

ICT and Regulatory Key Initiatives in Response to COVID 19

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When disasters strike, ICTs play a critical role...

The Covid-19 crisis has demonstrated the essential role of having access to a robust, resilient and secure Telecom/ICT infrastructure and connectivity worldwide.

- The increase in use of ICT infrastructure, specially in data traffic on both wired and wireless networks due to higher online communications demand
- Reliable, high-speed Internet is key for hospitals and medical institutions to have access to global information networks and resources necessary to fight the virus.
- Broadband connectivity is also now absolutely crucial for educational institutions and businesses to continue to provide essential services.
 - For example: students to continue online school classes, employees to continue working remotely from home, and people undertaking daily activities via the Internet.

ITU's work in response to Covid-19



[REG4COVID](#): Provides the opportunity to share, view and discuss different initiatives in response to Covid-19

Guide to develop a contingency plan for a pandemic response



Guide to develop a contingency plan for a pandemic response

1. Legislation and regulation to improve Telecom/ICTs capacity for emergency response

Policy decisions, decrees and regulations for the use of telecom/ICTs for emergency response must be issued at the highest level, typically by the national government, such as:

- Declaration of National State of Emergency providing extraordinary powers to issue specific emergency provisions on telecom/ICTs among other sectors
- Decrees and/or resolutions, among other legal instruments, with specific provisions on telecom/ICTs and contingency plans

Guide to develop a contingency plan for a pandemic response

- **Key short term regulatory initiatives**
 - Increasing Broadband capacity and speeds
 - Providing free services to customers
 - New Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) networks
 - Allowing more flexible IMT spectrum use
 - Generally easing regulatory requirements on licensees
- **Short-Term Commercial Initiatives by operators**
 - Offering additional Data
 - Free access to online learning resources
 - Increasing Broadband Speeds
 - Free access to health/government information
- **Key Initiatives by Content Providers and Online Providers**
 - Lifting time limits in video calls
 - Range of free services including but not limited to: Microsoft, Google, Cisco, among others.

Thank you