



HIGHLIGHTS

- Two COVID-19 fatalities were reported and 48 new cases in the last 24 hours in North Macedonia, while four people recovered. **The total number of registered COVID-19 cases in the country is 711 including 95 cases among health professionals (13.4%).**
- COVID-19 cases are registered in 19 cities. 64% of the cases are reported from Skopje and Kumanovo, while 62.5% of the deaths are in Kumanovo, Struga and Skopje. About 63% of the deaths were in people above 60 years old and 78% of deaths had comorbidities.
- The ban on movement across the country is enforced Friday starting at 4 pm until 5 am on Monday, which means North Macedonia will be in total lockdown in the next 61 hours. The curfew will be in force also during the coming Ester holidays
- The Government adopted a mini-rebalance of the Budget in order to implement economic measures for overcoming the consequences of coronavirus.
- The Government announced the account for donations for support of the national response to the economic and health crisis caused by COVID-19 – the details can be accessed [here](#).
- OpenWHO, a web-based learning platform, has launched a new online course Introduction to Go.Data – Field data collection, chains of transmission and contact follow-up. The Go.Data tool supports outbreak investigation, focusing on field data collection, contact tracing and visualisation of chains of transmission. It is available to WHO staff around the world, Member States and partners. For more information, please see [here](#).
- Dr. Bruce Aylward, Special Adviser to WHO's Director-General, speaking of his recent mission to Spain at a press briefing yesterday, highlighted the need for countries to understand that the virus can overwhelm even the most robust health systems, resulting in the need to entirely reconfigure

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

total (new) cases in the last 24 hours

North Macedonia

711 confirmed (48)

32 deaths

41 recovered

Globally

1 521 252 confirmed (85 054)

92 798 deaths (7277)

European Region

799 696 confirmed (40 035)

66 213 deaths (4697)

Regions of the Americas

493 173 confirmed (38 463)

17 038 deaths (2264)

Western Pacific Region

117 247 confirmed (1395)

3978 deaths (34)

Eastern Mediterranean Region

88 657 confirmed (3307)

4607 deaths (148)

South-East Asia Region

12 978 confirmed (1402)

569 deaths (101)

African Region

8789 confirmed (452)

382 deaths (33)

WHO RISK ASSESSMENT

Very high

health sectors in response. Find more about Dr. Aylward’s recent fact-finding mission to Spain here. <http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/health-emergencies/coronavirus-covid-19/news/news/2020/4/reconfiguring-health-systems-vital-to-tackling-covid-19>

SURVEILLANCE

Figure 1. North Macedonia – Cumulative confirmed COVID-19 cases (n=663) and deaths (n=30) by 10 April 2020 19:00

