



HIGHLIGHTS

In the last 48 hours

- **Tests performed:** 113 and 185 SARS-CoV-2 tests and 6.2% and 4.3% tested positive, each day respectively.
- **New cases:** 7 and 8 new cases were reported on Monday and Tuesday, respectively
- **Recovered:** 68 COVID-19 patients
- **Fatalities:** 2 new COVID-19 death.

Cumulative registered COVID-19 as of 04 May

- The total number of registered COVID-19 cases is 1526 of which 235 (15.4%) are among health workers.
- 17 544 SARS-CoV-2 tests are performed. **1013 COVID-19 patients recovered so far in the country.**
- **Geographic spread and deaths:** COVID-19 cases are registered in 29 cities – first case is registered in Kratovo. Majority of all cases **70% are from three cities Skopje, Kumanovo and Prilep (515, 401 and 159). Almost 72% of all deaths are registered in Kumanovo, Skopje, Struga and Prilep.**
- **Gender distribution:** More women are infected with coronavirus than men (798 and 728 respectively). However, 65% of all deaths are men.
- **Comorbidity:** 74% of death cases
- **Age distribution:**
 - >60-year: 21% of all confirmed COVID-19 cases
 - >60-year: 65% of all deaths.
 - 0-9-year: 54 confirmed COVID-19 cases

SITUATION IN NUMBERS total (new) cases in the last 24 hours

North Macedonia

1526 confirmed (8)

86 deaths

1013 recovered

235 health workers

Globally

3 517 345 confirmed (81 454)

243 401 deaths (3797)

European Region

1 566 684 confirmed (22 539)

145 602 deaths (1615)

Regions of the Americas

1 477 447 confirmed (43 691)

79 590 deaths (1763)

Eastern Mediterranean Region

213 376 confirmed (7077)

8115 deaths (144)

Western Pacific Region

153 868 confirmed (1096)

6287 deaths (29)

South-East Asia Region

72 688 confirmed (5015)

2682 deaths (219)

African Region

32 570 confirmed (2036)

1112 deaths (27)

APPLAUSE FOR HEALTH WORKERS!

On 5 May 2020 World Hands Hygiene Day Campaign initiated by WHO

Minister of Health awarded thanks certificates to **medical** teams who selflessly are dedicated to patients with COVID-19 at the Clinic for Infectious Diseases and Febrile Conditions in Skopje, General Hospital 8 September, Stip, Bitola, and Debar Hospitals. Loud applause for these heroes were heard in these sites. Washing hands and maintaining hygiene is key to preventing the spread of viruses. This is among the first recommendations MOH made and remains a basic and safest covid-19 prevention. Clean hands save lives. #HandHygiene #InfectionPrevention. See photos [HERE](#) and at the end of this document

WHO RISK ASSESSMENT

Very high in all North Macedonia

Very High Globally

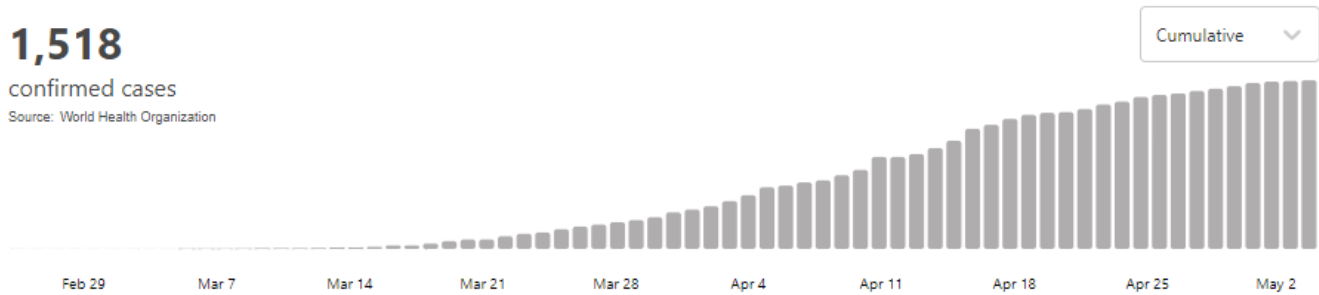
Figure 1. North Macedonia – Cumulative confirmed COVID-19 cases (n=1518) and deaths (n=85) by 5 May 2020 20:00

