



COVID-19 in North Macedonia - Update 65

In North Macedonia, from Feb 26 to 16 July 2020, 13:00 CEST:
[8,522 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 393 deaths.](#)
COVID-19 cases per 100 000 population 409; Deaths per 1 000 000 population: 188.6

[NORTH MACEDONIA COVID-19 EPI SITUATION](#)

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WHAT IS [\[NEW\]](#) @WHO?

[LEARNING SESSIONS](#) FOR THIS WEEK

NORTH MACEDONIA COVID-19 EPI SITUATION

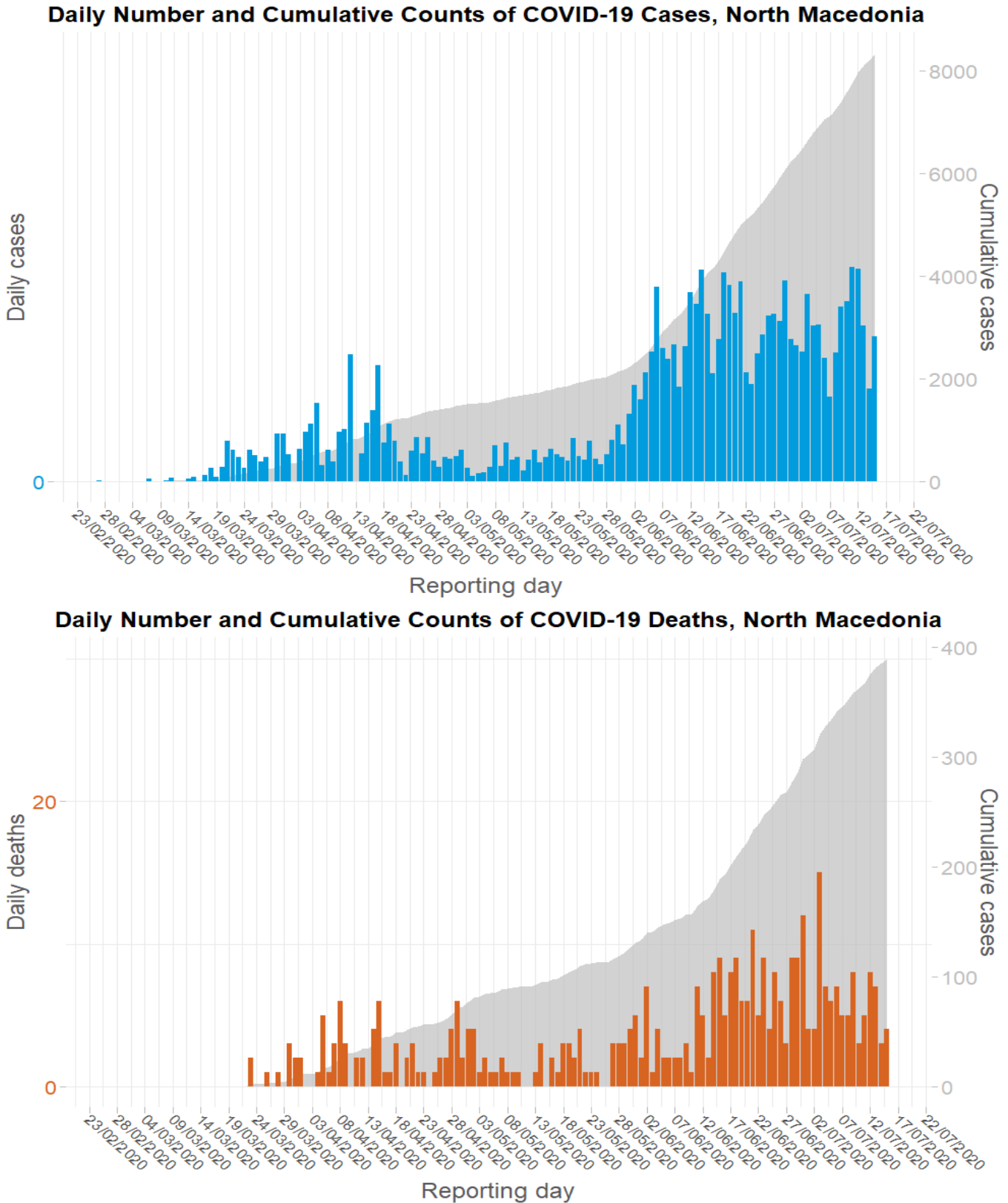
Over the last 4 days – Data as of 14 July 2020 21:00

- **Daily tests performed (% positive): Total: 4768 (11.7%)** (and daily : 1259 (10.7%), 973 (9.0%), 991 (13.7%), 1545 (12.9%) on Tuesday, Monday, Sunday and Saturday respectively).
- **New cases: 558** (135, 88, 136 and 199 new cases registered on each day, respectively)
- **Recovered: 508** COVID-19 patients
- **Fatalities: 21** new COVID-19 deaths

Cumulative registered COVID-19 as of 14 July 21:00 – 8332 – [see daily curve](#)

- **Tests performed: 79 392** SARS-CoV-2 tests.
- **Patients recovered: 4468 (53.6%)** COVID-19 recovered patients.
- **Active cases: 3475 (41.7%)** COVID-19 active cases
- **Fatalities: 389** COVID-19 fatalities (CFR 4.7%) registered.
- **Hospitalization as of 13 July:** 92 patients are hospitalized at the Clinic for Infectious Diseases of which 52 are on oxygen support and no patients are on respirator. 23 adult COVID-19 patients, 5 COVID-19 confirmed children and 1 suspect child are hospitalized in Kozle Hospital. 88 patients are hospitalized in 8 September Hospital of which 4 are on respirator. 28 patients are hospitalized in the Hospital in Bitola and 54 in Shtip. 110 patients (confirmed and suspect cases) are hospitalized at the infectious diseases department in Tetovo, Ohrid, Veles, Kumanovo, Prilep, Gostivar and Strumica.

Figure 1. North Macedonia – Daily and cumulative COVID-19 cases and deaths by 14 July 2020



North Macedonia – COVID-19 incidence per 100,000 people, per city, as of 13 July 2020 All data can be accessed at www.iph.mk

COVID-19 cases are registered in **32 cities**. **The most affected city is Skopje with 3878 cases (47%).**

The **highest cumulative incidence per 100,000 inhabitants is registered in Shtip** (867.6 / 100,000), **Resen** (837.8 / 100,000), **Skopje** (627.9 / 100,000), **Kumanovo** (604.1 / 100,000), **Sveti Nikole** (575.3 / 100,000), **Debar** (544.0 / 100,000), **Struga** (486.4 / 100,000), **Tetovo** (436.0 / 100,000), **Ohrid** (404.6 / 100,000) **Prilep** (315.8 / 100,000) and **Veles** (306.4 / 100,000) while an incident rate with over 150 patients per 100,000 inhabitants was registered in **Probishtip, Gostivar and Kochani**. **69% of all deaths are registered in Skopje, Tetovo and Kumanovo.**

- New cases are registered continually since Week 11 in 2020.
- **The highest number of new cases in a single day (n=205) was reported on 10 July 2020.**
- The highest number of cases is registered in Week 28 (n=1073).

☹️ % Change of 14-day Cumulative Death Incidence is ● -9 %

☹️ % Change of 14-day Cumulative COVID-19 Case Incidence is ● 3 %

☹️ Effective Reproduction Number 1 (0.9 – 1.1) – Cluster phase

Past 14-day incidence per 100,000 population: 98.5

Past 7-day incidence per 100,000 population: 53.6

(WHO Epi-data 16 July 2020)

NORTH MACEDONIA COVID-19 HEALTH RESPONSE – in past 5 days

Physical Infrastructure

- The Ministry of Health is working to prepare the health system for the COVID-19 second wave expected in the fall. **The majors of 16 municipalities supported the proposal of the Ministry of Health and the Infectious Diseases Commission to establish regional COVID-19 Centers within the General Hospitals and the Primary Health Care Centers throughout the country.** The aim is to provide adequate treatment and triage of COVID-19 patients without compromising the regular work of the hospitals and the health of the other patients.
- The Ministry of Health is initiating the **installation of a modular outpatient pulmonology unit at the Clinic for Pulmonology and Allergology**, within the Mother Teresa medical complex in downtown Skopje and to be ready by mid-August. Four outpatient clinics and cabinets as well as two separate rooms for inpatient day hospitals, labs and other necessities. It will be established as patients with lung disease who at a higher risk from developing severe complications from the SARS-CoV-2. According to the Ministry, the decision was made to protect vulnerable pulmonary patients from contracting the coronavirus virus while they visit the institute.

