



HIGHLIGHTS

In the last 24 hours

- **Tests performed:** 332 SARS-CoV-2 tests and 9.9% tested positive
- **New cases:** 33 new cases were reported
- **Recovered:** 22 COVID-19 patients
- **Fatalities:** 1 new COVID-19 death

Cumulative registered COVID-19 as of 06 May

- The total number of registered COVID-19 cases is 1572 of which 237 (15.1%) are among health workers.
- 18 168 SARS-CoV-2 tests are performed. **1079 COVID-19 patients recovered so far in the country.**
- **Geographic spread and deaths:** COVID-19 cases are registered in 29 cities. Majority of all cases **70% are from three cities Skopje, Kumanovo and Prilep (526, 404 and 167). Almost 71% of all deaths are registered in Kumanovo, Skopje, Struga and Prilep.**
- **Gender distribution:** More women are infected with coronavirus than men (823 and 749 respectively). However, 66% of all deaths are men.
- **Comorbidity:** 75% of death cases
- **Age distribution:**
 - >60-year: 22% of all confirmed COVID-19 cases
 - >60-year: 65% of all deaths.
 - 0-9-year: 54 confirmed COVID-19 cases
 - 10-19-year: 64 confirmed COVID-19 cases

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

total (new) cases in the last 24 hours

North Macedonia

1572 confirmed (33)

89 deaths

1079 recovered

237 health workers

Globally

3 672 238 cases (83 465)

254 045 deaths (6539)

European Region

1 626 037 cases (32209)

150 238 deaths (2458)

Regions of the Americas

1 542 829 cases (35681)

84 804 deaths(3734)

Eastern Mediterranean Region

229 198 cases (7968)

8465 deaths (175)

Western Pacific Region

156 184 cases (1300)

6361 deaths (34)

South-East Asia Region

81 808 cases (4810)

2936 deaths (115)

African Region

35 470 cases (1497)

1228 deaths(23)

WHO RISK ASSESSMENT

Very high in all North Macedonia

Very High Globally

“How to protect ourselves from family violence? Where to seek help?”

The Government supported by the OSCE Mission launched a campaign for prevention and protection from domestic violence during the COVID-19 state of emergency. The goal is to inform the victims of family violence and the general population to recognize all forms of domestic violence, where to turn and report for help and the support services available. More information and access to the campaign materials is available at: <https://vlada.mk/node/21318>.

Yesterday, [WHO, UNICEF and the International Federation of the Red Cross](#) have published guidance for countries on how to maintain community-based health care in the context of COVID-19.

It includes practical recommendations for countries on sustaining essential services at the community level, leveraging community health workers for the response to COVID-19 while keeping them safe, and advice for how to adapt services for specific diseases and age groups. For example, it suggests using telemedicine

wherever possible, and distribute basics and medications at the door of households, instead of asking people to collect them from a central location.

- READ [LATEST NEWS FROM EUROPE](#) IN THE CORRESPONDING SECTION BELOW WITH FOCUS ON [ITALY](#)
- SEE [SUBJECT IN FOCUS – “IMMUNITY PASSPORTS”](#) and [“EASING THE LOCKDOWN”](#)

SURVEILLANCE

Figure 1. North Macedonia – Cumulative confirmed COVID-19 cases (n=1539) and deaths (n=88) by 7 May 2020 20:00