Confirmed Cases Over Time

1,518

confirmed cases

Source: World Health Organization



Deaths Over Time

85

deaths

Source: World Health Organization

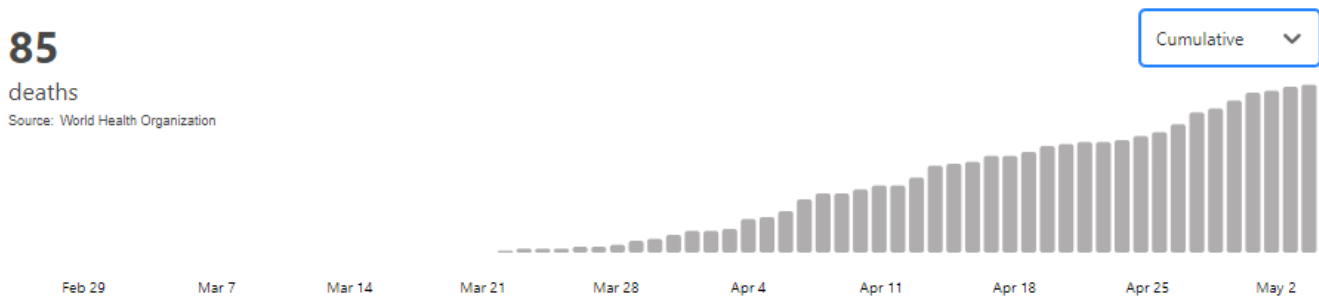
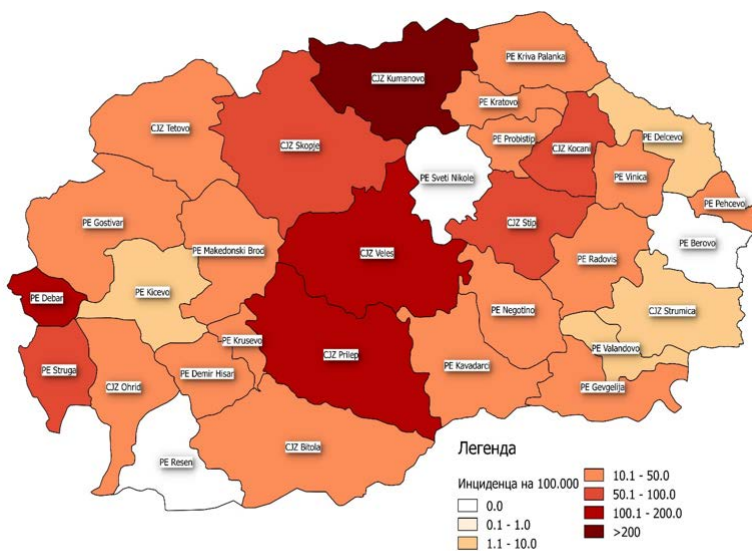


Figure 2. North Macedonia – COVID-19 incidence per 100,000 people, as of 5 May 2020

