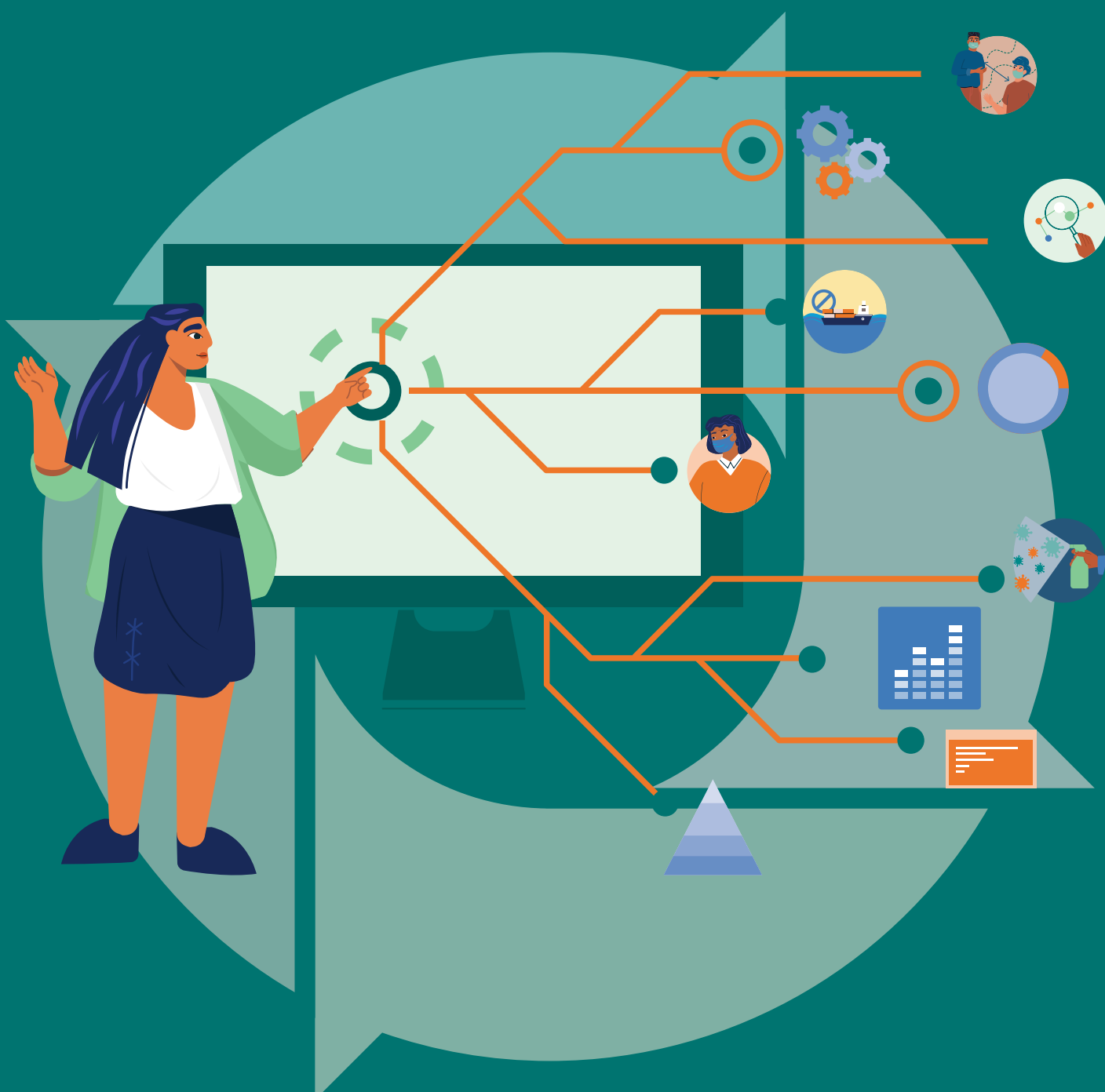


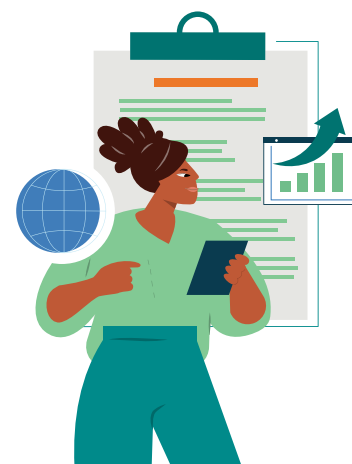
# Annex 3: Policy categories and subcategories for public health and social measures

Version as of August 2024



# Classification matrix for monitoring public health and social measures

This classification matrix helps place public health and social measures (PHSM) policies into **cascaded categories**, starting from a **first-level PHSM category** and moving down to identify the **second-level PHSM category**, and its **associated high-level indicators**.








