People living with CVD are more vulnerable to severe COVID-19.\(^1\) Heart health must be a priority, despite the current disruptions. The World Heart Federation is committed to raising awareness of the impacts of COVID-19 on heart health and helping patients stay on track.

**Global Disparities**

Cardiovascular emergency services disrupted in 50% of low-income and 17% of high-income countries.

### Increase in Deaths Related to CVD

- **58%** increase in people having cardiac arrests at home\(^2\)
- **Up to 139%** increase in heart disease-related deaths\(^3\)
- **Higher mortality and severe illness among people living with CVD**\(^4\)
- **64% decrease in cardiac diagnosis procedures**\(^5\)
- **76%** drop in patient attendance
- **49%** medical staff redeployed to provide COVID-19 relief
- **48%** lockdowns impacting access
- **44%** insufficient personal protective equipment (PPE) available for healthcare workers
- **Heart health services disrupted**\(^7\)
- **63%** rehabilitation
- **53%** hypertension
- **49%** diabetes
- **31%** cardiovascular emergencies

### Responding to COVID-19 Challenges

- Refocusing public health information communications\(^6\)
- Triaging to identify priorities\(^6\)
- Innovation in access such as telemedicine and digital health\(^6\)

---


\(^7\)WHO Rapid assessment of service delivery for noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) during the COVID-19 pandemic, 30 June 2020.