Health Workers

The COVID-19 patients hospitalized at one of the floors of the 8 September Hospital will be transferred to the modular hospital upon the request of the employees in this facility so that the hospital can be providing health services to other patients as well. About 70-75 hospital beds will continue to be designated to COVID-19 patients and the rest 20 will be for other patients.

Case management

- Citizens cured by coronavirus have donated 52 doses of blood plasma so far. These have been provided for the treatment of patients infected with the Covid-19 virus. Human plasma donations can be given by any person cured of a coronavirus that meets the requirements for plasma donation listed in the protocol. The effectiveness of this treatment is not yet proven.
- On 14 July, the latest data from the Institute of Public Health reported that a total of 77 pregnant women with COVID-19 have so far been registered, representing only 0.9% of all reported COVID-19 cases so far in the country and of which 19 were hospitalized. The rest were reported as asymptomatic cases.

Public Health Measures

- **The Government adopted the Protocols for the work of swimming pools and beaches** and annulled the provision in the Protocol for work of cafeteria and restaurants stipulating that only two people or four if members of a family can sit together at a table.

Government Regulations for Visiting Pools and Beaches are part of the protocols for work on beaches and swimming pools that the Government adopted at the last session on the proposal of the Infectious Diseases Committee. When visiting the beaches, the measure of maintaining physical distance must be respected among the guests, between sunbeds and umbrellas. Rules for the behaviour when visiting beaches apply to all employees and visitors for personal protective equipment, which covers the area of the nose and mouth, accessible and visible places for hand sanitizers, physical distance of 1.5 to 2 meters, including when staying in the water, as well as limiting the number of visitors to the beach according to the square footage, or a maximum of 15 visitors per 100 square meters

- Regarding the organization and celebration of public holidays, the Government instructed the Ministry of Health, through the Commission on Infectious Diseases, to prepare a protocol for organizing state events during a pandemic.

Borders and Travel

- The **Government of Kosovo decided to introduce special conditions for citizens of North Macedonia** that want to enter the country. Namely, Macedonian citizens entering Kosovo will have to provide a proof for a PCR test negative for COVID-19 conducted in the past 72 hours. Citizens entering Kosovo through the Adem Jashari airport will not be required a proof for negative COVID-19 test but will have to sign a statement that they will leave Kosovo in three hours. From official Pristina they inform that citizens coming from North Macedonia that hold Kosovo citizenship will not be demanded proof for negative COVID-19 test.
- **Bulgaria announced it is closing its border with North Macedonia** for all arrivals, regardless of their citizenship stating the coronavirus situation in North Macedonia and that is during the second half of July starting today. Transiting Macedonian citizens will only be allowed to transit through Bulgaria only if on their way back to North Macedonia.
- **On July 14, Austria announced suspending passenger flights from most Balkan countries, Moldova and Egypt** to lower the risk of travellers infected with coronavirus entering the country. The new ban covers arrivals from Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova and Egypt. Flight bans will remain in place for Belarus, Britain, China, Iran, Portugal, Russia, Sweden and Ukraine. Austrian health authorities have partly traced the recent increase in infections to travellers who had stayed in the Balkans. Many people in Austria's large community (with Balkan roots estimated to about half a million population among Austria's population of 8.9 million) spend usually their summer vacations in their countries of origin.
- **Air, rail and road traffic between Greece and North Macedonia is suspended until 31 July.** The restrictions are introduced as public health preventive measures against further spread of the Covid-19 on Greek territory. The decision refers to North Macedonia, Albania and Turkey. The ban does not apply to: Greek citizens, persons holding a residence permit and persons living in Greece, transport of goods, entry of persons for absolutely necessary professional reasons, but also for transit of ambulances that enter Greece from Kosovo via North Macedonia to hospitalize patients, members of the diplomatic, military or administrative staff of EU and EULEX member states in Kosovo.
- Low-cost airline **Wizz Air has suspended all flights between Italy and North Macedonia** until July 31, as a result of Italy's new restrictions to counter the coronavirus

Migrants

- The Ministry of Interior in addition to the police reinforcement, is to ask for help from the army to stop the entry of migrants in the country through the mountain Belasica as large groups of migrants are constantly moving on Mount Belasica and their criminal structures are transporting them to the northern border by vehicles.

Access to Vaccines of COVID-19 – COVAX Facility

- The Government adopted last Monday the letter of interest on North Macedonia’s intention to join the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Facility. Objective of the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Facility is to accelerate equitable access to appropriate, safe and efficacious vaccines. Health Minister Venko Filipche has been tasked with signing the non-binding letter of intent on joining the COVAX Facility, as well as to take part in the consultations on the design and operating principles of the facility in the course of this month. More than 75 countries have expressed interest in joining the COVAX financing scheme designed to guarantee fast and equitable access globally to COVID-19 vaccines.

Parliamentary elections and COVID-19

Macedonians went to the polls yesterday Wednesday, July 15, 2020, to vote for 120 members of Parliament (MPs). Simulation for COVID-19 safety during election has been conducted in a few days earlier and covered the entire election process.

Election officials in North Macedonia carried ballot boxes to the homes of voters suffering from COVID-19 or in quarantine Monday and Tuesday, as part of three days voting in a general election that was delayed for months by the pandemic. Special measures were adopted where Patients, elderly, and COVID-19-positive voters were able to vote from their homes or hospitals on July 13-14 before the general election day.



Photo Credit: AP Photo/Boris Grdanoski



Photo Credit: AP Photo/Boris Grdanoski



Electoral commission members wear face masks at a polling station in Strumica during North Macedonia’s general election on Wednesday.

Photograph: Ognen Teofilovski/Reuters



Photo Credit: AP Photo/Boris Grdanoski

NORTH MACEDONIA COVID-19 SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACT AND RESPONSE

- Because of the state of emergency, the Energy Regulatory Commission at the request of the energy companies made

changes in the electric power, natural gas and heating regulations. They expect for this process to conclude within two months at the latest, when the public will be informed.