## Why is a taxonomy for measuring public health and social measures important?



Categorizing PHSM policies using this taxonomy is a **critical step in the data collection process**, so it is important to ensure that the monitoring team works in a harmonized way to guarantee that the classification of measures is consistent and clear within the appropriate taxonomy category (1).

## First-level categories for PHSM (1,2)

The table below presents an overview of the first-level categories in the PHSM classification matrix.

 <b>Active case-finding and contact identification measures</b>	<p>These are systems and actions implemented to <b>identify, track and manage potential and confirmed cases</b> of disease. They may include case-finding, testing and contact-tracing, as well as isolation (i.e. to separate individuals with a confirmed or suspected infection) and quarantine (i.e. to separate individuals with an increased risk of infection from those at risk of becoming infected).</p>
 <b>Personal protection measures</b>	<p>These measures comprise <b>personal protective equipment</b> as well as <b>personal hygiene behaviours</b> that reduce the risk of individuals transmitting and/or becoming infected with a pathogen that has epidemic or pandemic potential.</p>
 <b>Environmental measures</b>	<p>These measures target the <b>physical infrastructure and environment</b>, including the human–animal interface, through <b>modifying, repurposing and/or appropriately maintaining</b> existing or newly set up structures to limit transmission of a pathogen with epidemic or pandemic potential.</p>
 <b>Social measures</b>	<p>These are measures implemented at the national and subnational levels comprising (i) <b>modifying social interactions</b> between individuals and groups of people, including gatherings; (ii) <b>adapting, cancelling or modifying the timing of services or activities</b>, or a combination of these; and (iii) <b>adapting or restricting movement</b> within and between specific settings and within or across national borders.</p>
 <b>International travel and trade measures</b>	<p>These measures follow a risk-based approach to reduce the <b>travel- and trade-associated cross-border exportation, importation</b> and onward transmission of a pathogen with epidemic or pandemic potential.</p>

# Classification matrix for monitoring public health and social measures

First-level PHSM category (1,2)	Second-level PHSM category and High-level indicators
 <p><b>Active case-finding and contact identification measures</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Active case-finding</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1. Screening for symptoms</li> <li>1.2. Test-based screening</li> <li>1.3. Contact tracing</li> </ol> </li> <li><b>2. Case-specific measures</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1. Isolation</li> </ol> </li> <li><b>3. Contact-specific measures</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.1. Quarantine</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
 <p><b>Personal protection measures</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>4. Personal protective equipment</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4.1. Masks</li> <li>4.2. Gloves</li> <li>4.3. Face shields</li> <li>4.4. Bed nets</li> <li>4.5. Long or other protective clothing</li> <li>4.6. Barriers for safer sex</li> <li>4.7. Repellents</li> </ol> </li> <li><b>5. Personal hygiene measures</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5.1. Hand hygiene</li> <li>5.2. Respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette</li> <li>5.3. Food safety measures</li> <li>5.4. Safe handling of personal equipment and supplies</li> <li>5.5. Safe breastfeeding practices</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

## First-level PHSM category (1,2)



### Environmental measures

## Second-level PHSM category and High-level indicators

### 6. Physical infrastructure

- 6.1. Physical barriers (e.g. Plexiglass or Perspex screens, room dividers)

### 7. Vector control

- 7.1. Building and housing modifications (e.g. using window screens, closing eaves)
- 7.2. Spraying (e.g. indoor residual or outdoor)
- 7.3. Reservoir control (e.g. draining stagnant and standing water, covering water containers)

### 8. Water and sanitation safety

- 8.1. Disinfecting drinking water
- 8.2. Modification of access to safe drinking water
- 8.3. Wastewater management
- 8.4. Solid waste management

### 9. Surface cleaning

- 9.1. Safe handling of equipment and supplies
- 9.2. Surface cleaning and disinfection
- 9.3. Surface decontamination

### 10. Indoor air quality

- 10.1. Ventilation
- 10.2. Air filtering
- 10.3. Humidity control

### 11. Animal-human interface

- 11.1. Culling
- 11.2. Safe handling of carrion and infected livestock/animals
- 11.3. Regulation of animal movement and products
- 11.4. Livestock quarantine
- 11.5. Livestock isolation
- 11.6. Restriction of farming, fishing, hunting and/or selling of animals

## First-level PHSM category (1,2)



### Social measures

## Second-level PHSM category and High-level indicators

### 12. Social interactions and gatherings

- 12.1. Physical distancing
- 12.2. Restrictions or modifications of private gatherings/mass gatherings
- 12.3. Restrictions or modifications of public gatherings/mass gatherings