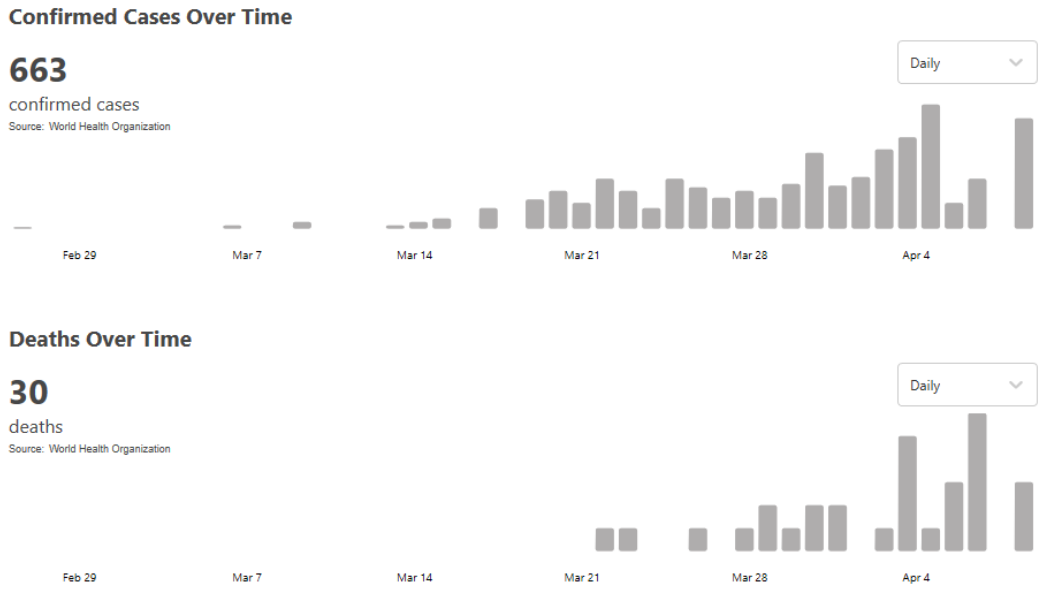
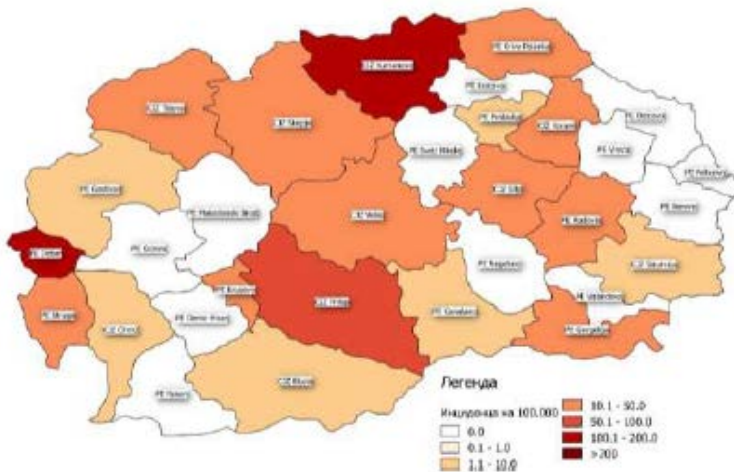


Figure 2. North Macedonia – COVID-19 incidence per 100,000 people, as of 10 April 2020



The highest cumulative incidence is in Debar (176,5 cases per 100,000 people), followed by Kumanovo (117.2 cases per 100,000 people). Three other cities have incidence above 40.0 cases per 100,000 people (Skopje, Prilep, and Struga).

Age of patients vary from 0-91 years (median age – 46 years old). However, the highest risk group is between 50-59 years old.

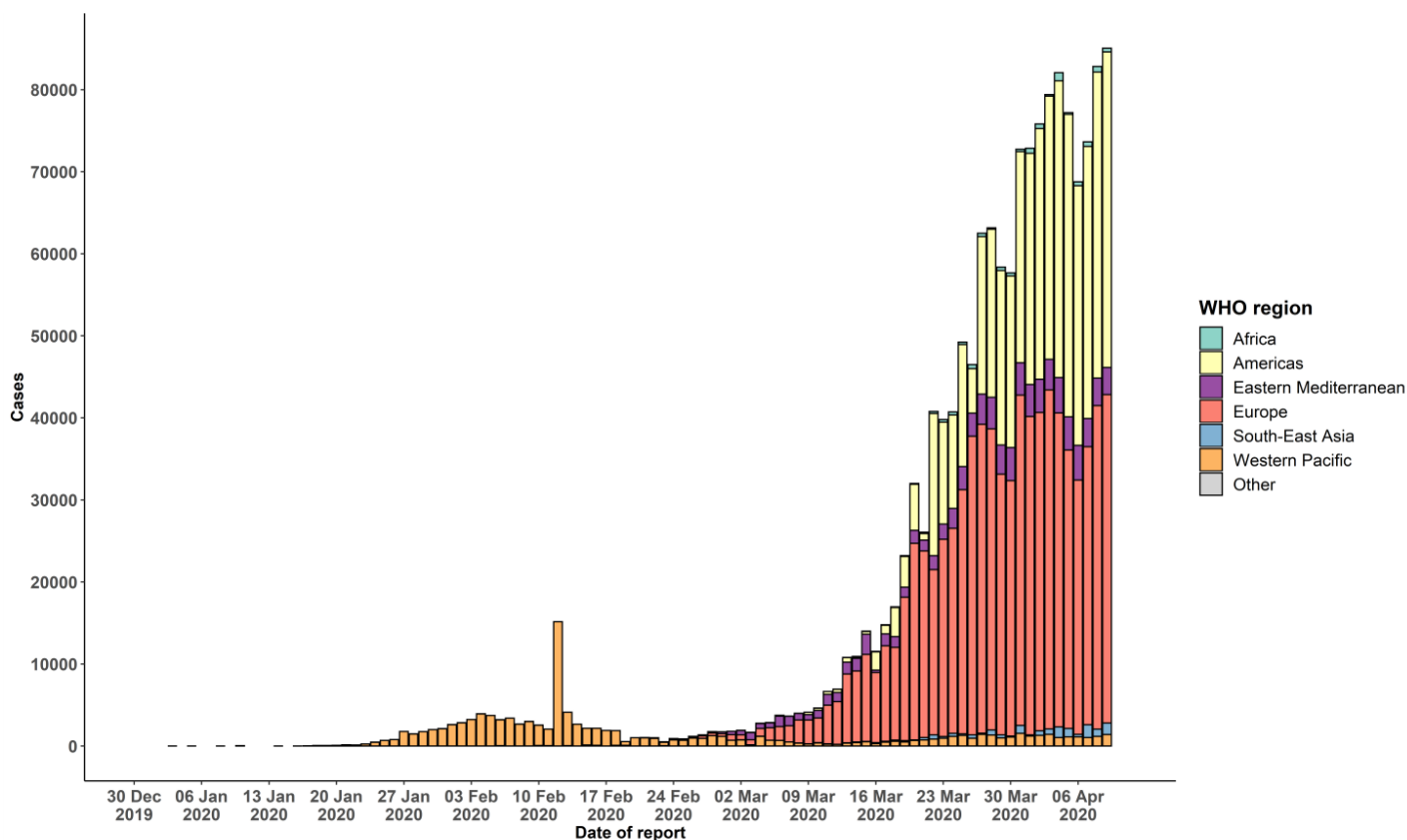
The disaggregated data of the confirmed COVID-19 cases through 09 April 2020 which includes the cases reported on 10 April 2020 by MoH could be accessed at the www.iph.mk