- **North Macedonia's business confidence index falls in June 2020** – The business confidence indicator in North Macedonia's manufacturing sector decreased by 9.1 percentage points year-on-year to 12.2 in June, according to the state statistical office. On a monthly comparison basis, the business confidence index in manufacturing fell 0.8 percentage points in June, as per result of a survey of local managers. The expectations for the production volume for the next three months are also less favourable, and the stocks of finish goods have decreased.
- According to the data from the State Statistical Office, a total of 161 **building permits** were issued in May 2020, which was **27.5% less same than the same month of the previous year**. According to the issued building permits, the expected total value of the constructions was 1 559 061 thousand denars, which was 60.9% less than the same month of the previous year. Of the total number of issued building permits, 81 (50.3%) are for buildings, 28 (17.4%) are for civil engineering structures, and 52 (32.3%) are for reconstructions. Of the total of 161 structures, for 85 (52.8%) the investors are private persons, and for 76 (47.2%) structures the investors are business entities. In the reference period, 432 dwellings are planned for construction, with total useful floor area of 35 471 m².
- According to the State Statistical Office data, in May 2020, **the Industrial producer prices on the non-domestic market increased by 0.1% at the monthly level, and at the annual level the prices decreased by 0.4%**. In May 2020, in comparison with April 2020, the Industrial producer prices on the non-domestic market increased in the section Mining and quarrying by 3.4%, while in the section Manufacturing the prices decreased by 0.2%. In May 2020, in comparison with May 2019, the Industrial producer prices on the non-domestic market decreased in the section Mining and quarrying by 25.0%, while in the section Manufacturing the prices increased by 1.9%.
- According to the State Statistical Office data, in May 2020, **the Industrial producer prices, total, decreased by 0.1% at the monthly level and at the annual level by 0.2%**. In May 2020, in comparison with April 2020, the Industrial producer prices, total, increased in the section Mining and quarrying by 2.4%, in the section Manufacturing the prices decreased by 0.2%, while in the section Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply the prices stayed unchanged. In May 2020, in comparison with May 2019, the Industrial producer prices, total, decreased in the section Mining and quarrying by 16.1% and in the section Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply by 5.2%, while in the section Manufacturing the prices increased by 1.5%.
- **City of Skopje has opened a call for subsidies for inventers.** The call covers the citizens who bought an inverter from 1 January 2020, until the end of the call on 30 November 2020 or until the day of exhaustion of funds. The citizens will be fully reimbursed for the costs of purchasing an inverter device, but not more than 62,000 denars in net amount. According to the conditions, all citizens on the territory of the City of Skopje who have not used subsidies for heating their household from the City of Skopje and who do not have a connection or possibility for connection to central heating in the building where the device will be installed can apply for this public call.
- According to the data of the State Statistical Office, **the number of tourists in May 2020 was 838, and the number of nights spent by tourists was 4 946. The number of tourists in May 2020, compared to May 2019, decreased by 99.2%, and the number of nights spent decreased by 97.6%**. The number of domestic tourists in May 2020, compared to May 2019, decreased by 97.8%, while the number of foreign tourists decreased by 99.7%. The number of nights spent by domestic tourists in May 2020, compared to May 2019, decreased by 96.7%, and the number of nights spent by foreign tourists decreased by 98.0%. In the period January - May 2020, compared to the same period last year, the number of tourists decreased by 63.2%: the number of domestic tourists decreased by 58.2%, while that of foreign tourists decreased by 65.6%. In the period January - May 2020, compared to the same period last year, the number of nights spent decreased by 62.3%: the number of nights spent by domestic tourists decreased by 56.0%, while those by foreign tourists decreased by 66.0%.
- As of midnight, last night, **fuel prices increased by half denar**, said the Energy Regulatory Commission. Retail prices of

gasoline EUROSUPER BS-98 and Extra light household oil (EL-1) increase by 0.50 denars per litre and thus the retail price of EUROSUPER BS-98 will be 63.5 denars per liter, while on Extra light household oil (EL-1) will be 53 denars per liter. Retail prices of gasoline EUROSUPER BS-95 and EURODIESEL (D-E V) increase by one denar to 61.5 and 53.5 denars per litre, respectively. The retail price of fuel oil M-1 NS increases by 0.605 denars and from tonight at midnight will be 26,585 denars per kilogram.

- **Job Offers slightly increasing but not yet at the level of the demand.**
 - As of this month, the minimum wage is 14,934 denars. That's the smallest net amount an employer has to pay a full-time employee according to the law. Based on the job ads, a big part of bosses either don't know or intentionally offer the previous minimum wage amount of 14,500 denars. On the other hand, there are also more generous employers who offer, for example, 20,000 denars a month for a van driver. However, their number is very small. Its clear employers are facing a crisis, but the job demand is on the rise too, which is likely the motive for the decision to offer low wages.
 - As of May, **there are 121,187 unemployed active job seekers.** Since the start of the year, their number has increased by around 17,000, 12,000 of whom have lost their job since the beginning of the coronavirus situation. May alone saw 3,600 people left jobless. The workforce offer, however, is increasing in another way too. Thousands of former employees abroad who are in Macedonia cannot return to their jobs because borders of most European countries are closed to Macedonian citizens. They're still waiting to leave but if the current situation continues, there is a possibility of them being registered as unemployed at a domestic level. The workforce offer includes also thousands of people who are registered as unemployed but do seasonal work abroad every year on construction sites, in the field of agriculture, and other areas.
- **Latest data concerning the manufacturing industry:** Media reported that the furniture industry, turnover has so far fallen by 50%. The trend is believed to continue, most likely with more negative effects until the end of the year due to the decision to reduce unproductive expenditures from the state Budget for the whole current year, as well as non-functioning of the market intended for tourism, catering, and hotel management. Production in the paper and pulp and publishing industry has fallen by over 60% because companies have reduced advertisement flyers and other print materials to a minimum. Companies from that industry have had a reduced level of operations since the start of the crisis, primarily due to the fewer orders, reduced number of employees aiming at prevention, quarantine, and there being no new projects.
- **A1 Telekom Austria Group said the earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) of its subsidiary in North Macedonia fell by 5.1%** on the year to 20.8 million euro (\$23.8 million) in the first half of 2020. A1 Makedonija's total revenues decreased by 2.9% year-on-year to 57.9 million euro. Service revenues decreased by 1.6% to 48.1 million euro, with mobile service revenues down 0.1% to 36.6 million euro and a decrease by 30 000 in subscribers.
- **Open-air film theatres in Skopje have opened** to the public following the easing of coronavirus-related restrictions, while regular indoor cinemas are still under COVID-19 restrictions. The Cinemateque of North Macedonia started with open-air screenings in the yard on 10 July 2020. The Youth Cultural Center that runs Cinema Milenium and Cinema Frosina also began with free open-air weekend with premieres and popular titles of the past cinema releases. screenings over the 11-12 July weekend and will continue further weekends. The open-air cinemas are only allowed to run with limited capacity. Everyone is obliged to wear face masks and keep a safe distance of two metres. The opening coincided with great weather and the first screenings were sold out. The venues will be holding just one screening per night for the time being, beginning at 9 p.m. While more openings are expected, during the unpredictable situation it is impossible to confirm if all the announced open-air and drive-in cinemas will be opened as planned. 3D Cinema Bitola is also preparing for open-air screenings in Bitola in August. The Skopje Summer Festival also announced open-air screenings in the Old Skopje Bazaar later this summer. In addition, the 3rd Beach

Film Festival Ohrid will be held on its regular dates 22-26 July 2020, but in a different location due to COVID-19 safety protocols. [Credit to <http://www.filmneweurope.com/news>] .

SUPPORT TO WESTERN BALKAN COVID-19 EMERGENCY

- **The US Embassy** in North Macedonia handed over to the State Electoral Commission (SEC) a donation consisting of 50,000 face masks and 10,000 bottles of disinfectant for the upcoming parliamentary election that will take place on Wednesday 15 July.
- **Norway** has provided a donation of medical equipment worth 200,000 euros for the field hospital Rolle 2 of the Defense Ministry in North Macedonia, that has been recently set up near the Clinic for Infectious Diseases in Skopje. The donation, including face masks, protective visors and goggles, full body suits and disinfection products, was transported and handed over to the Macedonian authorities through the NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA).
- **China** has donated protective medical equipment worth about 250,000 euros to the Army of North Macedonia.
- **EU Macro-Financial Assistance Agreement (NFA) Provides For €80 Million** Disbursement to North Macedonia: The Commission on behalf of the EU has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with North Macedonia to pave the way for the disbursement of €80 million in macro-financial assistance (MFA). This is the first MoU signed as part of €3 billion MFA package that the Commission proposed for ten enlargement and neighbourhood partners to help them limit the economic fallout of the coronavirus pandemic. MFA funds will be made available in the form of long-term loans on highly favourable terms. The funds will contribute to enhance macroeconomic stability and create space to allocate resources towards mitigating the severe negative socio-economic consequences of the coronavirus pandemic. The MFA programme for North Macedonia is worth up to €160 million. The disbursement of the second and final instalment will be conditional on the implementation of the policy actions agreed between the EU and North Macedonia and set out in the MoU.

