

These are simple steps to follow for small businesses or individuals conducting business activities. Every person-to-person sale poses the risk of spreading the coronavirus unless protective measures are taken.



Suspending business activities

If Covid-19 is present in the community or the government is restricting group meetings, businesses may be required to suspend their activities.

Follow local authority guidance for business operations, and research any available financial support which might be available.



Safe business practices

Where traders or small businesses are allowed to operate, it is important to use safe business practices.

These include, where possible, providing handwashing stations with soap and/or hand sanitiser at business entrances or in market areas.

Other ideas include marking out two-metre separations between people queuing at stalls and/or restricting the number of people entering shops at one time. Businesses are also encouraged to take payments through mobile money rather than cash, and to explore options of the delivery of goods direct to people's homes.



Supporting the vulnerable in the community

The provision of essential goods and services in the community is critical for vulnerable people, particularly if they are less able to carry or stockpile large quantities of necessary items.

Consider having separate opening hours for those more vulnerable to infection. Are there options to increase home delivery of meals and essential items for people who are isolating, ideally with payment via mobile money?



Market monitoring

Border closures or trade restrictions may make it difficult or impossible to access goods, leading to fluctuations in prices and the availability of key items. Tell others about relevant market findings, including any change in demand or prices, to help small businesses plan for the future.



Share adaptation ideas

Share with one another (and Tearfund) key ways on how to safely adapt business practices during this crisis. We are all learning together.