The Rwandan government has announced tough measure in a bid to curb the spread of the coronavirus. Government announced it had suspended all “unnecessary movements” outside the home and clamped down on travel across borders.

A statement from the Prime Minister’s office announced this Saturday that any unnecessary movements and visits outside homes were no longer permitted excusing only essential service providers, trips for healthcare, buying food at market or banking.

All borders are closed except for the passage of goods and cargo and returning citizens. All businesses and markets were closed except essentials, public transport and restricted travel between cities and towns.

Rwanda announced total lock-down for two weeks over COVID-19 fears as cases of the pandemic continue to rise in the country. As of Saturday at least 17 cases of coronavirus have been confirmed by the ministry of health, the highest number in the East Africa region.

Government had earlier ordered schools and religious institutions to shut down temporarily, banned social gatherings such as weddings and parties. All commercial flights to and from the country were suspended by Friday midnight.

Anyone arriving in Rwanda will be subject to 14 day quarantine at designated locations.