HIGHLIGHTS OF WHO NORTH MACEDONIA ACTION IN COVID-19 TIMES – current week actions



- WHO is **donating testing and medical equipment worth \$498,223 to the Virology Laboratory (with USAID funding) and PPE (WHO Solidarity funding) to health facilities in North Macedonia.** Delivery started today to the lab and it is expected that PPE to be delivered by 20 July 2020.

- **WHO Country Office in North Macedonia has facilitated access to COVAX Facility to North Macedonia.** The Government reviewed and adopted letter of intent on the possibility of the Republic of North Macedonia to join the global procurement of vaccines for COVID-19, through the **COVAX mechanism for providing global and balanced access to safe and effective vaccines for SARS-CoV-2** and authorized the Minister of Health to sign the non-binding statement of intent to join the COVAX mechanism.
- WHO continues its **weekly capacity building activities** with the participation of North Macedonia professionals: **WHO Regional Office for Europe and ECDC organized the weekly laboratory workshop** to discuss questions related to the COVID-19 virus laboratory work and to exchange information. This week's topic was "SARS-CoV-2 Seroprevalence: Serological Testing Strategies" and attended by Macedonian Lab professionals.
- **Epidemic and Health Emergency Operation Center for North Macedonia at the Institute of Public Health** under Minister of Health leadership will open soon. WHO worked closely with MOH for refurbishing and equipping a dedicated space for **real time epidemiological monitoring of outbreaks at the Institute of Public Health**. This is part of the USAID emergency funds entrusted to WHO earlier in the outbreak for strengthening North Macedonia capacity in COVID-19 Response. This center is the first and so far, unique structure in MOH among other MOH in Western Balkan countries. Official Launching of the center is planned for after the election.

EUROPE COVID-19 SITUATION AS OF 14 JULY 2020; WWW.COVID19.WHO.INT

EPI Situation

- Globally nearly 13 million cases and over 570,000 deaths have been reported to WHO- **as the European Region nears 3 million confirmed COVID-19 cases.** Regionally, situations vary, **Europe** remains stable, **Eastern Mediterranean Region** continues to see a decrease in new cases, while **Western Pacific** has begun to see a slight increase. **Africa, Americas and South-East Asia** continue to see significant increases in cases, with outbreaks in many countries across these three Regions accelerating. The **10 countries with the most reported number of cases in past 24 hours: United States of America, India, Brazil, South Africa, Russian Federation, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia.**
- While new daily cases continue to plateau in the Region, seven countries are still seeing an **increase in their effective reproductive numbers (i.e., Kazakhstan, Israel, Serbia, Kirgizstan, Montenegro, Luxemburg, Bosnia Herzegovina)** and localized outbreaks continue to appear across the Region, resulting in the **re-introduction of measures at local, regional, or national levels in 21 countries.**
- **Spain also continues to report localized outbreaks** with media reports indicating that >70 outbreaks responses. These cluster outbreaks are varied, involving agricultural businesses/workplaces, camps, social gatherings, weddings, restaurants, and migrant arrivals and have resulted in a jump in new daily cases (852) reported by Spain on 11 July.
- A new report from **Sweden's Public Health Authority** comparing COVID-19 in **school children between Sweden and Finland** found that there is no difference in the overall incidence of the laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in the 1-19 years age group - the closure or not of schools had no measurable direct impact on the number of laboratory confirmed cases in school-aged children in Finland or Sweden. **No official position of WHO is announced about this study.**
- In a **joint report with UNICEF and the WHO** found that, of 82 countries that responded to a survey, **three-quarters had suffered coronavirus-related disruptions to their immunization programs** as of May 2020. Most problems were linked to a lack of sufficient PPE for health workers, travel restrictions, and low health worker staffing levels - all of which led to immunization services being curbed or shut down
- A report by the **Italian Health Institute and National Statistics Agency** found that **COVID-19 was the direct cause of death among 89% of the pandemic's victims in Italy.** The study was based on the death certificates of 4,942 people who had tested positive for COVID-19 and carried out until 25 May. The main causes of death in the remaining 11% of positive cases were cardiovascular diseases (4.6%), tumors (2.4%) and respiratory illnesses (1%).

- Continued growth in case numbers is still observed in several countries across the Region - particularly those in the WHE Balkans (e.g., Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro) and Central Asian Hubs (e.g., Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan)

EUROPE SITUATION OVERVIEW - as of 16 July 2020

Over the past 7 days, cumulative cases across the Region **increased 49% to 2,997,399 cases** (from 2,857,435 cases on 9 July) and cumulative deaths increased by **1.5% to 205,111 deaths** (from 201,950 deaths on 9 July).

27 of 55 countries have shown an increase in the number of new cases greater than 10% in the past two weeks including:

- **>100%** - Andorra (600%), Montenegro (251%), Latvia (235%), Luxembourg (173%), Israel (200%), Slovenia (141%), Iceland (100%), Estonia (125%), Greece (109%)
- **40-99%** - Croatia (96%), Kosovo [1] (94%), Serbia (94%), Bosnia and Herzegovina (92%), Slovakia (90%), Austria (86%), Uzbekistan (83%), Spain (80%), Kyrgyzstan (73%), Cyprus (71%), Bulgaria (69%), Switzerland (69%), Lithuania (60%), Romania (53%), Ireland (51%), Georgia (46%)
- **<40%** - Albania (36%), Hungary (36%), Belgium (32%)

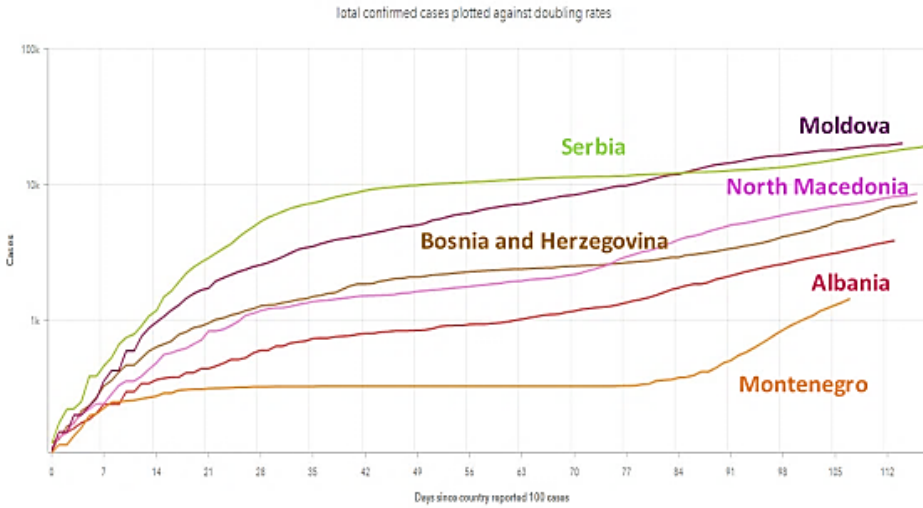
Top 10 countries seeing the **highest 14-day incidence per 100,000 population** are Armenia (235), Israel (173), Kazakhstan (121), Montenegro (118), Luxembourg (107), Kyrgyzstan (97), North Macedonia (95), Republic of Moldova (77), Bosnia And Herzegovina (77), and Azerbaijan (76).

Seven countries are continuing to see **significant increases in the effective reproductive number**: **Kazakhstan; Israel; Serbia; Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, Luxembourg, Bosnia and Herzegovina**; others with a high 14-day incidence are seeing a stabilization in activity most notably Armenia; North Macedonia; Moldova.

Socio/Political/Economic

- **France celebrated Bastille Day, on 14 July, by honoring its health workers** at scaled-down events – its traditional military parade was cancelled as a result of the pandemic.
- On 10 July, the western Spanish region of Extremadura, Catalonia, and the Balearic Islands made mask **wearing mandatory in all public spaces**.
- According to Amnesty International, **>3,000 healthcare workers (HCWs) have died from COVID-19, globally**, raising concerns about unsafe working conditions, low pay, long working hours and violence against HCWs. According to a report published on 13 July, **Russia has reported 545 COVID-19 deaths among HCWs** - the highest number reported globally – **followed by the UK and the USA**. Results of the survey conducted also indicate a shortage of PPE in nearly all of the 63 countries surveyed.
- **Spain honored the country's tens of thousands of coronavirus victims at a state ceremony** joined by top EU and WHO representatives. So far, the virus has officially claimed 28,413 lives in Spain, making it the seventh worst-hit country in the world.
- **Ireland has paused its phased-easing of lockdown** and extended rules on face coverings amid an increase in COVID-19 cases.