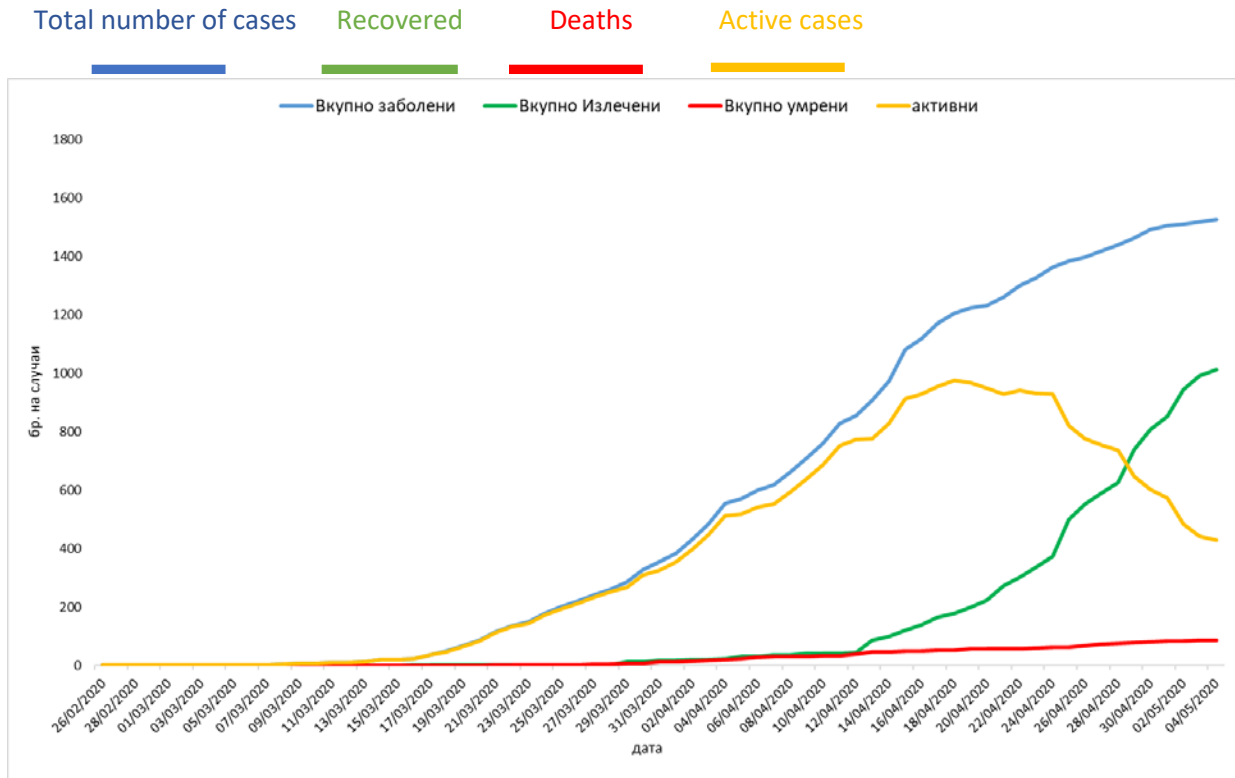


The highest cumulative incidence is in Kumanovo (281.0/100,000 people), followed by Debar (183.8/100,000 people), Prilep (166.8/100,000 people) and Veles (122.3/100,000 people). Four other cities have incidence above 50.0 cases per 100,000 people (Struga, Skopje, Shtip and Kochani).

Age of patients vary from 0-94 years (average age – 45 years old). However, the highest risk group is between 50-59 years old.

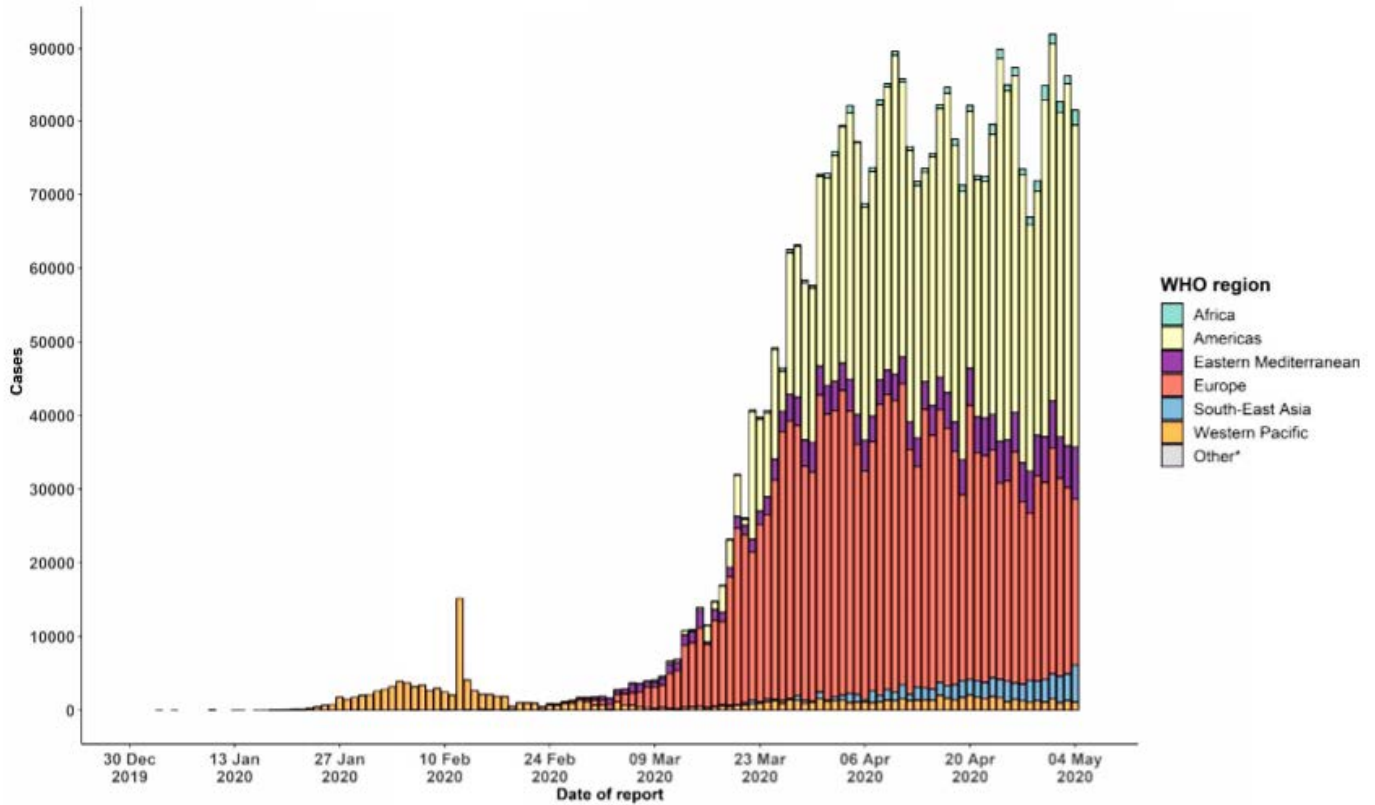
The disaggregated data of the confirmed COVID-19 cases through 4 May 2020 which includes the cases reported on 5 May 2020 by MoH could be accessed at the www.iph.mk

