Women make up 70% of the workers in the health and social sector globally and are on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic. This highlights the need to address gender inequalities. Women's income, especially in informal sectors such as running hair salons or vegetable stands, is more impacted by the pandemic. Women are also more likely to be employed in the informal sector, which may be further increased in times of crises. Women health care workers need to go beyond personal protective equipment, as gender inequalities are made worse by the COVID-19 outbreak.

**Women also make up the majority of domestic and care work, and the families who are reliant on informal sectors such as running hair salons or vegetable stands, have more to lose when it comes to their income, become particularly vulnerable during these times.**

Remember to use your voices to advocate for women and girls, as gender inequalities are made worse by the COVID-19 outbreak.

**Source:** UNICEF

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**REFOLE MORAPEDI (AGANANG FM) - SOUTH AFRICA**

**QUESTION:** "As scientists and doctors are trying to figure out a vaccine for COVID-19, when it is found, is it going to be distributed to everyone or only to the people who are infected?"

**RESPONSE:** A vaccine is designed to protect people before they’re exposed to a virus. A vaccine basically trains the immune system to recognize and attack the virus when it encounters it. Vaccines protect both the person who is vaccinated as well as the community. As of May 11 2020, eight candidate vaccines were being tested in clinical trials in more than 30 countries. People who are infected can spread the virus. And global supply chains may also be disrupted during a lockdown, which could affect access to essential services.

**Source:** Council on Foreign Relations

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**ZINTLE MAYABA (COSAT) - SOUTH AFRICA**

**QUESTION:** "A big question scientists are trying to answer is whether coronavirus peaks during the winter and ebbs during the summer like the flu. What should we expect as winter arrives? Will the winter weather hurt our efforts to stop the virus?"

**RESPONSE:** There’s a seasonality to many viruses. Flu and cold viruses tend to peak in winter months, then die down with warmer weather. In winter months, people may be more indoors, increasing the number of people at risk of becoming infected by someone who’s contagious. Viruses spread through respiratory droplets that are released when an infected person coughs or sneezes. And the droplets are more likely to spread under certain conditions. Droplets are better at staying aloft when the air is humid and warm, the droplets fall to the ground more slowly, and it makes transmission harder. But given the uncertainty, public health officials say they must plan for the unexpected and for the possibility that the outbreak drags on regardless of the weather.

**Source:** Goats and Soda (NPR)

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**ANNIE SAKALA - (FLAVA FM) KITWE, ZAMBIA**

**QUESTION:** "As scientists and doctors are trying to figure out a vaccine for COVID-19, when it is found, is it going to be distributed to everyone or only to the people who are infected?"

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**Source:** Council on Foreign Relations

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**ANNE TAFURU (FLAVA FM) KITWE, ZAMBIA**

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**Source:** Council on Foreign Relations

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**MMAKUBU PHOKWANE (MCRS) - SOUTH AFRICA**

**QUESTION:** "What will happen to a person who has HIV and now tests positive for COVID-19?"

**RESPONSE:** At the present time, there is no specific information about the risk of COVID-19 in people with HIV. However, people with HIV who have a serious underlying medical condition might be at higher risk for severe illness, including people who are immunocompromised.

The risk for people with HIV getting very sick is greatest in:

- People with a low CD4 cell count, and
- People not on HIV treatment (antiretroviral therapy or ART).

People with HIV can also be at increased risk of getting very sick with COVID-19 based on their age and other medical conditions.

**Source:** Centers For Disease Control and Prevention

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**GRACE CHABU - (FLAVA FM) KITWE, ZAMBIA**

**QUESTION:** "Based on the mask up campaign, do the masks have to be thinner or thicker to have effect?"

**RESPONSE:** While home-made masks might not be as effective as an N95 mask, having a protective filter over your face can help to block some airborne particles—which can be useful in stopping possible transmission of COVID-19. Research shows that some fabrics are better than others at filtering germs. Masks made of two layers of heavy, tightly woven cotton material (with a thread count of at least 180) are quite effective. The best material recommended is thick cotton material—and although you are unlikely to have this at home, you can still use the thickest cotton material you can find. You can also use t-shirts, handkerchiefs or any other washable material to create your mask, even if they are less effective, they play a big role in protecting you from contracting the virus.

**Source:** Live Mint

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**SMARTGUIDE**

**Regional Indicators**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
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**WEEKLY FACTSHEET #11**

**COVID-19: WEEK 29 JUNE - 5 JULY 2020**

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**Did You Know?**

Women make up 70% of the workers in the health and social sector globally and are on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic. Within the health and social sector, an average gender pay gap of 28% exists, which may be further increased in times of crises. Women health care workers need to go beyond personal protective equipment, they also include psychosocial as well as sexual reproductive health and hygiene support. Global crises present a serious threat to women’s engagement in economic activities, especially women in informal sectors such as running hair salons or vegetable stands. Women also make up the majority of domestic and care work, and the families who are reliant on their income, become particularly vulnerable during these times. Remember to use your voices to advocate for women and girls, as gender inequalities are made worse by the COVID-19 outbreak.

**Source:** UNICEF

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**Youth Voices**

This pandemic is affecting all of us and it helps to reach out and share ideas, stories and concerns with one another about all things COVID-19. Please keep sharing your questions with us weekly, and we’ll do our best to find you the most accurate and relevant answers.