



#### HIGHLIGHTS

- North Macedonia announced one COVID-19 fatality today – a 79-year-old man from Debar. 26 new cases are reported and a total of 285 registered COVID-19 cases so far. 9 patients have recovered and were discharged from CID today. 47 patients are currently hospitalized at CID. Three patients ages 50, 63 and 67 are under respiratory machine.
- 8 health professionals from the Institute for Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation have acquired the infection on the job. The total number of affected medical staff is 31.
- First case is identified in Kriva Palanka indicating further geographic spread.
- Government requested NATO to activate the civil protection mechanism in emergencies of the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Center for COVID19 efforts.
- The Government adopted a Protocol for entry of foreign diplomats accredited to the country and their family members into North Macedonia.
- The Government adjusted the curfew hours during the weekend– movement is allowed for pet owners and their pets between 20:00-20:30 up to 100m from the place of residence.
- More than 9,000 people in the country of 2.1 million are in quarantine or in self-isolation. The country is also under curfew.

#### SITUATION IN NUMBERS

total (new) cases in the last 24 hours

##### North Macedonia

285 confirmed (26)

7 deaths

12 recovered

##### Globally

693 224 confirmed (58 411)

33 106 deaths (3215)

##### Western Pacific Region

103 775 confirmed (987)

3649 deaths (23)

##### European Region

392 757 confirmed (31 726)

23 962 deaths (2535)

##### South-East Asia Region

4084 confirmed (375)

158 deaths (19)

##### Eastern Mediterranean Region

46 329 confirmed (3552)

2813 deaths (145)

##### Regions of the Americas

142 081 confirmed (21 289)

2457 deaths (484)

##### African Region

3486 confirmed (482)

60 deaths (09)

#### WHO RISK ASSESSMENT

Very high

## SURVEILLANCE

Figure 1. North Macedonia – Cumulative confirmed COVID-19 cases (n=259), by 30 March 2020 10:00

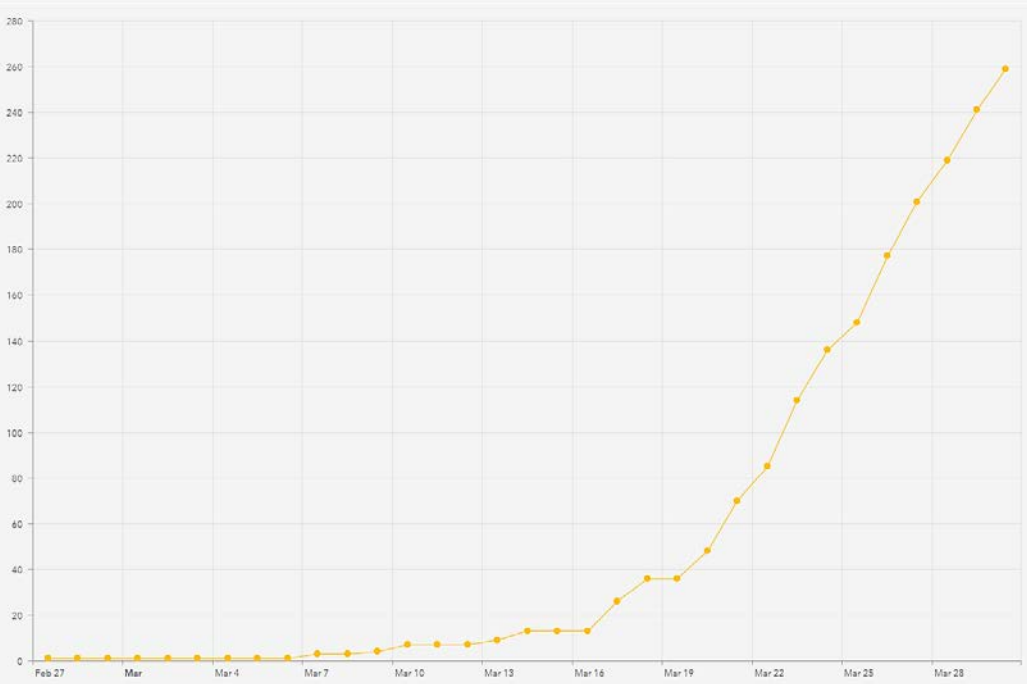
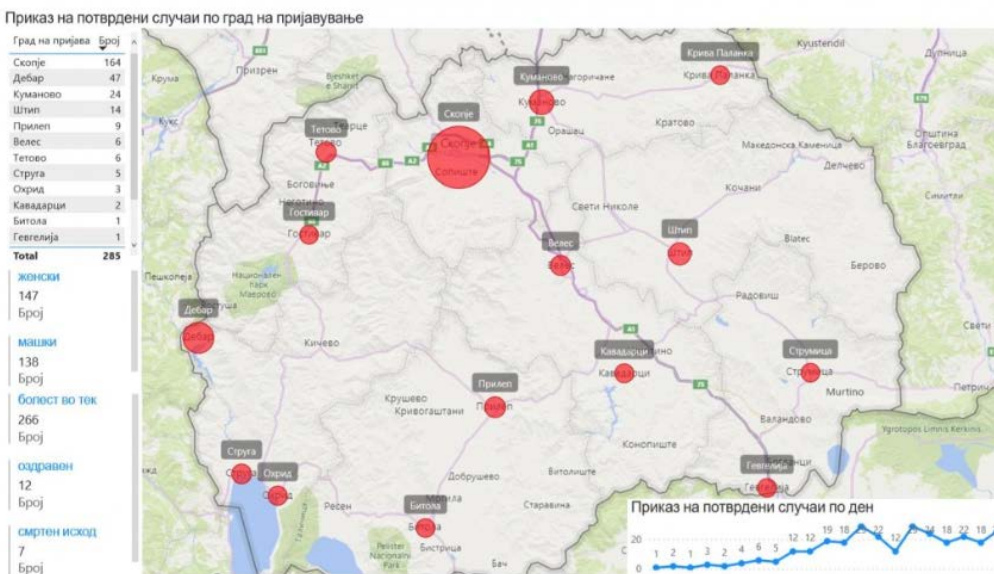