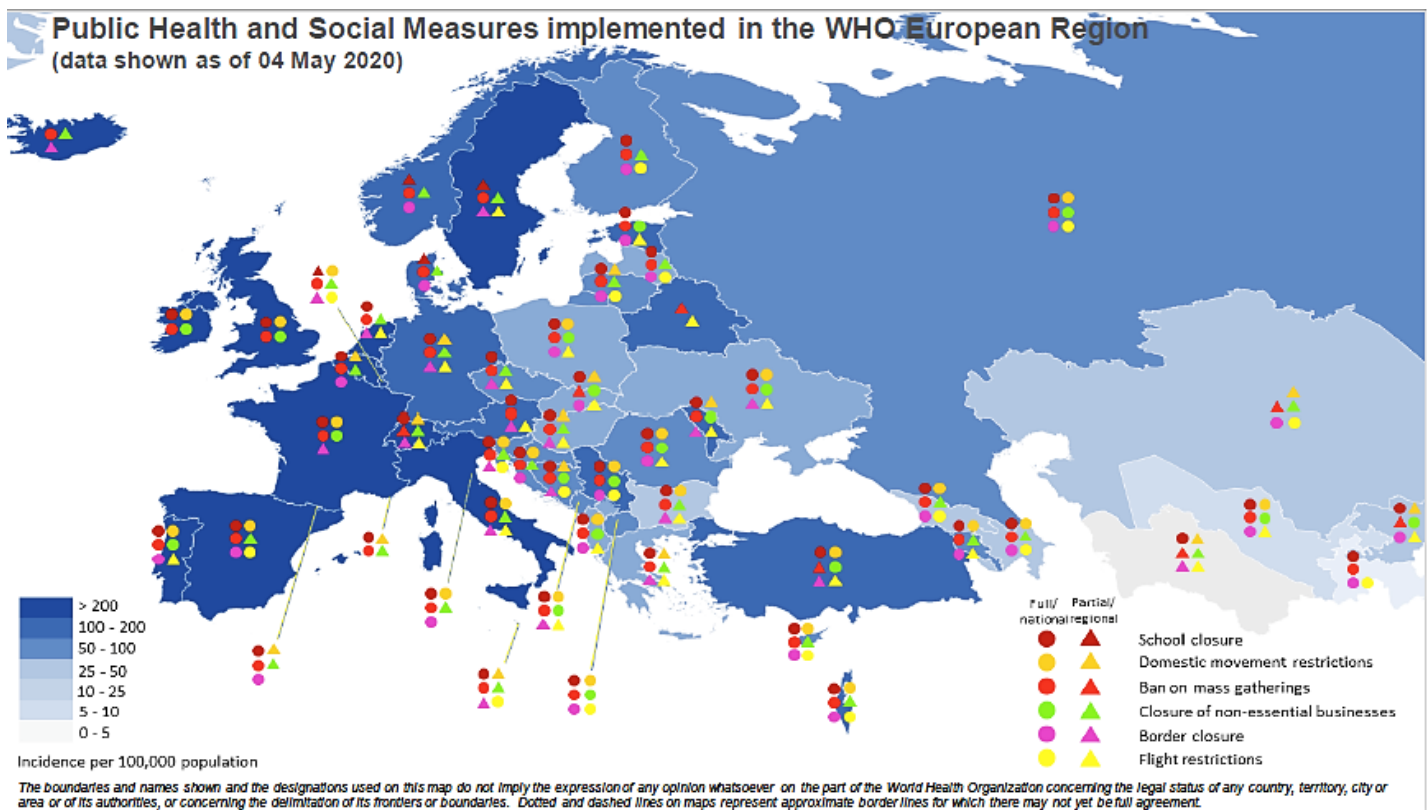
Figure. 3 North Macedonia – COVID-19 statistics as of 5 May (n=1526)



GLOBAL COVID-19 SITUATION

Epidemic curve of confirmed COVID-19, by date of report and WHO region through 5 May 2020





CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19), WHO EUROPE REGION as of 5 May 2020 10:00 CET