RISK ASSESSMENT OF COVID-19 IN NORTH MACEDONIA ACCORDING TO GEOGRAPHICAL SPREAD

According to the WHO risk categorization, **Debar, Skopje and Kumanovo are in Phase 4** (widespread community transmission) and **the rest of the country has stepped up to phase 3 (local transmission)** as of 5 April 2020.

GLOBAL COVID19 Situation

Epidemic curve of confirmed COVID-19, by date of report and WHO region through 10 April 2020



- “I know that some countries are already planning the transition out of stay-at-home restrictions. WHO wants to see restrictions lifted as much as anyone. At the same time, lifting restrictions too quickly could lead to a deadly resurgence. The way down can be as dangerous as the way up if not managed properly. WHO is working with affected countries on strategies for gradually and safely easing restrictions.” – highlighted by WHO DG, Dr. Tedros Adhanom during today’s media briefing.

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-2019), Europe

- Based on the WHO and ECDC data as of 10 April 2020 10:00 CET, the WHO European Region number of cases is representing **about 53% of the global burden** of 1 521 252 reported globally with 799 696 cases in total to date. Globally, USA carries the heaviest case load (425 889), with **Spain and Italy concluding top-3**. Overall, five more countries from the European Region are in top-10 (Germany, France, United Kingdom, Turkey and Belgium);
- In Europe, three countries reported 100 000 cases or more (Spain 152 446 cases, Italy 143 626 cases and Germany 113 525 cases) accounting for more than half of all European cases. Nine countries reported 10 000 cases or more, listed in descending order (France, United Kingdom, Turkey, Belgium, Switzerland, Netherlands, Portugal, Austria and Russian Federation). Another 20 countries in the Region reported 1000 cases or more, listed in descending order (Israel, Sweden, Ireland, Norway, Denmark, Poland, Czechia Romania, Luxembourg, Serbia, Finland, Ukraine, Greece, Iceland, Croatia, Republic of Moldova, Estonia, Hungary, Slovenia, and Belarus);
- **71 % of the global burden of COVID-19 deaths (92 798) have been reported in the European Region (66 213)** with Spain, Italy and France each reporting more than 10 thousand deaths and together accounting for 69% of all deaths in Europe (18 281, 15 238 and 12 192, respectively). Another four countries in the Region reported 1000 deaths or more (United Kingdom 7978 deaths, Belgium 2523 deaths, Netherlands 2396 deaths, and Germany 2373 deaths).