Figure 2. North Macedonia – Geographic Distribution of COVID-19 (n=285) as of 30 March 2020



### Risk Assessment of COVID-19 in North Macedonia according to geographical spread as of 30 March 2020

The highest cumulative incidence is in Debar 169,3 cases per 100,000 inhabitants, followed by 26.6 per 100,000 inhabitants in Skopje and Shtip and 16.8 cases per 100,000 inhabitants in Kumanovo.

The disaggregated data of the confirmed COVID-19 cases through 29 March 2020 which includes the cases reported on 30 March 2020 by MoH could be accessed at the [Institute of Public Health](#).

Age of patients vary from 2-91 years. However, the highest risk groups are those between 30-39 years old and above 50 years old.

According to the WHO risk categorization, Debar and Skopje are in Phase 4 (widespread community transmission) and the rest of the Republic of Northern Macedonia is in phase 2 (sporadic cases).

#### **CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-2019), EUROPE**

- Based on the WHO and ECDC data as of 30 March 2020 10:00 CET, the **WHO European Region accounts for 57% of the global burden** of 693 224 cases reported globally.
- In Europe, **Italy is leading top-6 with 24.8% of the total case count** in the Region, followed by Spain, Germany, France, the United Kingdom and Switzerland. Eighteen more countries in the Region reported 1000 cases or more to date, listed in descendant order (The Netherlands, Belgium, Turkey, Austria, Portugal, Israel, Norway, Sweden, Czech Republic, Ireland, Denmark, Luxembourg, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Finland, Greece and Iceland).
- **Around 72% of the global burden of COVID-19 deaths were from the European Region**, mainly from Italy and Spain, followed by France, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands.

#### **WHO ROLE AND ACTION – NORTH MACEDONIA**

In line with the strategic shift of the Government's strategy in fighting COVID19 whereby efforts are put on increasing testing, maintaining quality COVID19 care and essential care and protecting health care workers, WHO's support in the coming phase will focus on:

- Infection control and prevention in all health settings.
- Procurement of ventilators and protective personal equipment.
- Strengthening surveillance capacity, identification, testing and quarantine with special focus on vulnerable groups: elderly and migrants.

North Macedonia has joined the WHO SOLIDARITY Trial which is a large, international study designed to generate robust data needed to show which treatments are the most effective. The online WHO training course for COVID-19 for health care and infection control and protection (IPC) is now available in Macedonian Language on the WHO learning platform for Health workers. <https://openwho.org/>. UNFPA and WHO are working now on producing the Albanian Language version.

