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Educational, Scientific and  
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Organisation  
des Nations Unies  
pour l'éducation,  
la science et la culture

Organización  
de las Naciones Unidas  
para la Educación,  
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация  
Объединенных Наций по  
вопросам образования,  
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة  
للترقية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、  
科学及文化组织

**The Assistant Director General  
for Priority Africa and External Relations**

To:  
Permanent Delegations and  
Observers to UNESCO,  
National Commissions to  
UNESCO

21 June 2021

**Subject: UNESCO-WHO audio messages to prevent COVID-19**

**Ref.: CI/MID/AD/2021/27**

Dear Sir/Madam,

As part of its response to COVID-19, UNESCO is pleased to announce the release of its new series of audio messages on vaccines and health precautions against the new coronavirus.

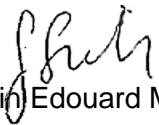
These new messages are the result of a partnership between UNESCO and the World Health Organization, and aim to reduce inequalities in terms of information about the pandemic. In particular, these messages help restore the necessary confidence in vaccines and remind people of preventive measures to fight against the transmission of the disease.

The UNESCO-WHO COVID-19 audio messages are available free of charge and can be offered to radio stations in your country and adapted to national contexts. Please find attached the transcripts for voice-overs or recording in local languages. They can be downloaded in several languages from our dedicated web pages at:

<https://en.unesco.org/covid19/communicationinformationresponse/unesco-who-audioresources>

For more information, please contact Ms Mirta Lourenço ([m.lourenco@unesco.org](mailto:m.lourenco@unesco.org)), Chief of the Media and Information Literacy and Media Development Section, Communication and Information Sector.

Yours sincerely,

  
for Firmin Edouard Matoko

## UNESCO-WHO audio messages to prevent COVID-19

### To offer freely to radio stations

#### Objective:

Diffusion by radio, with voice-overs and/or recording in local languages if needed

You will find in the tables below the transcripts of the messages produced in partnership with WHO for professional radio. These messages can be translated into as many languages as needed. You can encourage radio stations to broadcast the messages - and even do a voice-over or record them in local languages. In 2020, the first UNESCO anti-COVID-19 audio messages were translated and broadcast in more than 50 languages.

In all cases, please share with us which radio stations received the audios and in which languages they were broadcast.

#### Vaccines related messages

English	Local language name – Country (ex : Wolof – Sénégal)
<p><b>Message 1:</b> Get vaccinated for COVID-19.</p> <p>All the COVID-19 vaccines have been thoroughly tested, and all provide a high degree of protection against getting seriously ill and dying from the disease. So, take whatever vaccine you are offered, even if you have already had COVID-19. It is important to be vaccinated as soon as possible and not wait. This way, we build immunity in our communities faster and can get back to our normal lives.</p> <p><b>This message is brought to you by UNESCO, WHO, and your local radio station.</b></p>	
<p><b>Message 2:</b> What to do after being vaccinated.</p> <p>While the COVID-19 vaccine prevents serious illness and death, we don't know yet whether it keeps you from being infected and passing the virus on to others. So, continue to physically distance yourself from others and wear a mask, especially in enclosed, crowded or poorly ventilated settings. Clean your hands frequently and cover any cough or sneeze into your bent elbow. Doing it all protects us all.</p> <p><b>This message is brought to you by UNESCO, WHO, and your local radio station.</b></p>	
<p><b>Message 3:</b> COVID-19 vaccine side effects to expect.</p> <p>Common side effects of the COVID-19 vaccines are similar to those of other vaccines – pain or swelling at the injection site, and fever, chills, tiredness, and headache. In most cases, this is expected. Contact your care provider if there is redness, tenderness, or pain where you got the shot that increases after 24 hours, or if side effects do not go away after a few days.</p> <p><b>This message is brought to you by UNESCO, WHO, and your local radio station.</b></p>	

## Prevention and protection against COVID-19 related messages

English	Local language name – Country
<p><b>Message 1:</b> COVID-19 is a new disease...</p> <p>Scientists, researchers, health workers, and others are working together to better understand the virus. But science changes and evolves over time. Even though changes may seem confusing, they are for our good. So be open to changes, new facts, and recommendations. Remain flexible. Show your resilience.</p> <p><b>This message is brought to you by UNESCO, WHO, and your local radio station.</b></p>	
<p><b>Message 2:</b> Transmission</p> <p>The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way we live, work, and connect with others. It is challenging. But no matter where you live or who you are, each of us can help to break the chains of COVID-19 transmission. Make sure you follow your local guidance – each country has its unique levels of transmission, resources, and recommendations to fit the situation.</p> <p><b>This message is brought to you by UNESCO, WHO, and your local radio station.</b></p>	
<p><b>Message 3:</b> Mask</p> <p>A fabric mask is an important tool to prevent the spread of the virus, especially when you can't guarantee at least a 1-metre distance from others.</p> <p>Make sure you have your own mask, preferably with 3 layers. Put it on with the ear loops, taking care to not touch the front of the mask, and wash it every day.</p> <p><b>This message is brought to you by UNESCO, WHO, and your local radio station.</b></p>	
<p><b>Message 4:</b> Contact tracing</p> <p>COVID-19 continues to spread around the globe. You can help stop it by going into isolation for 14 days if you have had close contact with anyone infected with the virus. This quarantine can take place at home, as long as you can stay separated from family members. If not, you should go where you can stay alone, and have supplies brought to you.</p> <p><b>This message is brought to you by UNESCO, WHO, and your local radio station.</b></p>	

<p><b>Message 5: Schools</b></p> <p>Children are less often reported as cases when compared with adults, and the illness they experience is usually mild. While children may be less affected, they may also have a greater number of contacts in school and community settings. Further studies are underway to assess the risk of infection in children and to better understand transmission in this age group.</p> <p><b>This message is brought to you by UNESCO, WHO, and your local radio station.</b></p>	
<p><b>Message 6: Traditional food market</b></p> <p>Animals, especially wild animals are the source of more than 70% of all emerging infectious diseases in humans. When they are sold and slaughtered in markets, workers and customers alike are put at risk. When shopping at traditional food markets, avoid places close to an animal slaughter area.</p> <p><b>This message is brought to you by UNESCO, WHO, and your local radio station.</b></p>	
<p><b>Message 7: Public gathering</b></p> <p>Any decision to hold an event during the COVID-19 pandemic should rely on a risk-based approach. WHO has provided guidance on how a risk-based approach can be taken - whether it's a large event, like the Olympics or small events such as birthday parties, weddings, small football games or family occasions.</p> <p><b>This message is brought to you by UNESCO, WHO, and your local radio station</b></p>	