



# Covid-19 Response and Recovery Guidelines

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VIRTUAL | VIRTUEL

XVI WORLD WINTER SERVICE AND ROAD RESILIENCE CONGRESS  
XVI<sup>e</sup> CONGRÈS MONDIAL DE LA VIABILITÉ HIVERNALE ET DE LA RÉSILIENCE ROUTIÈRE  
XVI CONGRESO MUNDIAL DE VIALIDAD INVERNAL Y RESILIENCIA DE LA CARRETERA



# Immediate Impacts of Covid-19

96% of all world destinations have travel restrictions (UNWTO)

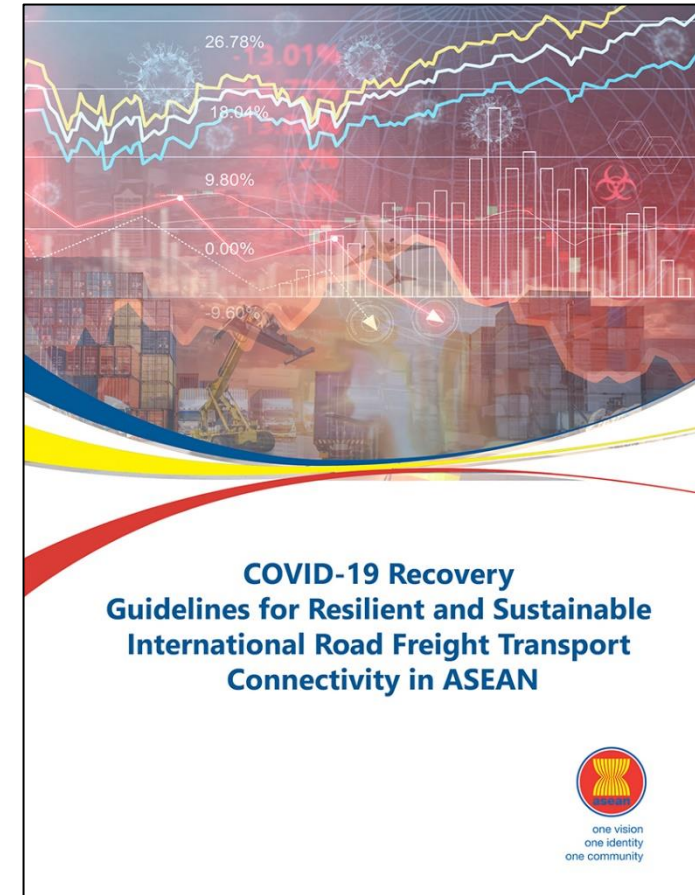
- Mobility restriction, regional lockdowns, national lockdowns

ITF first estimates of potential impacts (using ITF Transport Outlook 2019 models)

- Surface passenger transport could fall by 16% compared to 2020 estimate
- Aviation volumes estimated to drop 42%
- Freight volumes could fall by 35%

# Covid-19 Recovery Guidelines on Freight Transport Connectivity

- Joint ESCAP, ASEAN and ITF initiative
- Published in February 2021
- Designed to support ASEAN Member States in establishing regional and national transport connectivity recovery plans with a focus on resilience and sustainability, as well as developing regional COVID-19 recovery guidelines on cross-border road freight transport
- Contribute to the implementation of initiatives under the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework adopted at the 37<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit
- All 10 ASEAN Member States and members of the ASEAN Trucking Federation (ATF) and ASEAN Federation of Forwarders (AFFA) were interviewed



<https://www.itf-oecd.org/road-freight-asean-new-covid-19-response-and-recovery-guidelines>

# Interview Findings

## – Common Themes Across Countries

- Regional communication platform is a priority for exchanging information, knowledge, best practice, lessons learned, and data
- Accelerated implementation of existing ASEAN Agreements and regional and transport cooperation instruments
- Digitalisation as a recovery tool
- The key role of capacity building and training