WHO contributes to the efforts the UN in the country to make sure that timely procurement takes place and also supports newly set UN coordination mechanism for the COVID19, where UN RC takes the lead in

WHO action in COVID-19 outbreak in North Macedonia aims at limiting the virus spread, protecting health and the health workers at the frontline, preserving the health care system capacity and its sustainability to respond and provide essential services to the population.

WHO is the lead UN agency for Health and main technical and health policy advisor to the government on COVID-19 containment and mitigation.

WHO works in coordination closely with other UN agencies as per the UN reform.

Western Balkan including North Macedonia is one of the priority countries for the WHO European Region.

Technical support, guidance and assistance are provided through the WHO Country Office from all levels of the Organization.

There is abundance of technical guidance WHO has developed in all areas of work: we are supporting the country to develop technical plans and implement priority interventions in the framework of a strong nation-wide strategic response.

order to streamline joint response efforts to the COVID-19 and provide support to the people and government of North Macedonia as effectively as possible.

## **NORTH MACEDONIA STRATEGIC RESPONSE AND ACTION**

North Macedonia mobilized an all-of-government action to fight this new coronavirus, including scaling up emergency response mechanisms in all sectors. Actions and readjustments of measures are continuous and monitoring of the situation is ongoing on daily basis. The country is in declared national emergency Announced by the President of the Republic on 18 March 2020 for one month.

On the health front, the country is working hard now to ensure its COVID19 hospitalization surge capacity with the necessary personnel is in place to cope with the influx of additional cases in recent days.

Several measures need to be strengthened to interrupt human-to-human transmission including reducing secondary infections among close contacts, mainly health care workers, preventing transmission amplification events, and preventing further spread.

The Ministry of Health increased public health measures, such as rapid identification, diagnosis and management of the cases, identification and follow up of the contacts, infection prevention and control in health care settings, implementation of health measures for travelers returning to the country, awareness-raising in the population and risk communication as well as minimizing social and economic impact through multisectoral partnerships.

Today:

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs notified foreign diplomatic consular missions about the adopted Protocol for entry of foreign diplomats accredited to the country and their family members into North Macedonia. According to the protocol, foreign diplomats and their family members should not be, in principle, exempt from mandatory quarantine upon the entry into the country. In order to comply with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and at the same time to comply with the national laws and regulations, the state quarantine measure will be applied only as it is deemed necessary.
- Wizz Air has won a tender commissioned by the Macedonian government to perform three repatriation flights for stranded Macedonian nationals in Germany. The budget airline will tomorrow operate flights to Berlin and Cologne Bonn, while it will run rescue flights to Ljubljana and Memmingen today.
- The assessment of the laboratories in the private sector testing for COVID-19 is completed. The Minister informed that with this collaboration between the public and private health sector the testing capacities will be significantly increased.

## **COVID-19 UN AND PARTNER COORDINATION**

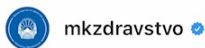
To provide a comprehensive and coordinated approach in identifying and repurposing the available bilateral assistance to the COVID-19 response, all public administration bodies receiving bilateral donor assistance will report promptly to the Secretariat for European Affairs (SEA) the amount of funds available for each project. The SEA will then submit a formal request to the bilateral donors for the reuse of funds in accordance with the identified priority needs for COVID19.

## GAPS/NEEDS AND CHALLENGES

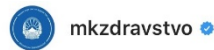
The most important priority at this point and in the next 3 months is to ensure that the health system can cope with increasing numbers of cases needing intensive management and also protecting the health care workers in all health care settings, and intensifying case identification and testing.

- **Critical needs:** Laboratory Kits and reagents; Personal Protective Equipment (PPE); Mechanical Ventilators/Respirators (respirators from operating rooms are not adapted to need of respiratory diseases and cannot be used for the ICU) ; intensifying risk communication;
- **Challenges:**
  - Protecting health care workers whether those working in the COVID-19 designated facilities or elsewhere countrywide because of the community transmission.
  - Procurement : Access to local or international supplies and mainly respirators for the critical needs identified because of international shortages.
  - Shortage in health workforce if the situation progresses
  - Ensuring sustainability of the health facilities and health care during and after the crisis.
  - Community support and outreach activities for the vulnerable
  - Ensuring continuity of treatment and access to regular health care for all citizens including the vulnerable groups with other diseases and pathologies.
  - Isolation and mental health support to the elderly and disabled.
  - Compliance of the citizens to instructions of the government and self-isolation.

## FOCUS OF THE DAY: RAISING THE MOBILE HOSPITAL FOR TREATING COVID19 in SKOPJE




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