- Since the beginning of April, the **epidemiological curve appears to be flattening** in the WHO European Region and cases now are representing 45% of the global burden reported to date.
- Globally, **USA carries the heaviest case load** (1 115 985), with **Spain and Italy** concluding top-3. In addition, five more countries from the European Region are in the top-10 worldwide (**United Kingdom, Germany, Russian Federation, France and Turkey**). These reporting more than 100 000 cases.
- Besides, twelve more countries reported 10 000 cases or more, listed in descending order (**Belgium, Netherlands, Switzerland, Portugal, Sweden, Ireland, Belarus, Israel, Austria, Poland, Romania and Ukraine**);
- Cumulatively, **60% of the global burden of COVID-19 deaths** have been reported in the European Region, with **Italy, Spain, France and United Kingdom** each reporting more than 20 000 deaths and jointly accounting for approximately three-quarters of all deaths in Europe.
- **Another nine countries in the Region reported 1000 deaths or more** – Belgium (7924), Germany (6831), Netherlands (5082), Turkey (3461), Sweden (2769), Switzerland (1476), Ireland (1319), Russian Federation (6831) and Portugal (1063).
- The situation in countries with the highest cumulative case count in Western Europe seems to be stabilizing (e.g., France, Germany, Italy and Spain with a weekly % change in total case load less than 10%), while a **continuing growth in case numbers is observed in the eastern part of the Region (Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan and Russian Federation), with a weekly % change in total cases exceeding 50%**.

KEY PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL MEASURES IN EUROPE AS OF 4 MAY 2020

- **45** countries in the European Region have implemented partial or full domestic movement restrictions.
- **30** countries have started easing some of the PHSM measures
 - *Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Georgia, Germany, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, San Marino, Slovenia, Spain and Switzerland*

- Additional countries have announced plans to ease measures in the coming weeks:
 - Bosnia and Herzegovina, Estonia, Finland, France, Kyrgyzstan, Portugal, Russian Federation, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.
- **24** countries made wearing of face masks in public mandatory (national or regional level)
 - *Additional countries have announced plans to make wearing masks mandatory (Belgium, France, Greece).*
- 53 of the 55 States Parties have implemented **international travel measures** (*Exceptions are United Kingdom and Lichtenstein*).

SUBJECT IN FOCUS: OPERATIONS SUPPORT AND LOGISTICS UPDATE

UN-led purchasing consortium procures diagnostic tests for delivery to 135 countries

Unprecedented global demand for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), ventilators and other critical items for the COVID-19 response has resulted in acute supply shortages. WHO is working across several different sectors to enable countries with the most limited means to access markets for vital medical supplies to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic. WHO – together with other UN agencies, NGOs and donor partners – are negotiating collectively with manufacturers through a pooled procurement process, to address global market shortages in the three categories of vital supplies essential for the COVID-19 response: PPE; diagnostics; and biomedical equipment.

With support from the Solidarity Response Fund, the diagnostics consortium has secured 4 million manual Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests for \$49 million, and initiated purchase orders for allocation and distribution to 135 countries for the month of May. These initial purchases will serve as a catalyst for securing supplies for additional procurement, as payments from countries receiving these deliveries will provide additional funding for procuring more supplies and equipment for allocation and delivery in the coming months.

WHO is engaged in discussions with suppliers to explore further channels of cooperation for sourcing pooled procurement of PPE, testing supplies and biomedical equipment. Through a purchasing consortium for PPE, contracts have been secured from Chinese and Malaysian manufacturers for substantial volumes of masks, gloves and other critical supplies to protect frontline healthcare workers. WHO is currently in the process of placing purchase orders for these supplies, while the consortium continues efforts to secure additional quantities of PPE.

WHO continues to strongly advocate for the urgent need to increase production of these life-saving supplies to strengthen response capacity of Member States confronting the COVID-19 pandemic.

WHO has launched a new COVID-19 Supply Portal.

The COVID-19 Supply Portal is a purpose-built tool to facilitate and consolidate submission of supply requests from national authorities and all implementing partners supporting COVID-19 National Action Plans. Those requests will then be matched against purchasing agencies of the Consortia that can execute the order and process it, utilizing their existing ordering systems. A catalogue of items that can be requested is available online and is broadly divided into three categories: personal protective equipment, diagnostics, and clinical management. The Portal is accessed via the COVID-19 Partners Platform, which is accessed [here](#), and provides further information including a video and guide to requesting and receiving supplies and frequently asked questions.

Guidance on its roll-out and use has been provided to the UN Development Coordination Office, WHO Regional Directors, UN agencies and other key actors. WHO is preparing a circular to introduce the Portal to Member States and national authorities.