COVID-19: SUMMARY OF NEW EU ACTIONS

Health measures

- On 9 April, Commissioner for Health, Kyriakides hosted a [meeting with pharma and medical devices industry representatives](#) to discuss the ramping up of production and removing bottlenecks in supply of essential medicines and devices. Kyriakides also took part in a [teleconference of G7 Ministers](#) to exchange information on country experiences and best practices to overcome COVID-19.
- The European Medicines Agency announced the creation of a COVID-19 [Task Force](#) to handle the development, authorization and monitoring of any treatments or vaccines related to COVID-19.
- The Commission – in collaboration with ECDC - developed a [guidance document on COVID-19 plasma](#) aiming at facilitating a common approach across EU Member States to the donation, collection, testing, processing, storage, distribution and monitoring of convalescent plasma for the treatment of Covid-19 patients. The guidance -which is not legally binding - is endorsed by the 27 Member State competent authorities for blood and blood components.
- The Parliament [published](#) a new report on the state of play of COVID-19 and takes stock of how the pandemic evolved, and what response action the Union has taken and prepares to take, in the field of public health.

Financial measures

- As mentioned, the [Eurogroup meeting](#) - which began on April 7 - failed to find a conclusive agreement on an economic response to the COVID-19 crisis. Eurogroup President Centeno published a [video on Twitter](#), where he calls on « *all finance ministers to agree to a bold and ambitious plan to shield our economies in response to this common threat*». Centeno added that an agreement was now very close.
- The Commission approved an additional number of schemes - under the [State aid Temporary Framework](#) - aimed at supporting the economy in the context of COVID-19, as notified by [Austria](#), [Croatia](#) and [Luxembourg](#).
- The Commission released a statement on consulting Member States on proposal to further [expand State aid Temporary Framework to recapitalisation measures](#). The Temporary Framework was first [amended on 3 April 2020](#)

which increased possibilities for public support to research, testing and production of products relevant to fight the coronavirus outbreak, to protect jobs and to further support the economy.

International cooperation

- Following the conclusion of the EU Development Ministers Meeting, HR/VP Borrell [reiterated](#) the EU's commitment in supporting the most vulnerable countries, most notably in Africa and in the EU's neighbourhood, as well as Asia, Pacific, Latin America, and the Caribbean against COVID-19. During the meeting, a «Team Europe» approach was agreed combining resources from the EU, its Member States and financial institutions. The Commission and the EIB have already pledged around EUR 15.6 billion from existing external action resources. With the commitment of the EU Member States and of the EBRD, this figure will reach more than EUR 20 billion focusing on:
 - Responding to the immediate health crisis and the resulting humanitarian needs;
 - Strengthening the health, water, and sanitation systems, as well as partner countries' capacities and preparedness to deal with the pandemic;
 - Mitigating the immediate socioeconomic consequences of the present health crisis.
- Commissioner for International Partnership, Urpilainen had an exchange with WHO DG to discuss the new EU support package to non-EU countries.
- The Commission's Emergency Response Coordination Centre has facilitated the delivery of [PPEs donated by Taiwan](#) with 1 million masks handed over to Spain and Italy while 5.9 million masks are being provided through bilateral channels to other Member States.
- HR/VP Borrell held a phone [call with the Secretary-General of the United Nations](#), Guterres. They discussed the global impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, notably on the most vulnerable and fragile countries, and agreed that increased global coordination is needed to stop the spread of the virus and mitigate its socioeconomic consequences. HR/VP Borrell expressed the EU's support for SG Guterres' call for a global ceasefire and the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Plan.
- Commissioner for Neighborhood and Enlargement, Varhelyi had an exchange with the IOM chief to review the situation re Refugees and migrant communities in the context of the outbreak in Western Balkans and ENP partner countries.

Other measures

- Commissioner for Justice and Consumers, Reynders [repeated his call](#) to find pragmatic and flexible solutions that respect travellers' rights for cancelled package travel holidays due to COVID-19.
- Croatian Presidency of the Council EU organised a [video conference](#) where Ministers of culture examined the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on the cultural and creative sector and discussed possible measures for mitigating negative effects of the crisis.

WHAT WHO IS DOING FOR COVID19 IN NORTH MACEDONIA?