Balkan : Doubling Rates



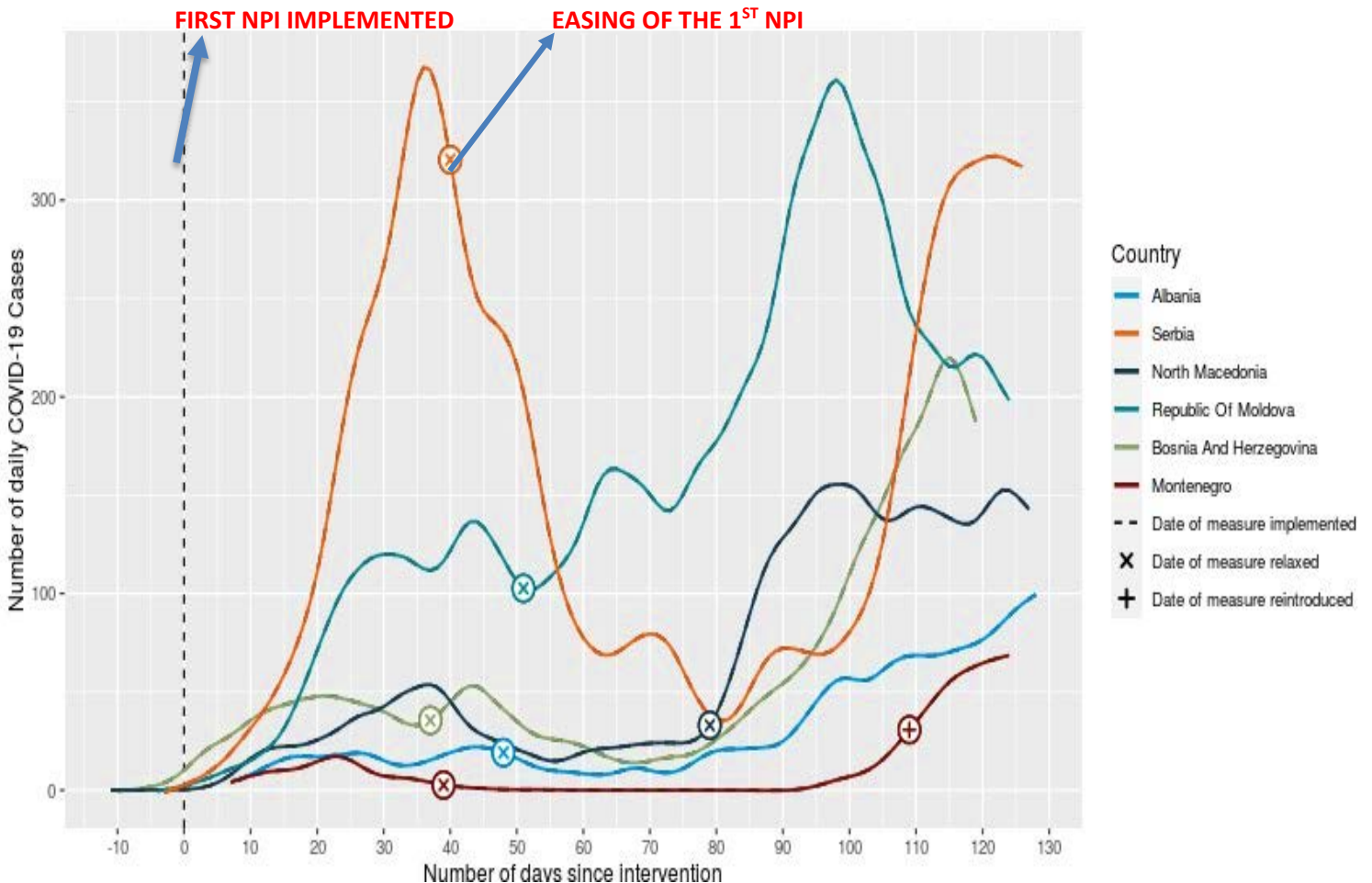
COVID-19 began to spread among the Balkan Hub countries from mid-March.

A peak of cases was observed in in mid- April and mid-June.

COVID-19 transmission in most countries has increased, with a >3% increase in new cases over the past two weeks – with the exception of the Republic of Moldova. Montenegro, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina have seen the most significant increases in new cases in the past two weeks - 251%, 94% and 92% respectively.

The doubling rates across the Balkan Hub signals that effective control measures must continue to be implemented and countries must be ready to reintroduce physical and social distancing measures at sub-national levels.

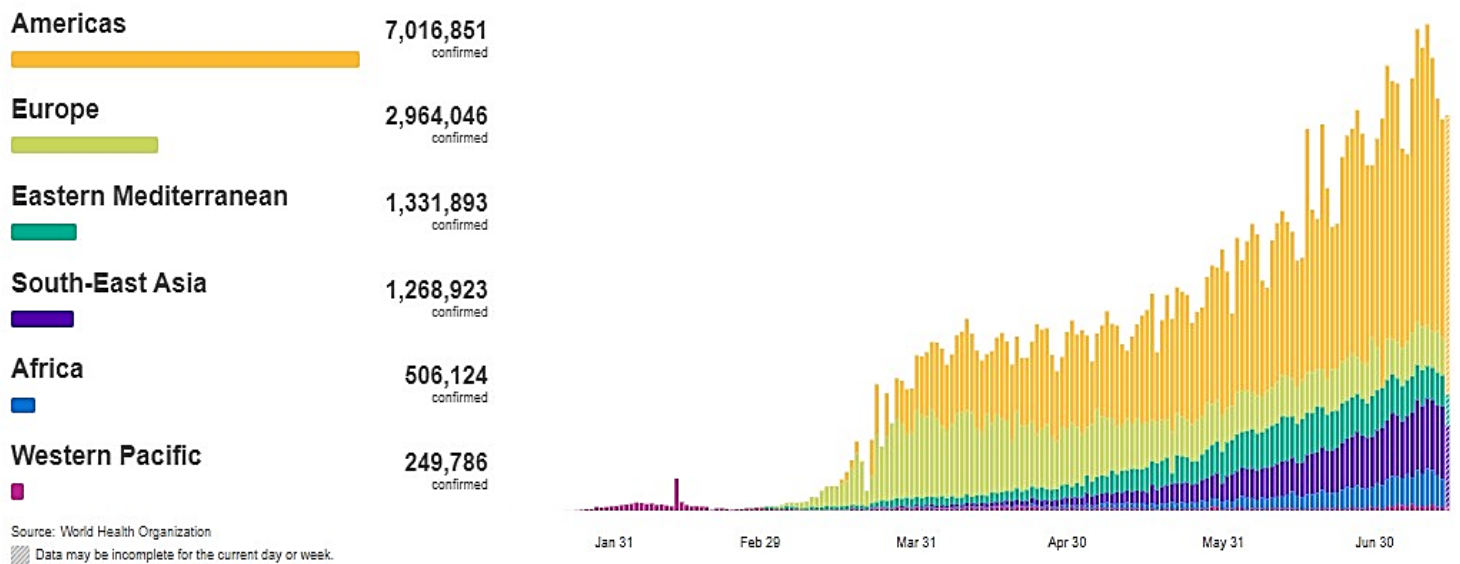
Figure 2 - BALKAN HUB: EPI-CURVES IN RELATION WITH NON-PHARMACEUTICAL INTERVENTIONS (NPI)



