

CITIES on the FRONTLINE



Weekly Briefing: August 20th 2020

Cities for a Resilient Recovery: International Lessons on recovery from COVID-19

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What is the weekly briefing on Cities for a Resilient Recovery?

Each week the [University of Manchester](#) brings together relevant international practices and examples on recovery from COVID-19. The weekly briefing is curated by the [Global Resilient Cities Network](#) to bring key lessons and examples targeted for resilience officers, emergency planners and other city practitioners. The structure of the briefing follows the [City Resilience Framework](#) – specifically the four drivers that cities have been identified as mattering the most when a city faces chronic stresses or sudden shocks - Health and Wellbeing, Economy & Society; Infrastructure & Environment; and Leadership & Strategy.

Highlights of the week

In this weeks briefing we highlight the need for **inclusive and accessible communication** of COVID related data and information; the **role of formal relief funds** in enabling business and community to continue supporting the most vulnerable; the need for **surge capacity in wildfire prone areas**, where smoke inhalation has the potential to compound the impacts of wildfires smoke on respiratory viruses such as flu and COVID-19; and the role of public transport in building resilient cities, by combating climate change, encouraging heathy living, and boosting local economies.

Cities like Cape Town, South Africa, have shown **how detailed information can be shared publicly, and displayed and disseminated in an engaging and simple way**, reducing the stress for communities in having to interpret complex and/or large quantities of data being generated through the COVID-19 response and recovery.

Relief funds are being established in the UK and around the world to **enable the public and business to contribute financially to recovery by supporting the most vulnerable**. These funds provide an organised and trusted mechanism to give confidence that donations will be governed appropriately, and enable those not able to contribute directly, to support through other means.

As wildfire season takes hold in the US and elsewhere, **surge capacity will be needed in healthcare settings to manage compounding impacts of wildfire smoke on respiratory viruses such as flu and COVID-19**. Research has found that exposure to smoke particles can overwhelm the immune system and exacerbate respiratory problems, while lingering effects can increase the severity of subsequent flu seasons.

And **cities in India are enhancing knowledge and practice globally by sharing transferable lessons learnt** from tackling COVID-19, including managing the spread of the virus, the use of technology, communication approaches, approaches to governance, and the participation of the community.

Health and wellbeing: Everyone living and working in the city has access to what they need to survive and thrive

Consider the usefulness of an infographic for citizens. Processing information on coronavirus can be stressful. Consider how detailed information can be publicly shared, displayed and disseminated in an engaging and simple way, for example, through an infographic. The audience of the infographic should be clear but may include stakeholders, staff, citizens, tourists, customers, suppliers, volunteers, etc. Consider creating an infographic that includes:

- Number of people affected, recovered, died, tested, traced
- Number of volunteers, business contributions, donations, and the scope of effects they have had on COVID-19 response and recovery
- Number of travellers, visitors, business trips into the country/city
- Distribution of supplies and services e.g. PPE, number of service beneficiaries
- Other local government duties performed during the period of COVID-19 response and success of those
- Where to get more information from
- The date of the information contained in the infographic

Much information can be included and a regular circulation of such a graphic may keep stakeholders updated in an engaging way.

Source: <https://resource.capetown.gov.za/documentcentre/Documents/City%20research%20reports%20and%20review/CCT-Weekly-COVID19-Dashboard.pdf>

Economy and Society: The social & financial systems that enable urban populations to live peacefully, and act collectively

Consider establishing a relief fund for the public and businesses to contribute financially to recovery. During response, individuals and organisations have shown a huge outpouring of support through donations of their time and resources. Now, with people going back to work and assuming their pre-COVID activities, people and organisations may have less time to volunteer to the effort, or there may be less suitable volunteer opportunities available. Instead, people may want to show their solidarity in other ways, including by making financial donations. Consider establishing a relief fund, and publicizing its cause, to give an organised mechanism for people and businesses to show their solidarity. An organised mechanism should give people confidence that their donations will be governed appropriately.

<https://nationalemergenciestrust.org.uk/>

Infrastructure & Environment: The man-made and natural systems that provide critical services, and protect and connect urban assets, enabling the flow of goods, services, and knowledge.