In line with the strategic shift of the Government's approach in fighting COVID19 whereby efforts are put on increasing testing, maintaining quality COVID19 care and essential care and protecting health care workers, WHO works closely with the government and national and global health partners to enable the response.

In North Macedonia:

- WHO **donated 5000 COVID tests** to the Virology Lab of the Institute of Public Health on 8 April 2020.
- With WHO support, the **Health emergency operation room at MOH** is now equipped and functional with new premises, refurbishing and IT equipment.
- **WHO held a training meeting on Solidarity trial** to all those involved in the scheme from COVID19 treating hospitals.
- A Ceremony for **launching of the USAID / WHO joint support** to the country to help contain and mitigate the COVID19 virus spread <https://un.mk/ceremony-for-launching-of-the-usaid-who-support-to-the-country-to-help-mitigate-the-spread-of-covid19/> was organized on 7 April 2020. This act of solidarity is directed mainly to support the health staff at the frontline of this fight against the virus: to ensure they have the means and the skills to protect themselves and control the infection all health care settings not only in treatment centers. A large part of the grant will also help the Institute of Public Health to continue its remarkable work in tracing and testing and early identification of the cases.
- WHO also held on Friday 3 April 2020, a **Zoom training session in Macedonian language** open for **all Health Care workers dealing with COVID19** for the proper practices in Infection control and prevention of virus transmission in hospitals and clinical management of severe respiratory cases.
- WHO developed a **risk assessment tool to be used by health care facilities with COVID-19 patients**. The tool is to be completed for all health workers who have been exposed to a confirmed COVID-19 patient in a health care facility. The tool will help determine the risk of COVID-19 virus infection of all HCWs who have been exposed to a COVID-19 patient and then provides recommendations for appropriate management of these HCWs, according to their infection risk.
- WHO continuing the roll out of the **Partners Platform for the Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (SPRP)**: Onboarding has taken place supporting North Macedonia to link with international support; the Country Preparedness and Response Plan has been uploaded for increasing capacity for 2000 COVID19 cases.
- The country is active on the platform <https://covid-19-response.org>
- SPRP includes health systems continuity, the Platform will have a **9th Pillar** for assessment of priority actions to maintain essential health services.

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.

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>



- COVID-19 Health System Response Monitor (HSRM) has been formally launched by WHO EURO and the European Observatory for Health systems. North Macedonia is participating.
<https://www.covid19healthsystem.org/mainpage.aspx>

WHO continues to be actively engaged in:

- In risk communication targeted messages and developed many messages and infographics in national languages for display at MOH media channels and other. *WHO* [Facebook/Twitter](#) ; *MoH* [Facebook/Twitter](#); [WHO Europe website for COVID-19](#)
- Providing technical advice and support to many national and international partners for stepping up everyone's engagement in halting the virus spread and its impact on North Macedonia.
- Ensuring lab and testing tools are available for COVID19 related testing kits and PPE.
- Assisting the MOH in gaps and needs assessment and bridging those gaps for better health system coping and response.
- Establishing bilateral partnerships, resource mobilization, and joint plans to address gaps and needs of the MOH.
- Sustaining professional and technical knowledge of all health care workers in the country through 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/>
- Generating Robust data needed to show which treatments are the most effective, by North Macedonia joining the WHO SOLIDARITY Trial which is a large, international therapeutic study that will allow also receiving free of charge medicines for COVID19 and latest evidence-based indications for changing treatment protocols when needed to reduce mortality, length of stay under mechanical respiration and reducing complications.
- Tracking the epidemiological spread of the virus, supports early warning system and keep communities and frontline responders informed with the latest technical guidance.
- Contributing to the UN in the country to make sure that timely procurement takes place and supporting the newly set UN coordination mechanism for the COVID19. [1UN MK@facebook.com](#)

WHAT IS NEW in WHO GUIDANCE?