[New] WHAT IS NEW AT WHO?

DG's Opening Remarks at the Media Briefing on COVID-19 - 4 MAY 2020 can be accessed in full [Here](#). **Dr. Tedros'** key messages focused on:

- The mission of the ACT Accelerator and the support provided by the COVID-19 Global Response International Pledging Event hosted by the European Commission - during the event today, some €7.4 billion was pledged for research and development for vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics.

- Dr. Tedros emphasized the importance of the pledge event as an opportunity for the world to come together to confront a common threat, but also to forge a common future.
- In light of International Day of the Midwife and Global Hand Hygiene day, the DG also acknowledged the importance of midwives and hand hygiene, particularly as countries start to ease lockdown measures.

WHO Director-General's opening remarks at the on-line pledging event hosted by the European Commission can be accessed in full, [here](#). - The European Union joined forces with global partners to kick-start a pledging effort – the Coronavirus Global Response – as of 4 May 2020, with an aim to raise €7.5 billion in initial funding to kick-start the global cooperation. The World Health Organization (WHO) and global health organizations have launched a joint call for action to develop fast and equitable access to safe, quality, effective and affordable diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines against coronavirus.

Emergency Public Health Measures

- The **COVID-19 Health Systems Response Monitor** (available [Here](#)) is regularly updated and provides information on how countries' health systems are responding to the crisis – **Information about North Macedonia information is available here as well.**

Learning Resources

- A **Culture and Health webinar series 2020 on Thriving: the role of culture in defining and advancing well-being** will be live streamed from 13.00–14.00 CEST on 7 May 2020 (available [Here](#)).

Essential Health Services

- “The COVID-19 pandemic has proven once again that the role of nurses and midwives is paramount in ensuring public health. It is my hope for the future, that we midwives will be increasingly recognized for our contribution and given more chances to express ourselves and abilities further, allowing us to work to our full potential,” highlights Midwife Coordinator Iliana Colonna, from the Infermi Hospital in Rimini, Italy. The full article **“Enabling positive birth experiences in the time of COVID”** is available [here](#).

WHAT WHO IS DOING FOR COVID19 IN NORTH MACEDONIA?

In line with the strategic 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.

Risk Communication

- MOH and WHO launched a **countrywide campaign on 5 May for Hand Hygiene and Nursing** see below.
- **Translation of WHO guideline on Safe Ramadan practices in the context of the COVID-19:** in Macedonian, Albanian, Pashto, Dari, Turkish and Roma languages.
- **European immunization week:** WHO supported the country to raise awareness about maintaining essential health services and importance of immunization in preventing diseases and protecting life at the time of COVID19. Activities are held during the European Immunization Week 2020, from 20-26 April 2020. Click here : **European Immunization Week** . WHO MKD supported translation and adaptation of the following materials for social media:
 - EIW Poster adaptation
 - Video Adaptation - How do vaccine work?
 - Video Adaptation - Why should I get vaccinated

Risk perception and behavioral change

WHO initiated in partnership with National Institute of Public Health **COVID-19 behavioral survey** to gain an understanding of issues such as: trust in health authorities, recommendations and information; risk perceptions; acceptance of recommended behaviours; knowledge; barriers/drivers to recommended behaviours; misperceptions; and stigma. The results will be available to the policy makers to assess and modify risk communication strategies on aspects related to COVID19. The results will also inform post-pandemic actions, e.g. addressing possible family, mental health, or other adverse events as a result of the crisis. The final results are expected around mid-May 2020.

Identification, virus testing and contact tracing

- **WHO is organizing on 8 May 2020 a training for scaling up national laboratory capacities.** The national laboratories in North Macedonia engaged in COVID-19 testing to take part in it. The objective of the conference is to:
 - o Update on tests available for COVID-19 testing
 - o Verification and validation processes
 - o Recommendations to ensure procurement during scaling up national laboratory capacities for COVID-19
 - o Recommendations and discussion on training possibilities for scaling up
- **WHO donated 5000 COVID tests** to the Virology Lab of the Institute of Public Health on 8 April 2020.
- With WHO/USAID support, the health **emergency operations venue at MOH** is now equipped and functional in its temporary premises, refurbished and with IT equipment.
- WHO is supporting North Macedonia as part of the **Unity Study for Sero-epidemiological studies** investigating the extent of infection in the general population, as determined by seropositivity. A standardized WHO master protocol is available that is being now tailored to country needs in terms of public health, laboratory and clinical systems, capacity, availability of resources and cultural appropriateness. Using this standardized protocol allows for comparability of data across different countries and helps to determine important epidemiological parameters (e.g. the proportion of the population that remains susceptible to infection, proportion of asymptomatic infections etc.) which inform public health action. The protocol can be accessed here: [HERE](#)

