



HIGHLIGHTS

- World Health Day is on 7 April- tomorrow's theme is about Nursing and midwifery. We are grateful to the hard-working nursing and medical staff in COVID19 crisis.
- Debar, Skopje and Kumanovo are in Phase 4 (widespread community transmission) and **the rest of the country has stepped up to phase 3 (local transmission)**
- Minister declared that **we are at a new phase of the epidemic** and entering a new management phase of the whole epidemic as we are still a few weeks away from the peak of the outbreak. The number of cases and deaths is expected to rise markedly. He sent a clear message today to the health workers: "protect yourselves at and outside of your workplaces. The health of the citizens and many lives depend on you."
- Sadly, North Macedonia announced 6 COVID-19 fatalities over the weekend. 53 and 72 new cases have been reported in the Republic of North Macedonia on 4 and 5 April 2020, respectively. **The total number of registered COVID-19 cases in the country is 555.** Three patients have recovered and are discharged from CID. Currently, 74 patients are hospitalized – 15 with severe clinical manifestation and 11 under respirator. For the first time cases were identified in Radovish and Krushevo indicating further geographic spread.
- Two **new COVID-19 treatment centers** are established in 8th September hospital in Skopje and the hospital in Bitola increasing the hospitalization capacity.
- WHO has launched **the EPI-WIN website** for timely, accurate and easy-to-understand advice and information <https://www.who.int/epi-win>

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

total (new) cases in the last 24 hours

North Macedonia

555 confirmed (72)

18 deaths

23 recovered

Globally

1 133 758 confirmed (82 061)

62 784 deaths (5798)

Western Pacific Region

111 396 confirmed (1034)

3838 deaths (29)

European Region

621 407 confirmed (38 266)

46 416 deaths (4082)

South-East Asia Region

7816 confirmed (1288)

302 deaths (35)

Eastern Mediterranean Region

70 293 confirmed (4328)

3794 deaths (201)

Regions of the Americas

315 714 confirmed (36 171)

8187 deaths (1385)

African Region

6420 confirmed (974)

236 deaths (66)

WHO RISK ASSESSMENT

Very high

SURVEILLANCE

Figure 1. North Macedonia – Cumulative confirmed COVID-19 cases (n=483) by 5 April 2020 10:00

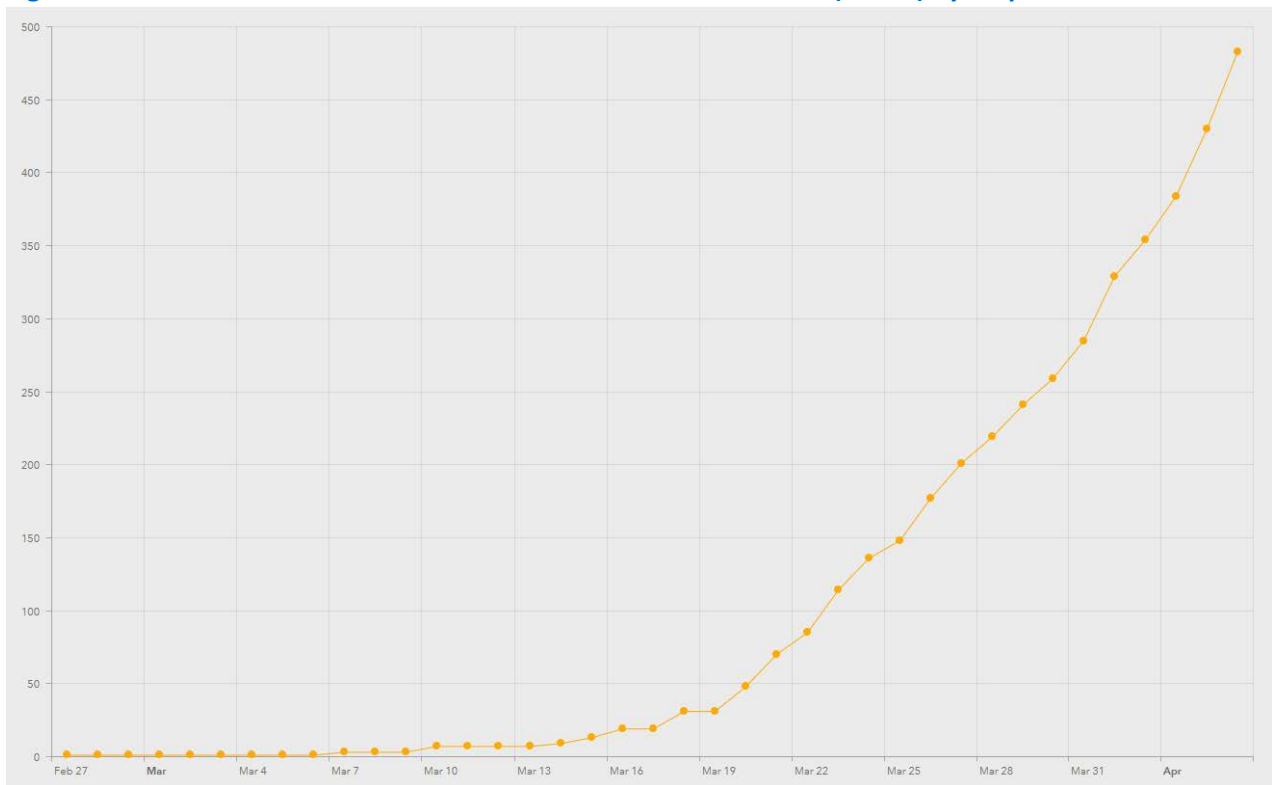
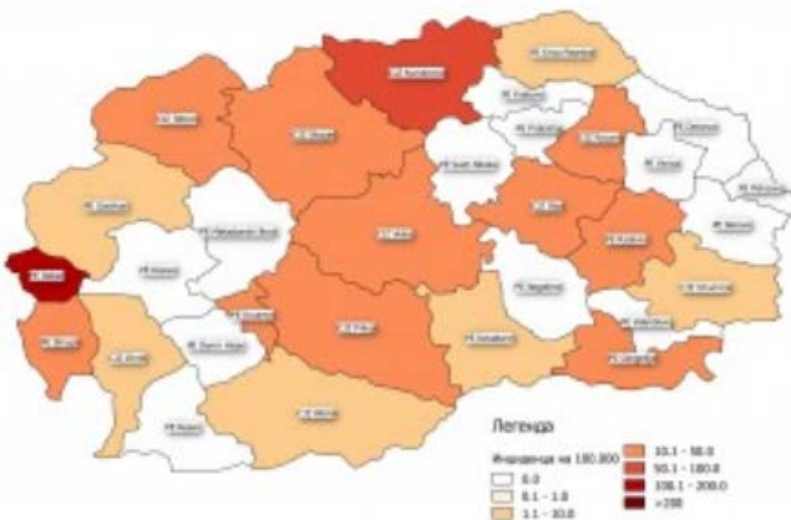


