COVID-19 SITUATION IN MALI

The Coronavirus pandemic broke out in Mali on March 25, 2020. As of October 28, 2020, health authorities in Mali reported 3,515 cases of coronavirus, 136 deaths and 2,665 cases cured. Nine (09) regions and thirty-eight (38) health districts have been affected, including the intervention regions of the Rooted In Trust project with Bamako (50.6%), Segou (0.7%), Sikasso (3.5%), Mopti (7.6%) and Timbuktu (16.9%).

*Regional coronavirus cases’ statistics are as of October 18, 2020.

RUMOR #1

“Prolonged use of face masks causes suffocation. Breathing constantly the exhaled air turns into carbon dioxide, causing dizziness. This intoxicates the user and even more so when moving around, performing actions.”

According to a new study published in October 2020 in the Annals of the American Thoracic Society, the risks of carbon dioxide poisoning are unfounded. The WHO specifies that “prolonged use of masks can be uncomfortable, but it does not lead to carbon dioxide intoxication or lack of oxygen. When wearing a mask, it is suggested to properly fit and tight it enough to allow you to breathe normally. It is also recommended to not reuse a single-use mask and to change it as soon as it gets wet.” In addition, for reusable fabric masks, a good advice is to make sure that they are washed regularly.

Sources
• ATS Journals. Effect of Face Masks on Gas Exchange in Healthy Persons and Patients with COPD. 28 Oct 2020
• WHO. Mythbusters. 28 Oct 2020

RUMOR #2

“Patients suffering from COVID-19 are treated with contempt by the nursing staff of the regional hospital in Timbuktu. For fear of contracting COVID-19, the staff put food in bags and throw it on the patients.”

After verification, it appears that the health care staff at the Timbuktu hospital treat patients in a respectful manner. The application of barrier measures and the establishment of consistent health protocols are sufficient to ensure adequate treatment of patients and to avoid the spread of the virus among patients, medical staff and the community (visitors, relatives, etc.). You can go to a hospital or clinic for treatment if you have symptoms.

RISK LEVELS

- HIGH
- MEDIUM
- LOW
According to WHO, "you can catch COVID-19, no matter how sunny or hot the weather is. Countries with hot weather have reported cases of COVID-19. To protect yourself, make sure you clean your hands frequently and thoroughly and avoid touching your eyes, mouth, and nose."

Source: WHO. Mythbusters. 28 Oct 2020

"Ablutions (a purification gesture in Islam) disinfect the hands and protect against COVID-19." - Message circulating on Whatsapp

While ablutions are a constantly observed hygiene practice in the Muslim community, they are not sufficient to disinfect hands against COVID-19. The WHO recommends the use of soap and hydroalcoholic gel for hand disinfection. These precautions help to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.

Source: WHO. Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) advice for the public. 28 Oct 2020

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