Infection control and prevention in health care settings

- **Support to the World Hand Hygiene Day "Save Lives: Clean your Hands Campaign"** on 5 May. The slogan of the campaign is "**Nurses and Midwives, clean care is in your hands**". The objective is not only to promote good hand hygiene and infection prevention and control practices (COVID-19), but also to recognize the key role of nurses and midwives in preventing avoidable infections. WHO MKD translated 2-pager about Hand Hygiene & COVID-19 to be distributed to relevant facilities and through social media channels. The WHO campaign materials have been shared with the Ministry of Health. WHO encourages engaging of Minister of Health and health authorities to participate.
- **WHO donated PPE equipment** to two specialized university clinics in Skopje.
- 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.

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>

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 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 Webinar series on IPC & COVID 19** was promoted shared with relevant national professionals:
 - **21 April:** A model hospital for IPC and management of COVID-19 patients [Didier Pittet, University of Geneva Hospitals, Geneva, Switzerland]
 - **28 April:** The SARS-CoV-2 virus modes of transmission and related IPC measures [John Conly, University of Calgary and Alberta Health Services, Calgary, Canada]
 - **5 May:** Celebrating nurses and midwives for clean care at the age of COVID-19 [Benedetta Allegranzi, IPC Hub, WHO HQ Didier Pittet, University of Geneva Hospitals, Geneva, Switzerland]
 - **NEXT 12 May – [HERE](#):** Corona virus infections among health care workers: what we know about COVID-19 and what we have learned from other outbreaks [April Baller, WHO Health Emergencies, Geneva, Switzerland Seto Wing Hong, University of Hong Kong Shenzhen Hospital, Hong Kong, China]The webinar **details:** Time 2pm central European time (CET); Duration 1 hour; Recordings Slides and audio recordings will be made available [HERE](#) after the webinar ; To register for each webinar please go to the campaign page [at SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands](#)

Please promote this webinar series as widely as possible within your networks. Thank you

Health Professionals

- **COVID -19 courses for health professionals:** Translation and adaptation of the following WHO on-line COVID – 19 courses for Health Professionals has been initiated:
 - Clinical Care Training for Respiratory Infections (SARI) in Macedonian language; <https://openwho.org/courses/severe-acute-respiratory-infection>
 - ePROTECT Respiratory Infections in Macedonian and Albanian languages; <https://openwho.org/courses/eprotect-acute-respiratory-infections>
 - How to put on and remove PPE in Macedonian and Albanian languages; <https://openwho.org/courses/IPC-PPE-EN>

Case management

Solidarity Trial: Generating Robust data needed to show which treatments are the most effective, by North Macedonia joining the WHO SOLIDARITY Trial. This will allow also receiving WHO donation of medicines **Ramdesivir and Fapinavir** for COVID19 severe patients. **WHO held a training meeting on Solidarity trial** to all those involved in the scheme from COVID19 treating hospitals.

Planning, monitoring and evaluation of the COVID19 Response.

- **WHO is supporting the country in assessing the situation in view of eventual relaxation of restrictive public health measures.** WHO guidance is available on *“Considerations in adjusting public health and social measures in the context of COVID-19”* - [Access the publication](#) . This document provides guiding principles for adapting measures (loosening/ tightening). This will be followed by:
 - Indicators (criteria) for when measures can be adapted
 - Practical advice on how to adapt measures in key settings such as schools, workplaces etc.WHO emphasizes that there should be gradual alleviation, close monitoring and constant calibration of measures. **As measures are loosened, surveillance should be tightened. Different surveillance approaches (identification, confirmation, isolation, and contact identification and quarantine, event-based surveillance, sentinel ILI/SARI surveillance etc.) should be applied.**

- 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.
- **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>
- 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 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/>
- 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](https://www.facebook.com/1UNMK/)

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 and later renewed for another month.

On the health front, the country is working hard on 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.

IN THE PAST 48 HOURS:

➤ **Hand Hygiene**

- On the **Hand Hygiene Day** yesterday, MoH and WHO thanked the medical teams who selflessly and dedicatedly cared for the COVID-19 patients. At the Clinic for Infectious Diseases, 8th September Hospital, Clinical Hospitals in Bitola and Shtip and General Hospital in Debar, a loud applause was heard for these health professionals. Minister of Health highlighted that “Hand washing and hygiene are crucial to preventing spread of viruses. This is one of the first recommendations we have given and remains the basic and most reliable mechanism for protection against COVID-19. Clean hands save lives.”

➤ **Health workforce**

- 188 of the 235 health professionals infected with coronavirus (over 50 of the 70 health professionals infected with coronavirus in the General Hospital in Kumanovo) have recovered and most of them have returned to work.