Indicators for Top 10 Countries and Countries of Interest

Country	Cases	Deaths	Transmission scenario	Effective R	Overall Trend	Cumulative Cases per 100,000 population	7-day Cumulative Cases per 100,000 population	14-day Cumulative Cases per 100,000 population	% Change in 14-day Cumulative Incidence
Russian Federation	746369	11770	Clusters	1 (1 – 1)	Stable	511.66	31.24	63.04	-9.05
United Kingdom	291373	44968	Community	0.8 (0.8 – 0.9)	Decreasing	431.47	7.44	31.51	-246.56
Spain	256619	28409	Clusters	0.9 (0.8 – 1)	Stable	549.07	9.77	16.60	74.37
Turkey	214993	5402	Community	1 (1 – 1)	Stable	257.69	8.51	18.08	-18.92
Germany	199726	9071	Clusters	0.9 (0.9 – 1)	Stable	239.14	2.86	5.99	-33.67
France	172377	30029	Clusters	1 (1 – 1.1)	Stable	264.67	5.48	11.63	6.89
Sweden	76001	5545	Community	0.9 (0.8 – 0.9)	Decreasing	757.25	26.47	75.23	-50.09
Belarus	65269	474	Community	0.9 (0.8 – 1)	Stable	690.50	13.39	33.34	-53.31
Kazakhstan	63514	375	Clusters	1.4 (1.2 – 1.6)	Increasing	342.37	67.14	121.01	-12.04
Ukraine	55607	1427	Community	1 (1 – 1.1)	Stable	126.40	11.80	24.11	-9.84
Israel	39294	364	Pending	1.3 (1.2 – 1.4)	Increasing	461.23	95.07	172.69	180.57
Armenia	33005	592	Community	1 (0.9 – 1)	Stable	1115.89	107.68	234.64	-13.60
Azerbaijan	25113	319	Clusters	1.1 (1 – 1.1)	Stable	249.94	37.21	75.53	10.60
Republic Of Moldova	19708	658	Community	0.9 (0.8 – 1)	Stable	487.43	38.76	76.55	-29.00
Serbia	18983	418	Community	1.3 (1.1 – 1.4)	Increasing	272.67	32.52	63.47	106.68
Uzbekistan	14293	68	Clusters	1.2 (1 – 1.3)	Stable	43.34	10.48	17.18	84.73
Kyrgyzstan	11977	160	Clusters	1.2 (1.1 – 1.3)	Increasing	186.68	54.41	97.29	96.70
North Macedonia	8331	389	Clusters	1 (0.9 – 1.1)	Stable	399.86	52.22	95.08	-3.88
Bosnia And Herzegovina	6979	224	Community	1.2 (1.1 – 1.3)	Increasing	211.42	41.23	76.52	84.52
Tajikistan	6643	56	Pending	1 (0.8 – 1.2)	Stable	71.27	3.52	7.39	-13.26
Albania	3752	101	Clusters	1.1 (0.9 – 1.2)	Stable	130.24	22.42	40.68	36.60

Figure 3: Daily Epi curve of confirmed COVID-19, by date of report, WHO region through 16 July 2020



Situation in numbers (by WHO Region)

Total (new cases in last 24 hours)

Globally	12 964 809 cases (196 775)	570 288 deaths (3 634)
Africa	492 660 cases (15 085)	8 430 deaths (177)
Americas	6 780 428 cases (110 549)	288 430 deaths (1 853)
Eastern Mediterranean	1 302 297 cases (15 646)	31 751 deaths (523)
Europe	2 946 104 cases (20 691)	203 957 deaths (373)
South-East Asia	1 196 651 cases (33 095)	29 900 deaths (642)
Western Pacific	245 928 cases (1 709)	7 807 deaths (66)

KEY PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL MEASURES (PHSM) SITUATION OVERVIEW in EUROPE as of 14 July 2020

As the local epidemiology of the disease changes, countries are adjusting public health and social measures accordingly;

- **10** countries in EURO are currently implementing partial or full domestic movement restrictions;
- **5** countries are currently in a state of national emergency due to COVID-19. In 24 countries, the state of emergency has ended/been lifted. **2** countries are reinstating a national emergency at city or regional level (North Macedonia, Serbia);
- All countries in the region have adjusted some of the national PHSM measures with most countries implementing a phased approach. Most common measures that are eased first are the opening of non-essential businesses and relaxation of domestic movement restrictions often followed by school openings and the reopening of cultural sport and/or religious establishments;
- In the past weeks, **several countries (21) in the Region have re-introduced measures at local** (Armenia, Denmark, Kyrgyzstan, Portugal, Serbia, Spain, United Kingdom), **regional** (Austria, Azerbaijan, Czech Republic, Germany) or **national** (Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Israel, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Montenegro, Slovenia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan) **level due to localized outbreaks.**

Countries in the Region are increasingly implementing requirements and/or recommendations for the wearing of masks in public, each adopting different approaches;

- **9** countries have introduced a mandatory requirement or issued recommendations for the universal wearing of face masks for asymptomatic individuals in public;
- **40** countries have introduced similar requirements or recommendations but only applying to certain public settings according to a risk-based approach;
- **Only 4 countries currently do not have a mask policy in place or have not issued recommendations for to wear face masks in public. (Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden)**

All States Parties to the International Health Regulations have implemented international travel measures; 43 countries are currently implementing a mandatory quarantine for travellers (foreigners and/or citizens) arriving from abroad. **7** countries have fully lifted mandatory quarantine measures that were previously in place.

EUROPEAN UNION WEEKLY UPDATE as of 10 July 2020

Chancellor Merkel and Health Minister Spahn present the priorities of the German EU Presidency

Chancellor Merkel [presented](#) to the European Parliament the goals of the German Presidency for the coming six months focusing on the objective to tackle the challenge posed by the pandemic. She highlighted five areas to emerge from the current crisis: fundamental rights, solidarity and cohesion, climate change, digitization and Europe's role in the world. During her intervention, she reaffirmed Germany's commitment to solidarity and to build a green, innovative, sustainable,

more digital and competitive Europe. In a separate intervention, the Minister of Health Mr Spahn presented the Presidency's priorities for health. This included: drawing the lessons learned from the pandemic to improve the EU crisis management capacities and structures such as the ECDC and EMA; improve the exchange of health data; strengthening the role of the EU in global health and increase commitment to multilateral forum and organizations such as WHO. Germany will also lead the negotiations over the new EU4Health instrument and support the launch of the EU Beating Cancer Plan.

On 1st July 2020, Germany assumed the [Presidency of the Council of the EU](#) and will focus on six guiding principles: overcoming COVID-19 crisis and economic recovery; a stronger and more innovative Europe; a fair Europe; a sustainable Europe; a Europe of security and common values; and a strong Europe in the world. Germany Presidency will also focus on ensuring a rapid conclusion of the negotiations on EU's long-term budget (MFF) and finalize the adoption of the new EU financial instruments.

With regards to health policy goals, Germany aims at restoring the manufacture of essential medicinal products and devices and build a European stockpile; driving the creation of a European health data space; and strengthening European public health organizations (e.g. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control & European Medicines Agency). Germany will also aim at increasing EU's role in global health in support of multilateralism and international collaboration while assisting relevant international bodies and organizations such as WHO; and facilitating the launch of the EU Beating Cancer Plan. [More](#).

EU welcomes progress with implementation of WHA Resolution on COVID-19 response

Following an update by the WHO Director General on the implementation of the WHA Resolution on COVID-19 response initiated notably by the EU and its Member States, the EU welcomed the WHO's progress made in implementing this resolution and the setting up of an independent panel for pandemic preparedness and response. It expressed its support to the initiative and committed to working with the Panel in drawing the lessons learned from the pandemic.

The EU's public health strategy post-COVID-19

On July 9, the European Parliament Plenary session heard statements from the Council and Commission on the EU's public health strategy post-COVID-19. MEPs expressed their support for the EC's EU for Health proposal. In addition, calls were also heard for Europe to become more autonomous in terms of production of medicines and medical equipment in the EU and for equal access for all to be guaranteed with regards to any COVID-19 vaccine that might be developed. The full recording can be seen [here](#).