- [WHO's advice to public on masks](#): Some countries have recommended or are considering the use of both medical and non-medical **masks** in the general population to prevent the spread of COVID-19. On 6 April, WHO issued guidance and criteria for countries to use in making that decision. There is little evidence on the effectiveness of the use of masks by the general community, however WHO offers decision makers with considerations for the use of masks as part of their comprehensive package of control measures. See published [guidance](#).
- Several countries are suspending user fees and providing free testing and care for COVID-19, regardless of a person's insurance, citizenship, or residence status. [We encourage these measures](#).
- [WHO, the World Bank and the IMF](#) are calling for debt relief for developing countries, as many will struggle to implement social welfare programs at this time. Debt relief will be essential to enable them to take care of their people and avoid economic collapse.
- See joint [WHO FAO AND WTO statement on impact of COVID-19 on global trade and food security](#).
- See UN report [Shared responsibility, global solidarity: Responding to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19](#).
- For more information, visit [FAO Q&A on COVID-19 outbreak's impact on food and agriculture](#).
- See [WHO Director-Generals remarks for G20 trade ministers](#) on measures countries can take to scale up the production, movement and distribution of critical medical products.

- [Operational guidance for maintaining essential health services during an outbreak](#); [News release on maintaining essential services](#)
- Amidst #COVID19, It's vital to deliver vaccines  to protect people from old killers. New guidance  provides all countries with advice on the importance of maintaining safe immunization services during a pandemic <https://t.co/JPh2xp1mr8>

HEADS UP on WHO FRONT

- WHO is preparing the **2nd Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan**: The plan will build on the first SPRP to incorporate what we know now and the evolving global context. The strategies for preparedness and response remain the same.
- WHO is preparing to **scale up laboratory diagnostic capacity: GeneXpert**: A test for the COVID-19 coronavirus developed by Cepheid for their GeneXpert instrument has received an Emergency Use Authorization by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on 22 March 2020. WHO is currently working to negotiate access to this test. Rapid communication on the **role of the GeneXpert® platform** for rapid molecular testing for SARS-CoV-2 in the WHO European Region [link](#).

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 are in place with the influx of additional cases in recent days.

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, awareness-raising in the population and risk communication and counter misinformation as well as minimizing social and economic impact through multisectoral partnerships.

- The ban on movement across the country is enforced Friday 10 April, starting at 4 pm until 5 am on Monday, which means North Macedonia will be in total lockdown in the next 61 hours. Police officers, army members, healthcare workers, firefighters and farmers are exempted from the measure, adopted by the government. Late-opening pharmacies will operate as normal, while selected grocery stores, supermarkets and restaurants will be offering delivery services. Businesses without work permit during the curfew will be fined. The State Market Inspectorate during the curfew will tour grocery stores during the weekend to check on permits. Volunteers will be delivering products to home addresses.
- Government announced mini-rebalance of the budget, with no reduction in budget expenditures, but only a redistribution of funds between the budget users of the central government and the funds in the amount of 6,542,000,000 denars (105 million Euros). The purpose of the proposed decision is to provide funds for the implementation of economic measures adopted by the Government to deal with the crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic.
- A fund for tourism is set and will work within the frames of the Economy Ministry and have over €2 million at its disposal in order to meeting needs of the hospitality sector, hoteliers and travel agencies.

- The Ministers of Interior and Health informed that they have proposed the curfew for the upcoming Easter holidays to be further extended and to last 4 days – this proposal is to be additionally considered at Government session.
- The Construction, Industry and Design Workers Trade Union, together with the Macedonian Occupational Safety and Health Association have developed a "Guide for safety and health in construction work for prevention of coronavirus". The manual contains the basic recommendations and measures for protection against coronavirus that should be respected by employers and construction workers.
- The State Sanitary and Health Inspectorate has identified omissions in the treatment of a 78-year-old from Veles who died of COVID-19. The SSHI initiated expert supervision from the MoH.
- 90 people did not respect the curfew over the last 24 hours – 57 people are detained.
- A total of 2,704 nationals of North Macedonia were repatriated By Ministry of Foreign Affairs with special charter flights since the coronavirus outbreak.
- The Agency for Personal Data Protection (APDP) pressed charges against unknown perpetrator for publishing lists with personal data of people from Kumanovo infected with Covid-19. This list has been shared on social networks. This act is in violation of the provisions of the Law on Personal Data Protection and Article 149 of the Criminal Code and the punishment for that is a fine or imprisonment.
- Sutka prisoners were in outrage, revolt and panic in the Investigative Prison in the Skopje's Suto Orizari due to occurrence of coronavirus in this penitentiary institution. Prisoners threw food trays out the windows, refusing food. This happened following the postmortem confirmation of a COVID19 positive prisoner who had died of a heart attack in Sutka. Medical teams were immediately reinforced in the investigation prison in Sutka. Public Health Centers are performing contact tracing and testing for prisoners and employees.
- The State Market Inspectorate banned Coffee vending machines use due to being potential virus carriers, gathering place for people. Accordingly, 228 coffee vending machines operating at gas stations, tobacco shops and elsewhere were shut down as a precautionary measure against the spread of the coronavirus.
- Three illegal migrants were detained in Kisela Voda part of Skopje during the coronavirus curfew, the three men, aged 24 to 35, were from Syria, Morocco and the Palestinian territories. Macedonia has seen a sharp drop in the arrests of illegal migrants, which would number in dozens almost each day at the start of the year. This is likely attributed to the coronavirus epidemic and the curfew that makes groups of illegal migrants easy to spot.