### 13. Domestic mobility

- 13.1. Stay-at-home order or curfew
- 13.2. Restrictions on public transport
- 13.3. Restrictions on movements (e.g. maximum distance people can be away from their home)
- 13.4. Entry restrictions (e.g. for districts, zones, settlements)
- 13.5. Exit restrictions (e.g. for districts, zones, settlements)

### 14. Modifications to activities and services

- 14.1. Modifications to access (e.g. closures of schools or businesses, restricting access to individuals with a vaccination certificate or individuals who test negative, extending holidays for schools)
- 14.2. Modifications to types of activities (e.g. implementing distance or online learning or teleworking; providing services online or remotely; cancelling school meals)
- 14.3. Safe burial practices

## First-level PHSM category (1,2)

## Second-level PHSM category and High-level indicators



### International travel and trade measures

#### 15. Trade measures for imported goods

- 15.1. Restriction
- 15.2. Ban
- 15.3. Inspection

#### 16. Trade measures for exported goods

- 16.1. Restriction
- 16.2. Ban
- 16.3. Inspection

#### 17. Travel related screening or testing

- 17.1. Exit or entry screening for symptoms, or both
- 17.2. Exit or entry screening for vaccination or immunity, or both
- 17.3. Exit or entry screening for travel or contact history, or both
- 17.4. Exit or entry testing for infection, or both

#### 18. International border measures

- 18.1. Ban on entry
- 18.2. Ban on exit
- 18.3. Entry restriction
- 18.4. Exit restriction

#### 19. Quarantine upon arrival

- 19.1. Home quarantine
- 19.2. Hotel/non-health care-facility/institutional quarantine
- 19.3. Health care facility quarantine

#### 20. Travel advice or warning

- 20.1. Travel advice
- 20.2. Travel warning



# Settings: attributes of the physical environment

Setting	Description
<b>Unspecified</b>	Setting or location to which the measure applies or where it is to be implemented is not specified or it targets the general population
<b>Businesses and services</b>	Commercial establishments and enterprises, including offices, retail stores, restaurants, gyms and manufacturing facilities where trade is conducted or services are offered; includes workplaces and professional environments other than health care facilities
<b>Homes</b>	Places of residence of individuals, families or households, such as houses, apartments or other shelters
<b>Nursing and care homes</b>	Public or private residential facilities providing long-term personal and nursing care, for example for older people or people living with disabilities
<b>Educational settings</b>	Educational institutions ranging from early day care and kindergarten to primary and secondary schools to institutes of higher education, such as universities
<b>Domestic public transportation</b>	Mass transportation settings (buses, trains, trams, boats, ferries etc) and related infrastructure (bus or tram stops, train stations, docks, ports etc)
<b>Points of entry for transportation by land</b>	Ground-based transportation settings and infrastructure, such as land crossings, roads and railways, and public transport, including trains, trams and buses
<b>Points of entry for transportation by water</b>	Water-based transportation settings, such as shipping vessels, ferries, cruise ships and ports
<b>Points of entry for transportation by air</b>	Air travel-and aviation-related settings, such as airports, airplanes and helicopters

Setting	Description
<b>Health care settings for the general public</b>	Health care facilities, such as hospitals, clinics and centres for outpatient care, that are accessible to the public (i.e. this category does not include measures directed at health care workers); the category does not include long-term care facilities
<b>Leisure, social, cultural or faith-based settings</b>	Facilities and spaces for leisure, social, cultural and faith-based activities, such as cinemas, theatres, museums and places of worship
<b>Prisons</b>	The term prison covers all institutions where a state holds people deprived of their liberty
<b>Camps and settlements for refugees or internally displaced persons</b>	Places providing protection and assistance to people who have been forced to flee their homes due to war, persecution or violence
<b>Informal settlements and slums</b>	Residential areas where inhabitants have no security of tenure vis-à-vis the land or dwellings they inhabit, such as squats or informal rental housing; neighbourhoods that lack, or are cut off from, basic services and city infrastructure; and areas where housing may not comply with current planning and building regulations; informal settlements and slums are often situated in geographically and environmentally hazardous areas
<b>Outdoor public spaces</b>	Outdoor spaces, such as beaches, parks and playgrounds, that are accessible to the public
<b>Other</b>	Specify

PHSM policy categories and subcategories for PHSM were developed under the umbrella of the [WHO Initiative on public health and social measures during health emergencies](#).

## References

- 1 Global guidance on monitoring public health and social measures policies during health emergencies. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2024. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO
- 2 Annex 3. An updated version of the conceptual framework for public health and social measures in the context of infectious disease transmission is available in: Building coalitions for strengthening public health and social measures during health emergencies: meeting report, Cascais, Portugal, 14–15 June 2023. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2023 (<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240084438>, accessed 19 March 2024)





**Learn more:**

Access the full Global guidance on monitoring PHSM



**Click to view**