Figure 2. North Macedonia – COVID-19 incidence per 100,000 people, as of 5 April 2020



The highest cumulative incidence is in Debar 176,5 cases per 100,000 people, followed by 65,2 cases per 100,000 people in Kumanovo and 35.8 cases per 100,000 people in Skopje.

Age of patients vary from 2-91 years. However, the highest risk group is between 50-59 years old.

The disaggregated data of the confirmed COVID-19 cases through 04 April 2020 which includes the cases reported on 5 April 2020 by MoH could be accessed at the www.iph.mk

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

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

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-2019), Europe

- Based on the WHO and ECDC data as of 5 April 2020 10:00 CET, the WHO European Region number of cases is representing **over 55% of the global burden** of 1 133 758 reported globally with 621 407 cases in total to date. Globally, USA carries the heaviest case load (273 808), with **Spain and Italy concluding top-3**. Overall, five more countries from the European Region are in top-10 (Germany, France, United Kingdom, Turkey and Switzerland);
- In Europe, **Spain has the highest case count** (124 736 cases, 20%), followed by Italy (124 632 cases, 20%), Germany (91 714 cases, 15%), France (67 757 cases, 11%), and the United Kingdom (41 907 cases, 6.7%). Six other countries reported more than 10 000 cases (Turkey, Switzerland, Belgium, the Netherlands, Austria and Portugal), while another 17 countries in the Region reported 1000 cases or more, listed in descending order (Israel, Sweden, Norway, Russian Federation, Ireland, Czechia, Denmark, Poland, Romania, Luxembourg, Finland, Greece, Serbia, Iceland, Ukraine, Croatia and Estonia);
- **46% of the global burden of COVID-19 deaths have been reported in the European Region**, with Italy and Spain (15 362 and 11 744 COVID-19 deaths, respectively) accounting for roughly 71% of all deaths in Europe, followed by France, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Germany and Belgium.

WHAT WHO IS DOING FOR COVID19 IN NORTH MACEDONIA?

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

In North Macedonia:

WHO 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>

- 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.
- WHO developed a **risk assessment tool to be used by health care facilities with COVID-19 patients**. The tool is to be completed for all health workers who have been exposed to a confirmed COVID-19 patient in a health care facility. The tool will help determine the risk of COVID-19 virus infection of all HCWs who have been exposed to a COVID-19 patient and then provides recommendations for appropriate management of these HCWs, according to their infection risk.
- WHO continuing the roll out of the **Partners Platform for the Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (SPRP)**: Onboarding has taken place supporting North Macedonia to link with international support; the Country Preparedness and Response Plan has been uploaded for increasing capacity for 2000 COVID19 cases.
- The country is active on the platform <https://covid-19-response.org>
- SPRP includes health systems continuity, the Platform will have a **9th Pillar** for assessment of priority actions to maintain essential health services.
- COVID-19 Health System Response Monitor (HSRM) has been formally launched by WHO EURO and the European Observatory for Health systems. North Macedonia is participating. <https://www.covid19healthsystem.org/mainpage.aspx>

WHO continues to be actively engaged in:

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

VISIT OUR PARTNERS WEBSITES

- USAID www.usaid.gov
- EU https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/republic-north-macedonia_en
- Macedonian Red Cross: www.ckrm.org.mk
- Helvetas North Macedonia www.helvetas.org/en/eastern-europe/north-macedonia
- OSCE in North Macedonia www.osce.org/mission-to-skopje

HEADS UP on WHO FRONT

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

NORTH MACEDONIA STRATEGIC RESPONSE AND ACTION

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

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

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

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

Over the weekend:

- Health workers protection was the focus of the meeting of the Operational Crisis Committee. The State Health and Sanitary Inspectorate shall continue monitoring and sanctioning the non-compliance with the protocols by the health professionals. The Committee urges all donors to redirect their donations to the needs of the health system.