EU Health measures

- **The European Commission granted a conditional marketing authorisation for the medicine Remdesivir, making it the first medicine authorised at EU level for treatment against COVID-19.** [More](#).

EU International cooperation

- The EU amended the regulation supporting countries and regions eligible to the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance for Cross-border Cooperation, to benefit from the simplified financial and legal measures put into place to fight the COVID-19 crisis. [More](#).
- the Council draft negotiating frameworks for Albania and North Macedonia, laying out the guidelines and principles for their accession talks. Once EU Member States have adopted the frameworks, Germany, holding the Presidency of the Council of the EU will present the agreed General EU Position in the first inter-governmental conference with each country, marking the formal start of the accession negotiations. [More](#)

EU Agencies and other EU bodies

- EMA- COVID-19 clinical trials: EMA endorsed a joint statement on prioritisation of COVID-19 clinical trials developed by worldwide Medicines regulators to step up global collaboration to facilitate and expedite the development and evaluation of therapeutics, diagnostics and vaccines against COVID-19. [More](#).
- EMA- Consultation on supply of medicines - EMA has released a draft [strategy](#) detailing how EMA and the network of EU medicines agencies network can continue to enable the supply of safe and effective medicines. EMA is [inviting](#) stakeholders to review the draft and provide comments [until 4 Sept](#).
- ECDC – COVID-19 in healthcare settings The ECDC published a technical report on Infection prevention and control and preparedness for COVID-19 in healthcare settings. [More](#)
- EP Policy department - [Briefing on medicine shortage in the EU during the novel coronavirus outbreak](#)

Non-State EU Actors/organizations (selected statements) – click on the hyperlinks

- EPHA: [Getting it right: COVID19 vaccines procurement](#)
- EPHA [Public health must be the leading priority of Europe’s pharmaceutical sector](#)
- EPF: [Position Paper on ‘The Value and Pricing of Innovative Medicines’](#)
- NCD Alliance: [NCDs & COVID-19: Learning lessons, building back better for the future](#)
- Friends of Europe: [How can the EU best coordinate health policy for ‘part two’ of the pandemic?](#)
- ECFR: [Health sovereignty: How to build a resilient European response to pandemics](#)
- ETTG: [Policy coherence issues emerging from COVID-19 with a focus on healthcare supply chains](#)
- BEAM Alliance - [Reflexion paper on the EU Pharmaceutical Strategy Roadmap](#)
- Medicines for Europe [calls for a structured industry-EU dialogue on reform](#)

WHAT IS [NEW] @WHO?

DG's remarks at COVID-19 media briefing on 13 July can be accessed in full [Here](#). **Dr. Tedros'** key messages focus on the road map to control the Pandemic and the 3 prerequisites for success:

- First, a focus on reducing mortality and suppressing transmission.
- Second, an empowered, engaged community that takes individual behaviour measures in the interest of each other.
- And third, strong government leadership and coordination of comprehensive strategies that are communicated clearly and consistently.

A WHO news story on the **WHO Director-General paying tribute to Spain’s sacrifices and leadership to confront COVID-19** was recently published [Here](#). World Health Organization Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus today joined the leadership of Spain, paying homage to those who have lost their lives in the country due to COVID-19, saluting the heroic efforts of health workers and praising the government’s resolute and robust response to reverse the virus’s transmission.

Clinical management

- Interim guidance was recently published on **Maintaining a safe and adequate blood supply during the pandemic outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19)** (available [Here](#)). This document emphasizes the importance of being prepared and responding quickly and outlines key actions and measures that the blood services should take to mitigate the potential risk to the safety and sufficiency of the blood supplies during the pandemic. It should be read in conjunction with WHO Guidance for National Blood Services on Protecting the Blood Supply During Infectious Disease Outbreaks.
- A WHO news story was recently published on a **Polish doctor recovering from severe COVID-19 through rehabilitation** (available [Here](#)). Anyone can catch COVID-19; however, health professionals are especially vulnerable as they have greater exposure to the virus when treating patients.

Vulnerable populations

- A WHO news story was recently published about **Aref Bandary: a doctor, cultural mediator and migrant leading the COVID-19 response in refugee centres in Serbia** (available [Here](#)). Perhaps one of the most important steps that we took in our response to COVID-19 has been engaging refugees and migrants inside the centres across the country

COVID-19 and Schools

- A **Q&A on Schools and COVID-19** was recently published [Here](#).

Public Health and Social Measures

- Updated guidance was recently published for the **use of the WHO mass gathering risk assessment tools** (available [Here](#)). The content of this Risk Assessment tool has been updated to reflect new WHO guidance and new evidence on both COVID-19 and mass gatherings, as well as feedback from end-users. Additional improvements have been made to the way the information is organized and presented: the Decision Tree is now built into the tool and a new tab dedicated to Risk Communication has been added.
- Updated guidance was recently published for the **use of the WHO mass gathering risk assessment tools for religious gatherings in the context of COVID-19** (available [Here](#)).
- Updated guidance was recently published for **authorities and organizers of sports events planning mass gatherings during the current COVID-19 pandemic** (available [Here](#)). The **WHO COVID-19 Mass Gathering Risk Assessment tools have been updated** this week to support relevant authorities and event organizers in quantifying the risk of transmission of COVID-19 associated with a planned mass gathering event and the application of mitigation measures. The recently updated generic, sports events and religious events risk assessment tools are available on the WHO site. **For the SPRP, WHO monitors the number of mass gatherings adjusted based in the findings of a risk assessment.** WCO staff are kindly requested to report progress on this indicator. Information can be entered directly into the online database (Excel [spreadsheet](#))

COVID-19 and Food security

- The FAO report on the **state of Food Security and Nutrition in the World** was recently published and is available [Here](#). As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, this report attempts to foresee some of the impacts of this global pandemic on food security and nutrition.

Research and Development

- A WHO news story was recently published on **How WHO is supporting ongoing vaccination efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic** (available [Here](#)). As COVID-19 continues to spread around the world, people in all countries are being encouraged to take precautions to prevent transmission, including in many countries by staying at home and physical distancing. But a pandemic does not erase other diseases and their impact. While many services, including some health services, are being scaled back, the risk of further outbreaks of infectious diseases grows.
- A WHO news story was recently published on the **More than 150 countries engaged in COVID-19 vaccine global access facility COVAX** (available [Here](#)). Seventy-five countries have submitted expressions of interest to protect their populations and those of other nations through joining the COVAX Facility, a mechanism designed to guarantee rapid, fair and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines worldwide.
- A WHO news story : **WHO and UNICEF warn of a decline in vaccinations during COVID-19** was recently published [Here](#). The World Health Organization and UNICEF warned today of an alarming decline in the

number of children receiving life-saving vaccines around the world. This is due to disruptions in the delivery and uptake of immunization services caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. According to new data by WHO and UNICEF, these disruptions threaten to reverse hard-won progress to reach more children and adolescents with a wider range of vaccines, which has already been hampered by a decade of stalling coverage.

COVID-19 and Zoonotic diseases

- **NEW** - UN Report on “[Preventing the next pandemic - Zoonotic diseases and how to break the chain of transmission](#)” was recently published (available [Here](#)). This report takes a step back and considers the root causes of the emergence and spread of the novel #coronavirus and other ‘zoonoses’— diseases that are transmitted between animals and humans. The report also offers a set of practical recommendations that can help policymakers prevent and respond to future disease outbreaks.

Supply chain

- [Supply Chain Task Force notes](#) for the record as of 7 July 2020 have recently been published (available [Here](#)).

Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator: diagnostics, treatment, vaccines and health system strengthening

- The Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator is organized using four pillars of work: diagnostics, treatment, vaccines and health system strengthening. Each pillar is vital to the overall effort and involves innovation and collaboration. The [ACT Accelerator Investment Case](#) was launched on 26 June 2020 calling for \$31.3 Billion of which \$11 Billion has been pledged. The document is intended for countries, foundations, and civil society as an advocacy tool to provide a consolidated overview of the ACT Accelerator, its goals, and the investments that partners have calculated are required to carry out its mission. A roadmap is currently being developed which will be released in July 2020.
- As part of the ACT Accelerator Vaccine Pillar, WHO, UNICEF, Gavi, and partners are working together to develop guidance, trainings, and resources for country readiness and delivery. This workstream is developing a country **readiness checklist that outlines key activities for countries to complete to prepare for COVID-19 vaccine introduction**. Regional offices are providing input, adapting the checklist, and will share the document soon. All Countries can and should begin planning for COVID-19 vaccine introduction as soon as possible. Initial planning should consider potential vaccine scenarios and can be refined as more information on the vaccines becomes available. **WHO urge countries to review existing resources** (i.e. National Deployment and Vaccination Plan for pandemic influenza) and lessons learned from other past adult vaccine introduction or recent new vaccine introductions (IPV, nOPV, MenA, Ebola, Rota, Penta, HPV, cholera) to inform their COVID-19 planning. The following training that can serve as a foundation for COVID-19 vaccine planning: [Pandemic Influenza Vaccines: National Deployment and Vaccination Plans](#)

Risk Communication

Facebook created a section in its COVID-19 Information Center called “*Facts About COVID-19,*” in which WHO will “*debunk common myths about the pandemic*”.

Scientific Journal Articles

- A recent article published by the Lancet on [Lockdown timing and efficacy in controlling COVID-19 using mobile phone tracking](#) is available [Here](#). Italy's severe COVID-19 outbreak was addressed by a lockdown that gradually increased in space, time and intensity. The effectiveness of the lockdown has not been precisely assessed with respect to the intensity of mobility restriction and the time until the outbreak receded.
- An article was recently published in JAMA on [Hospital-Wide SARS-CoV-2 Antibody Screening in 3056 Staff in a Tertiary Center in Belgium](#) (available [Here](#)). Belgium has a high burden of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), especially the region surrounding the Hospital East-Limburg, a tertiary care center. The study

investigated the prevalence of antibodies against severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) among hospital staff.

- An article was recently published in [Nature communications on Transplacental transmission of SARS-CoV-2 infection](#) (available [Here](#)). The study demonstrates the transplacental transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in a neonate born to a mother infected in the last trimester and presenting with neurological compromise. The transmission is confirmed by comprehensive virological and pathological investigations.
- An article published in the New England Journal of Medicine on [an mRNA Vaccine against SARS-CoV-2 — Preliminary Report](#) is available [Here](#). The severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) emerged in late 2019 and spread globally, prompting an international effort to accelerate development of a vaccine. The candidate vaccine mRNA-1273 encodes the stabilized prefusion SARS-CoV-2 spike protein.
- An article published in the Lancet on the [COVID-19 pandemic and admission rates for and management of acute coronary syndromes in England](#) is available [Here](#). Several countries affected by the COVID-19 pandemic have reported a substantial drop in the number of patients attending the emergency department with acute coronary syndromes and a reduced number of cardiac procedures.
- An article published in JAMA on [Risk Factors Associated With Mortality Among Patients With COVID-19 in Intensive Care Units in Lombardy, Italy](#) is available [Here](#). This study found that most critically ill patients with coronavirus disease 2019 in the intensive care unit required invasive mechanical ventilation, and mortality rate and absolute mortality rate were high.

WHO HAS ISSUED THE FOLLOWING UPDATES AND NEW COVID-19 GUIDANCE

Guidance	Short Summary
Investing in and building longer-term health emergency preparedness during COVID-19 pandemic: Interim guidance for WHO Member States [New!]	This document is to help Member States build on actions taken during the COVID-19 pandemic to improve national medium- to long-term preparedness for future threats. It maps COVID-19 preparedness and response actions to the building of sustainable International Health Regulations (2005) core capacities; locates relevant supporting WHO resources that are not specific to the pandemic; and advocates for the conscious and effective allocation of COVID-19 funds to also meet countries' longer-term needs
Transmission of SARS-CoV-2: Implications for infection prevention precautions: Scientific Brief [Update!]	This document is an update to the scientific brief published on 29 March 2020 entitled "Modes of transmission of virus causing COVID-19: implications for infection prevention and control (IPC) precaution recommendations" and includes new scientific evidence available on transmission of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. This was previously circulated to WRs last week.
Maintaining a safe and adequate blood supply during the pandemic outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) [New!]	This document provides interim guidance on the management of the blood supply in response to the pandemic outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19). It emphasizes the importance of being prepared and responding quickly and outlines key actions and measures that the blood services should take to mitigate the potential risk to the safety and sufficiency of the blood supplies during the pandemic.
WHO Operational Update [New!]	This update was issued for WHO's weekly activities and was issued on 10 July 2020.

Smoking and COVID-19 Scientific Brief [Update!]	<p>Update to the Scientific Brief entitled ‘Smoking and COVID-19,’ of 26 May 2020. Since its publication, a study entitled ‘Cardiovascular Disease, Drug Therapy, and Mortality in Covid-19’ by Mehra et al. has been retracted by the New England Journal of Medicine. This version of the Scientific Brief has removed the study from the review. The removal of this study from the review does not change the conclusions of the analysis.</p>
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LEARNING SESSIONS FOR THIS WEEK

The WHO Observatory Venice Summer School “*The hospital of the future in times of COVID-19*”, organized by the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, the Veneto Region of Italy, the Commission and the WHO, will take place virtually from 20-30 July 2020. [More info and practical details on how to subscribe.](#)

Infection prevention and control Global Webinar Series: Use of Masks for COVID-19 Prevention Transmission on **Thursday July 16, 2020 at 2:00 pm CEST**. Organized by CDC in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), ECHO, and IPC professional societies. Register [here](#).

WHO Global Influenza Programme is organizing a series of webinars to maximize the value and subsequent operations of GISRS and influenza systems for both influenza and COVID-19.

The 2nd webinar will be a consultation with national influenza surveillance officers on maintaining and utilizing existing sentinel syndromic surveillance for influenza and COVID-19, through:

1. discussing the role of existing sentinel syndromic surveillance for COVID-19 and
2. sharing experiences and challenges in maintaining sentinel syndromic surveillance and interpreting data in the context of COVID-19.

The webinar - **17 July 2020, 12h00 – 13h30 (CET)** - will provide a **forum for surveillance officers to share experiences, analyze challenges and discuss preparations for the upcoming influenza season, including the interpretation of data.**

Click on REGISTER NOW in Zoom from this link:

https://who-e.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_b9T152vRRu-752_wX1gDOg%20

WHO Webinar ***Prevention and control of COVID-19 in prisons: What have we learned?*** slated for **21 July from 16.00 to 17.40 CEST**. To sign up to join the event please register using the following the link:

<https://www.euro.who.int/covid19prisons-register> . Connection details will be provided in a separate communication. We look forward to you joining us for this important event.

The webinar will:

- Present the WHO interim Guidance on Preparedness, prevention and control of COVID-19 in prisons and other places of detention, highlighting its purpose, its main areas of applicability and most recent updates.
- Share country experiences gained from the pandemics and reflect on how these may be used to inspire good practices in different areas of activity, from prevention, to control, including essential services sustainability.
- Present the surveillance system developed jointly by WHO/ECDC and expand on its use to motivate countries to monitor the pandemic evolution in the prison setting.

Registration ends 20 July 2020, 15:00 CEST

Receive the latest COVID-19 content, guidance and must-know information from WHO.

[Sign up](#) for a weekly digital update.

*Access the Daily Global Situation report [HERE](#).

**Remember to check the European Region Situation Dashboards available in both [ENGLISH](#) and [RUSSIAN](#) for the latest, verified information on the COVID-19 situation in the Region.

***Access a Mobile Friendly Version of the European Region COVID-19 Situation Dashboard [HERE](#) or via the QR code below.