UN, DONATIONS AND PARTNER COORDINATION- COVID-19

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.

- **Czech Republic** donation of one million masks arrived Skopje by a military plane from Prague.
- **China's** assistance for North Macedonia is expected by the end of April with protective gloves, hand and surface disinfectants
- **Slovenia** provided 100,000 surgical masks and 100,000 protective masks.
- **Norway** has also donated medical supplies to North Macedonia (worth 180 000 Euro) which will be shipped from the NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA). North Macedonia is currently using a field hospital donated by Norway, allowing it to double the capacity at the Infectious Disease Clinic.
- Sixteen applications have been picked out of more than 500 sent for the **CREATON public** call to tackle COVID-19 challenges, issued by the Fund for Innovations and Technology Development. The public call was supported by the Embassy of Switzerland to North Macedonia, USAID, UNDP, UNICEF, and the Chamber of Commerce for

Information and Communication Technologies – MASIT. Nearly 158 applications were shortlisted. Of those that made the cut, there are solutions involving medicine, digital tools as support to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises to weather the crisis, education digital tools, culture and leisure tools. The total budget is 10 million denars and each proposal can receive up to EUR 10,000 in local currency. The call is the first in a series of the Fund's initiatives to tackle with the COVID-19 consequences.

- Disabled and elderly persons will receive aid during the coronavirus crisis. This activity is accomplished with the **UNPD** and in cooperation with the **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation**.
- Government authorized the Minister of Health Venko Filipce to sign the Donation Agreement between the **Information Technology Company Nextsen DOO** as a Donor and the Ministry of Health as a recipient of the donation.
- **British Embassy** Donated Equipment to Defence Ministry: The Embassy of the United Kingdom to Macedonia handed over to the Defence Ministry a donation consisting of protective equipment for better handling of the coronavirus situation
- The **Hungarian government** donated 100,000 protective masks and 5,000 protective suits
- **Turkey** delivered a donation to North Macedonia to deal with the coronavirus on 8 April 2020. The Turkish donation consists of 50,000 protective medical masks, 1,000 protective suits, 1,000 diagnostic tests and other medical supplies.
- **MOH Solidarity fund is established**: Companies, individuals, organizations, institutions, embassies donated 59.3 million denars on the account of the Ministry of Health including donations of medical devices, protective equipment and other materials.
- North Macedonia to receive urgent medical equipment with 4 million euros from **EU for procurement** through UNOPS.
- **USAID** supported both WHO and UNICEF with 1.1. million USD in their efforts to fight the epidemic in North Macedonia
- **Germany** offered support to the Ministry of Health with an amount of USD 2 million in PPE
- **OSCE** is proposing donation of essential PPE for the COVID19 Center of Infectious Diseases for 30,000 Euros.
- Packages with food and hygiene assets in the amount of 100.000 USD will be allocated to most jeopardized Roma families in Macedonia that are socially and economically hit by the health crisis, announced the **Foundation Open Society – Macedonia** which donated the funds.
- **Macedonian Red Cross** supports the elderly and the disabled in shopping and basic needs for hygiene, protection and their livelihood.

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, protecting the health care workers and ensuring essential social and medical care to the vulnerable.

➤ **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;
- socioeconomic relief for vulnerable groups and employment protection.
- Maintaining Essential health and social services

- Protecting health care workers whether those working in the COVID-19 designated facilities or elsewhere countrywide because of the community transmission.
- Mental Health Support to health workers and the public especially the vulnerable ones.