- 160 citizens have completed the 14-day state quarantine in two facilities in Skopje and Demir Kapija – they are asymptomatic and need to spend additional 14 days in home-isolation.
- The 8th September hospital in Skopje and the hospital in Bitola are prepared for hospitalization and treatment of COVID-19 patients. They are equipped with 400 and 35 beds, respectively. In addition, there are 110 beds in CID and 130 beds in the mobile hospital in total. A part of the hospital in Bitola will be designated as a regional center for the patients from that region.
- A Rotation mechanism involving doctors and nurses from various health facilities throughout the country will help support and relieve health personnel dealing with COVID-19 patients.
- 1322 people violated the curfew as of 4 April 2020, out of which 519 are detained, 223 are warned and for the rest additional measures will follow.
- All athletes, professionals and sports administration will receive financial support during the state of emergency. The Government called upon all public institutions and the private sector - employees from Kumanovo who work in other cities to leave work between 14:30-15:00 due to curfew. Maternity and Paternity leaves is extended until lifting the temporary measures for prevention and protection from COVID-19.

COVID-19 UN AND PARTNER COORDINATION

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

- North Macedonia to receive urgent medical equipment with 4 million euros from EU for procurement through UNOPS.
- USAID to support both WHO and WHO with 1.1. million USD in their efforts to fight the epidemic in North Macedonia
- Germany offered support to the Ministry of Health with an amount of USD 2 million in PPE
- OSCE is proposing donation of essential PPE for the COVID19 Center of Infectious Diseases for 30,000 Euros.
- Packages with food and hygiene assets in the amount of 100.000 USD will be allocated to most jeopardized Roma families in Macedonia that are socially and economically hit by the health crisis, announced the Foundation Open Society – Macedonia which donated the funds.
- Macedonian Red Cross supports the elderly and the disabled in shopping and basic needs for hygiene, protection and their livelihood.
- **MOH Solidarity fund is established:** Domestic companies have donated around EUR 500.000 on the account of the Ministry of Health including donations of medical devices, protective equipment and other materials.

The above is not a comprehensive list.

GAPS/NEEDS AND CHALLENGES

The most important priority at this point and in the next 3 months is to ensure that the health system can cope with increasing numbers of cases needing intensive management, protecting the health care workers and ensuring essential social and medical care to the vulnerable.

➤ Critical needs:

- Laboratory Kits and reagents; Personal Protective Equipment (PPE); Mechanical Ventilators/Respirators (respirators from operating rooms are not adapted to need of respiratory diseases and cannot be used for the ICU) ;
- intensifying risk communication;
- socioeconomic relief for vulnerable groups and employment protection.
- Maintaining Essential health and social services
- Protecting health care workers whether those working in the COVID-19 designated facilities or elsewhere countrywide because of the community transmission.
- Mental Health Support to health workers and the public especially the vulnerable ones.

➤ Challenges:

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

IMPORTANT CONTACTS NORTH MACEDONIA: Call Center 0800 002 03;

“Alo Doctor” 02 15 123

Useful Links

WHO [Facebook](#)/[Twitter](#)

MoH [Facebook](#)/[Twitter](#)

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

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

[MoH COVID-19 information](#)

For symptoms related to COVID-19

CPH Bitola 071 261 330

CPH Veles 071 219 278

CPH Gevgelija 071 219 278

CPH Kochani 071 373 913

CPH Kumanovo 070 215 851

CPH Ohrid 070 723 029

CPH Prilep 076 475 747

CPH Skopje 071 289 614

CPH Strumica 072 235 543

CPH Tetovo 075 240 464

RU Gostivar 076 365 161

CPH Shtip 078 365 613

Red Cross mobile teams for elderly support

Red Cross Center 070 297 166

Red Cross Kisela Voda 071 349 225

Red Cross Chair 070 208 383

Red Cross Karpos 071 349 230

Red Cross Gazi Baba

Team for support of homeless people

Foreign Affairs

Regular line 075 446 647

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

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

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

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

IPH Skopje 078 387 194

Psychological support

-Self-isolated adults

072 919 009

-Citizens of municipalities Debar and
Center Zhupa

070 241 807

-adolescents and their parents

078 378 728

-parents of children with disabilities

070291574

-Parents of preschool and school
children 072 912 676

Regular line, Viber and WhatsApp:
070 282 078

WHO WhatsApp messaging service

[New] Text hi to +41 79 893 1892

Text hi to +41 79 412 32 36