ALCOHOL AND COVID-19

THE WAY FORWARD

REDUCING ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION AND HARMs
WHO SAFER TECHNICAL PACKAGE

SAFER

STRENGTHEN
restrictions on how, where and when alcohol may be sold and consumed, including restrictions on alcohol e-commerce

ADVANCE
and enforce drink driving laws and counter measures, like sobriety testing and expanding the use of breathalyzers

FACILITATE
and integrate screening and interventions in primary health care to respond and prevent harmful alcohol use, especially among vulnerable groups - persons living with NCDs, pregnant people and the immunocompromised

ENFORCE
bans on alcohol advertising, sponsorship and promotion, especially related to resource donations made by the alcohol industry during times of health, social, environmental and economic crisis

RAISE
taxes on alcohol to restrict access and generate revenue to support public health programs, especially alcohol rehabilitation, mental health and harm reduction support services.

ADDITIONAL KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

INCREASE PUBLIC AND POLICYMAKER AWARENESS
about the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on alcohol consumption patterns, drivers, attributable harms and industry activities

EXPAND RESEARCH EFFORTS
to capture recent and relevant data on alcohol consumption and mental health status from a representative Caribbean sample, including a focused study on youth mental health and substance use during the Covid-19 pandemic

Sources:
World Health Organization. The SAFER technical package: five areas of intervention at national and subnational level. https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/360053. 2019