➤ **Challenges:**

- Procurement : Access to local or international supplies and mainly respirators for the critical needs identified because of international shortages.
- Shortage in health workforce as the situation progresses
- Ensuring sustainability of the health facilities and health care during and after the crisis.
- Outreach and social support to the vulnerable
- Ensuring continuity of treatment and access to regular health care for all citizens including the vulnerable groups with other diseases and pathologies.
- Fighting Isolation and scaling up community engagement in the regions
- Compliance of the citizens to instructions of the government and self-isolation

MACROECONOMIC IMPACT

- According to the World Bank, North Macedonia the economy is projected to shrink by 0.4% in 2020 after growing 3.6% last year, if the COVID19 crisis ends by June 2020 or a deeper recession of above 2% negative growth is expected if the crisis gets prolonged beyond mid-2020. Due to the coronavirus outbreak, personal consumption is expected to slow down in 2020, while exports and investments will decline. At the same time, the government will increase its spending in an attempt to boost the economy and to counter the crisis impact, thus increasing deficit and debt levels. The pandemic and containment measures will affect the economy through the demand and supply side. If the outbreak and restrictive measures on national and global economies persist beyond the second quarter, the recession will be more severe and will erase labor market improvements and deepen fiscal vulnerability.
- A budget revision needs to reprioritize spending. Poverty reduction gains will likely be lost as firms defer to labor shedding in the most affected sectors (tourism, and manufacturing that contributed the most to poverty reduction in the past).
- Decisive policy measures that prioritize investments in health care systems and provide safety nets for people, especially the most vulnerable, are critical to mitigating the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic

The World Bank is finalizing a program of activities to help North Macedonia manage and mitigate the impact of the crisis, including a new fast-track project to respond to urgent health sector priorities and protect the incomes of households, and a restructuring of already approved projects to mobilize funds in support of SMEs. Collectively, these programs are expected to amount to about EUR 140 million.

“During these exceptionally difficult times, it is imperative for policymakers to act decisively,” says Cyril Muller, World Bank Vice President for Europe and Central Asia. “This means moving rapidly to strengthen health systems and social safety nets, supporting the private sector, and preserving financial stability and confidence — all critical to people’s lives.” Projections of the economic implications of COVID-19 are subject to significant uncertainty. Therefore, the report produces simulation exercises to illustrate the range of growth outcomes that may materialize as a result of the pandemic.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS NORTH MACEDONIA:
Call Center 0800 002 03; “Alo Doctor” 02 15 123

Useful Links

WHO [Facebook/Twitter](#)

MoH [Facebook/Twitter](#)

[WHO Europe website for COVID-19](#)

Government’s web page for all official COVID-19 related information ([MKD/EN](#)).

[MoH COVID-19 information](#)

NATO’s Next-Generation Incidence Command System ([NICS](#))

[How to stay physically active during COVID-19 self-quarantine](#)

[Q&A on COVID-19, pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding](#)

New WHO Global Campaign – [“Pass the message: Five steps to kicking out coronavirus”](#) with FIFA

For symptoms related to COVID-19

CPH Bitola 071 261 330
CPH Veles 071 219 278
CPH Gevgelija 071 219 278
CPH Kochani 071 373 913
CPH Kumanovo 070 215 851
CPH Ohrid 070 723 029
CPH Prilep 076 475 747
CPH Skopje 071 289 614
CPH Strumica 072 235 543
CPH Tetovo 075 240 464
RU Gostivar 076 365 161
CPH Shtip 078 365 613
IPH Skopje 078 387 194

Psychological support

-Self-isolated adults
072 919 009
-Citizens of municipalities Debar and Center Zhupa
070 241 807
-adolescents and their parents
078 378 728
-parents of children with disabilities
070291574
-Parents of preschool and school children 072 912 676

Red Cross mobile teams for elderly support

Red Cross Center 070 297 166
Red Cross Kisela Voda 071 349 225
Red Cross Chair 070 208 383
Red Cross Karpos 071 349 230
Red Cross Gazi Baba
Team for support of homeless people

Foreign Affairs

Regular line 075 446 647
Regular line, Viber and WhatsApp:
070 282 078

[New] Call Center for the economic measures in response to COVID-19
02/324-8040

WHO WhatsApp messaging service

[New] Text hi to +41 79 893 1892
Text hi to +41 79 412 32 36