# Interview Findings

## – Common Themes Across Industry Representatives

- Diverse impact of Covid-19 on cross-border movements
- Improvement of transport efficiency is a priority
- Regional standards are critical
- Importance of constant dialogue with the government
- Necessity of capacity building and training at regional level

# Core Components of the Guidelines

## Three Priorities

- Priority 1: Ensure Transport Workers' Safety and Training
- Priority 2: Preserving Connectivity for Efficient and Resilient Supply Chains
- Priority 3: Building Back Better through Digital, Resilient and Decarbonised Transport Connectivity

# Priority 1: Ensure Transport Workers' Safety and Training

## Road transport workers' safety

- Border closures, travel bans, export restrictions, physical distancing, lockdowns and closures of nonessential businesses have affected working conditions
- The closure of commercial vehicle rest areas, welfare facilities and non-essential businesses, including restaurants and repair shops affects drivers' physical and mental well-being
- Restrictions or closures at border crossings can also increase waiting times, forced quarantine, mandatory testing and discrimination
- Restricted entry to neighboring countries in could lead to longer travel time and higher transport costs

## Capacity and adaptability of road transport work force

- The requirement of new skill sets for Covid-19 recovery makes it necessary to train policy makers and transport workers
- Contactless terminals, contactless delivery and automated transport minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission through contaminated surfaces and protect the health of all workers involved

# Workers' Safety

## Main guiding principles and actions

- Declare road transport a key service and road transport workers key workers
- Establish harmonised preparedness contingency plans and protocols between countries to ensure road freight service continuity and crossing procedures during emergency situations
- Promote the safety and well-being of drivers through the development and implementation of standard practice in cross-border logistics, including visa facilitation measures for international truck drivers
- Provide clear, real time and transparent information to enable truck drivers and crew members to carry out the necessary planning and follow protocols and recommendations
- Strengthen occupational safety and health measures
- Improve gender equality for women workers with gender responsive policies and programs



## Priority 2: Preserving Connectivity for Efficient and Resilient Supply Chains

- The balance between the preservation of transport connectivity and the protection of workers' safety is a top priority
- The preservation of transport connectivity is critical to enable the continuation of freight flow
- Cross-border freight should continue with as little disruption as possible at all circumstances

# Preserving connectivity

## Main guiding principles and actions

- Cross-border freight should continue with as little disruption as possible at all circumstances
- Cooperation and coordination must be prioritised to ensure the efficiency and resiliency of supply chain networks
- Emergency planning and risk management should be integrated into freight transport connectivity planning
- Develop a common catalogue of measures applicable to cross-border road transport operations during pandemic situation

# Priority 3: Building Back Better through Digital, Resilient and Decarbonised Transport Connectivity

- The building of more resilient and sustainable transport connectivity can be achieved through digitalisation and decarbonisation measures
- The Covid-19 pandemic has presented an opportunity to fully digitalise freight transport connectivity and to shift to decarbonising measures
- A greater resiliency to Covid-19 will also help ASEAN Member States develop climate resilient pathways to prepare for future disruptions to the transport sector

# Decarbonisation

## Main guiding principles and actions

- Increase road transport **network efficiency**
- Increase **vehicle optimization**
- Support the **shift** to less carbon intensity modes, e.g. rail
- **Increase fuel efficiency** of road freight vehicles

# Recommendations for Guidelines Implementation

- Carry out stakeholder assessment and mapping
- Define governance structure for implementation
- Maintain the multiple stakeholder groups engaged throughout the implementation process
- Secure a sufficient capacity building support

# ITF's Actions on Covid-19 (additional resources)

- Road Transport Platform on Covid-19
- Covid-19 webpage (Transport and Covid-19: Responses and Resources)
- Covid-19 Policy Briefs (11)
- Covid-19 Webinars (6)
- ITF statistics brief on Q1 trade and transport
- ITF Transport Outlook 2021 – Chapter on Covid-19
- Engagement with member countries and stakeholders
- Ministers Roundtable on Transport and Covid-19
- ITF Covid-19 and Transport Compendium
- Compendium of ITF Corporate Partnership Board Initiatives



<https://www.itf-oecd.org/covid-19>