➤ **Essential health services**

- Ministry of Health to have a meeting with the directors of the Clinical Center to discuss and organize the gradual return of the clinics to normal. The appointment time slots are to be reduced to avoid gatherings in the outpatient clinics and e-outpatient clinic to be introduced where possible.

➤ **Health infrastructure**

- A new road is to be opened between the Surgical Clinic and the Dental Clinic by the end of the week.
- Two new entrances of the Clinical Center are opening – one completely new and will lead directly to the Emergency Surgery Center and another entrance and exit at the Clinic for Infectious Diseases where the mobile hospital is located.
- The mobile hospital next to the Clinic for Infectious Diseases is designated to be a triage center which was functioning so far at the Clinic of Toxicology. It is to be fully equipped and staffed with specialists who will be rotating and responsible for assessment of suspected COVID-19 patients.

➤ **Monitoring and surveillance**

- As the number of tests performed is decreasing and the laboratories have freed up their capacities, the Center for Public Health and the Institute of Public Health are developing a plan for screening of people considered to be at high-risk (health professionals, employees in kindergartens and elderly homes, members of the police, public transport drivers, employees in public services and patients prior to hospitalization). The screening is to be done with PCR tests

- As part of the screening in Debar, about 2,300 tests are performed – antibodies were detected in 35 individuals, of which some were infected and the rest were randomly chosen.
- **Testing**
 - A new algorithm for testing assessment and appointments to be used by the primary health care doctors is underway. In addition, the targeted number of tests to be performed daily is to be defined. Clusters by age and chronic diseases would be included in future studies to assess the population’s susceptibility to the virus.
- **Public Health**
 - 80 people are caught breaking the curfew in the past 48 hours – 62 of them are detained.
 - In the period between 27 April-3 May, The Inspection Council carried out a total of 3086 inspections: these were mostly done by the **Market Inspectorate** (2042) in wholesale and retail outlets, including hospitality facilities, pharmacies, gas stations, banks and post offices. After these controls, 4 hospitality facilities were closed, 5 cafeterias were sealed and 46 facilities are warned for not respecting the measure on mandatory face protection in retail facilities and banks.
 - The **State Labor Inspectorate** carried 158 controls and imposed 27 decisions and 47 warnings to employers who did not act upon the Government’s recommendations.
 - The **Food and Veterinary Agency**, while controlling markets, restaurants, butchers, production facilities and green markets (a total of 154), imposed 5 fines and 12 decision for poor hygiene and lack of written procedures and documentation of good hygiene practice.
 - The **State Sanitary and Health Inspectorate** has carried out 134 inspections of private and public health constitutions and elderly homes regarding adhering to the protocols for protection of health professionals and for admitting infected COVID-19 patients. 364 permits for professional transport drivers are issued.
 - The **Transport Inspectorate** carried out 118 inspections, and it was concluded that traffic between the municipalities is reduced by 95%.
 - The **Drug Enforcement Agency** conducted 34 inspections of wholesalers and pharmacies, concluding that the rules in pharmacies and drug prices are in compliance with government recommendations.
- **Socioeconomic measures and impact**
 - 12 480 companies have applied for the financial measure to support salaries of employees. The public call closes on Thursday at midnight. 1260 companies have applied for the second interest-free loan line of the Development Bank of North Macedonia. The call opened on 29 April 2020 and will close on 13 May 2020.
 - The Ministry of Finance’s estimates show that economic activity in North Macedonia is set to decrease by 3.4% in 2020, due to the COVID-19 crisis, while the rate of inflation will amount to 0.2%. State budget revenue in April 2020, amounted to 14.2 billion denars, a 20% decrease compared to the same month in 2019. The tax revenue in April totaled 7.2 billion denars, 31% less than in April 2019.

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.

**[in the past 24 hours – earlier info available in previous WHO Flash Updates]*

NO NEW DONATIONS

GAPS/NEEDS AND CHALLENGES

- **Technical needs at the health front:**
 - Risk assessment for easing the curfews.
 - Assess the socioeconomic impact on Health system during the crisis and after the crisis

- Determine the level of immunity to the virus in the population
 - Review of the testing algorithms in consideration of the strategy to increase testing.
 - Increase use of eHealth and telemedicine to improve and facilitate population preventive interventions
 - Strengthen epidemiological capacity
 - Enhance planning capacity for transition strategy after lockdown.
- **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

APPLAUDE OUR HEALTH WORKERS – MOH /WHO CAMPAIGN FOR HAND HYGIENE - PHOTOS









**МОЈАТА ПРОФЕСИЈА
СПАСУВА ЖИВОТИ**