Consider how to recover public transport systems. The International Association of Public Transport (IAPT) have provided a manifesto to recover the public transport system “Back to Better Mobility” following the effects of COVID-19. So far, IAPT have provided three components of their call to action which aims to put public transport at the heart of building resilient cities, combat climate change, encourage healthy living, and boost local economies:

- Breathe Better as “a future without public transport is a future without clean air”
<http://bettermobility UITP.org/back-to-better-mobility/breathe-better/>
- Move Better as “a future without public transport is a future without free movement”
<http://bettermobility UITP.org/back-to-better-mobility/move-better/>
- Work Better as “a future without public transport will only damage the economy further”
<http://bettermobility UITP.org/back-to-better-mobility/work-better/>

Source: https://www UITP.org/sites/default/files/cck-focus-papers-files/Corona%20Virus_EN.pdf;
<https://www UITP.org/mylibrary-documentssources/factsheet-case-study>

Leadership & Strategy: The processes that promote effective leadership, inclusive decision-making, empowered stakeholders, and integrated planning.

Consider the combined impacts of wildfire smoke exposure and COVID-19 on public health. Wildfire seasons are increasingly common in some countries, causing periodic exposure to smoke particles that can overwhelm the immune system and exacerbate and cause respiratory problems. Additionally, research has discovered correlations between smoke caused by summer wildfires, and more severe flu seasons the following winter.

Consider:

- Surge capacity in healthcare settings to manage compounding impacts of wildfires smoke on respiratory viruses such as flu and COVID-19
- Advising against use of 'community clean air shelters', which offered respite from smoke in normal years, but are now risky because of the pandemic and the need for social distancing
- During smoky periods advise people to stay at home as much as possible with windows and doors closed
- If your house has forced air, install a filter that filters harmful particles (with a MERV rating of 13 or higher). If not, select one room of your home, ideally the coolest one, and use a portable air cleaner
- Where possible/needed use properly fitting N95 respirator masks to filter smoke particles, as COVID-19 cloth/face coverings don't offer protection from smoke

Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/08/climate/wildfires-smoke-covid-coronavirus.html>; <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0160412019326935?via=ihub>

Consider producing case studies on how cities are tackling COVID-19 to share (inter-)nationally. Government organisations in India have been directing substantial effort to tackling the crisis. Part of this effort has involved producing a series of case study articles on how cities have tackled COVID-19. The actions those cities have implemented contain lessons which are transferable on: managing the spread of the virus, the use of technology, communication approaches, approaches to governance, and the participation of the community. Sharing case studies is a great contribution to the local, national and international effort to tackle the virus.

Consider preparing case studies similar to how:

- Pune took a people-based approach to responding to hotspot areas http://cdri.world/casestudy/response_to_covid19_by_pune.pdf
- Karnataka worked with the IT sector to develop its technological approach to responding to the effects of COVID-19 <http://cdri.world/casestudy/response-to-covid19-by-Karnataka.pdf>
- Goa repurposed manufacturing capacity to produce hand sanitizer, and recovering production capacity of its pharmaceutical industry http://cdri.world/casestudy/response_to_covid19_by_goa.pdf
- In Odisha, women led the fight against COVID-19 and child-focused interventions <http://cdri.world/casestudy/response-to-covid19-by-odisha.pdf>

For more international examples please register @ amb.ac.uk/covidrecovery

Join the Coalition of Cities for a Resilient Recovery [here](#)

If you would be willing to contribute your knowledge to this briefing series (via a 30-minute interview) please contact Duncan.shaw-2@manchester.ac.uk

Useful webinars

Key webinars on how cities are building resilience in the face of the pandemic and other shocks & stresses.

Date	Webinar Title (Click to register or for presentation)
16 July	Cities on the Frontline: Resilient Housing
23 July	Cities on the Frontline: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Crisis and Recovery
24 July	Infrastructure after COVID-19 – what will it look like?
29 July	Cities on the Frontline: Digital technology underpinning recovery
6 August	Cities on the Frontline: Using school buildings to create adaptive, resilient infrastructure
13 August	Cities on the Frontline: How will public transport operators adapt in the face of the Covid-19
20 August	Cities on the Frontline: Healthy Cities – What does a city need to be healthy?