

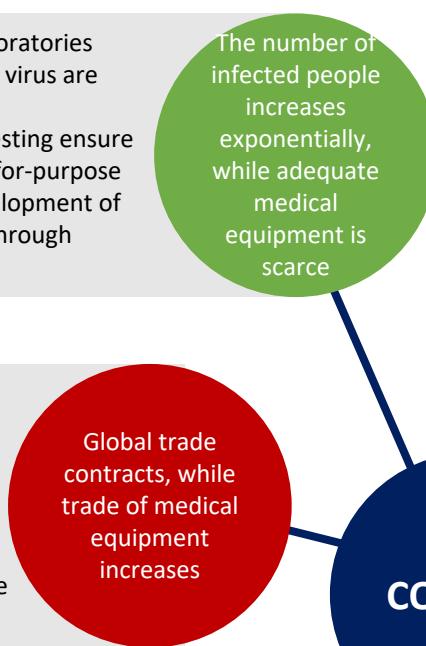


QUALITY & STANDARDS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

COVID-19 is disrupting millions of people's livelihoods, with disproportionate impact on the poor. Quality and standards play a particularly important role in mitigating the negative effects of the outbreak.



- Reliable results of medical laboratories conducting tests to detect the virus are essential
- Quality control and product testing ensure that medical equipment is fit-for-purpose
- Laboratories support the development of new medicines and vaccines through related scientific testing



Quality infrastructure helps to mitigate the negative effects of the crisis and ensures the provision of essential services

- Quality infrastructure ensures the identification and dissemination of relevant standards, accurate measurement (metrology) and provides attestation (accreditation) of reliable test results
- Standards ensure technologies used in mitigation of the crisis are safe, and that privacy and users are protected

- Trade plays an important role in ensuring the availability and affordability of vital medicines, medical products and protective gear
- Mutual recognition of accredited test results facilitate the trade of essential goods



COVID-19

Millions of people around the world depend on international trade for their food security and livelihoods

- Trade along global value chains needs to be ensured to sustain global supply of essential goods
- Hygiene practices and food safety standards are key to ensure global food supply



- Business continuity, risk and emergency management standards are key to ensure the uninterrupted production of essential goods
- Standards ensure that goods produced in response of COVID-19 (protective masks, gloves, etc.) are fit-for-purpose while workers are kept safe



Additional medical and hazardous (infected) waste is generated

- Standards help to manage the increased hazardous waste
- Testing laboratories can detect pollution levels



COVID-19 is a virus which has paralyzed human interaction worldwide. International cooperation is thus essential in order to mitigate the further spread of the corona virus and to reconstruct our societies once the present outbreak has been tamed.

