Place

Most facilities are implementing processes to deal with COVID-19 patients safely. More than 80% of facilities report that they have a **screening process in place** for

COVID-19 patients, they **can separate patients** with COVID-19 symptoms, and have received **instructions on how to triage** COVID-19 cases. Most (62%) report that it is possible for **patients to enter and exit through separate doors**.

Respondents at the teaching hospitals and other government facilities reported both receiving instructions and being able to separate COVID-19 patients more frequently than those in private facilities.



Contingency Planning

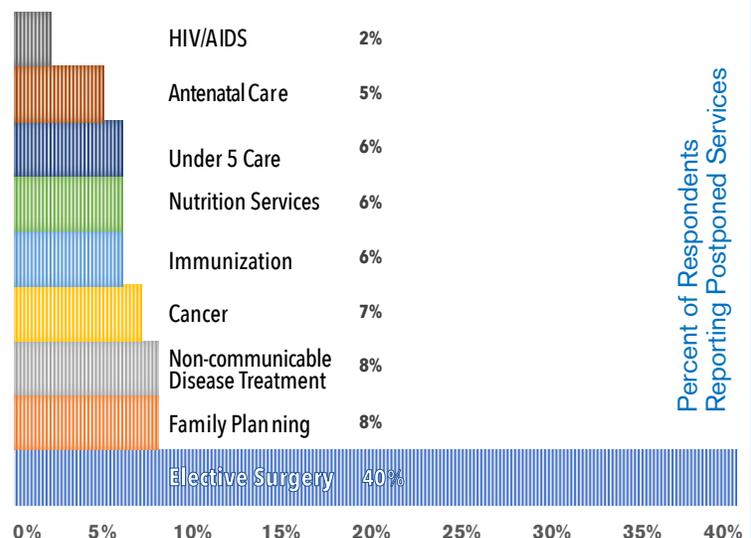
Most facilities are developing contingency plans. Most respondents reported that their facility was developing a contingency plan—with 57% reporting that staff was **informed of a plan**, and 58% reporting that **staff was trained** on the plan. Only 5% said their facility had not yet started a plan.



96% of facilities are maintaining some or all routine services...Ayekoo!

64% of respondents report their **facility can maintain all routine services** and **32%** say they can maintain some.

40% of respondents reported that elective surgeries were postponed. Routine services such as HIV care, immunization services and family planning have mostly been maintained (see chart).



Future needs



In open-ended questions about what would help their facility most with contingency planning for treatment, respondents most commonly answered additional supplies of PPE and additional training for staff.

"I think all staff should be trained so they can deal with triaging suspected cases rather than a handful [of staff] who will not always be at post (i.e. off duty)."

¹To help us make better decisions on the COVID-19 crisis, [IDS International](#) created a consortia of data and tech companies to measure the effectiveness of physical distancing and disinfectant behaviors like hand-washing and masks. Consortium partner [Clear Outcomes](#) led the data collection in partnership with the [Ghana Medical Association](#). A total of 102 healthcare workers from all regions responded to the survey, including doctors, nurses, midwives, laboratory technicians, administrators, and others. Respondents from Ghana's main teaching hospitals and other private and government hospitals throughout the country participated in the survey, though the sampling and results should not be taken as statistically representative. For more information contact data@clearoutcomes.net.