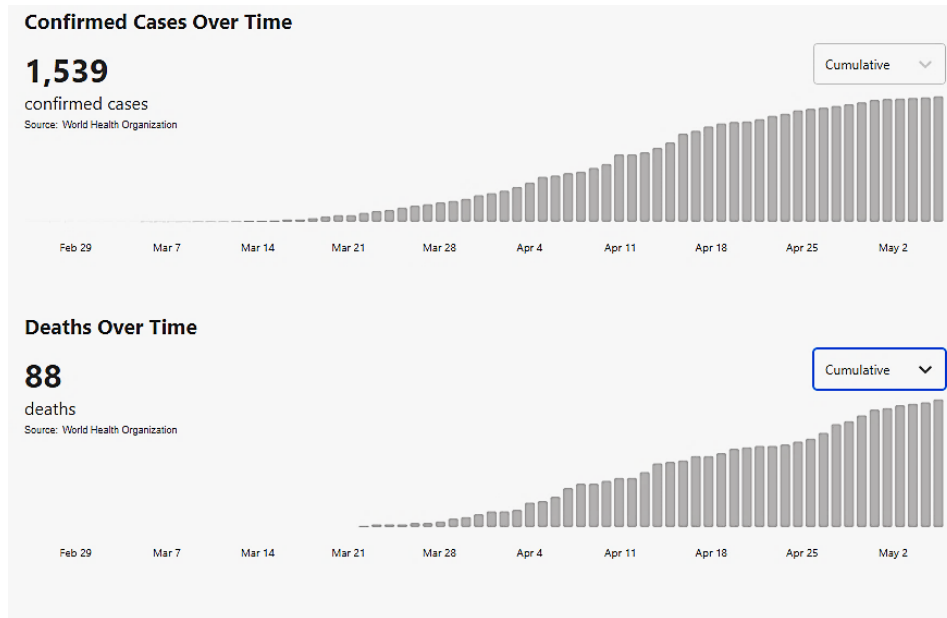
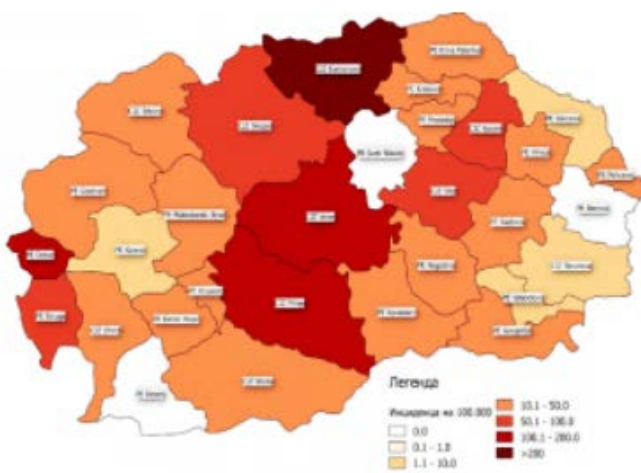


Figure 2. North Macedonia – COVID-19 incidence per 100,000 people, as of 7 May 2020



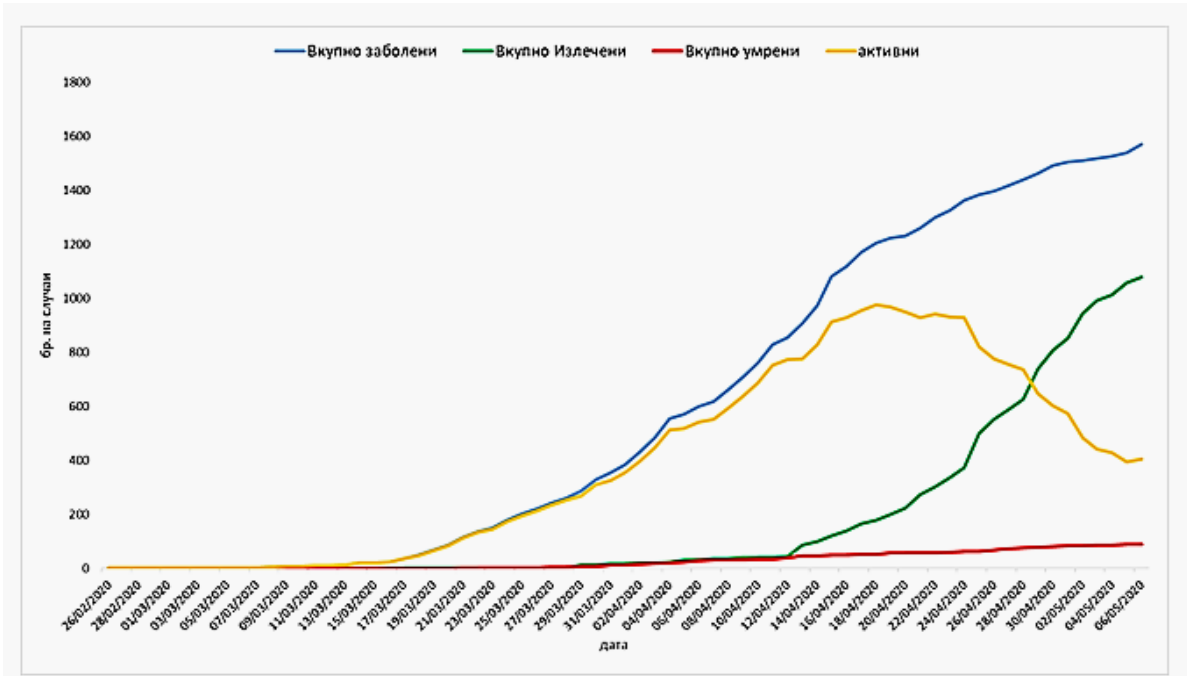
The highest cumulative incidence is in Kumanovo (283.1/100,000 people), followed by Debar (183.8/100,000 people), Prilep (175.2/100,000 people) and Veles (143.4/100,000 people). Four other cities have incidence above 50.0 cases per 100,000 people (Struga, Skopje, Shtip and Kochani).

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 6 May 2020 which includes the cases reported on 7 May 2020 by MoH could be accessed at the www.iph.mk

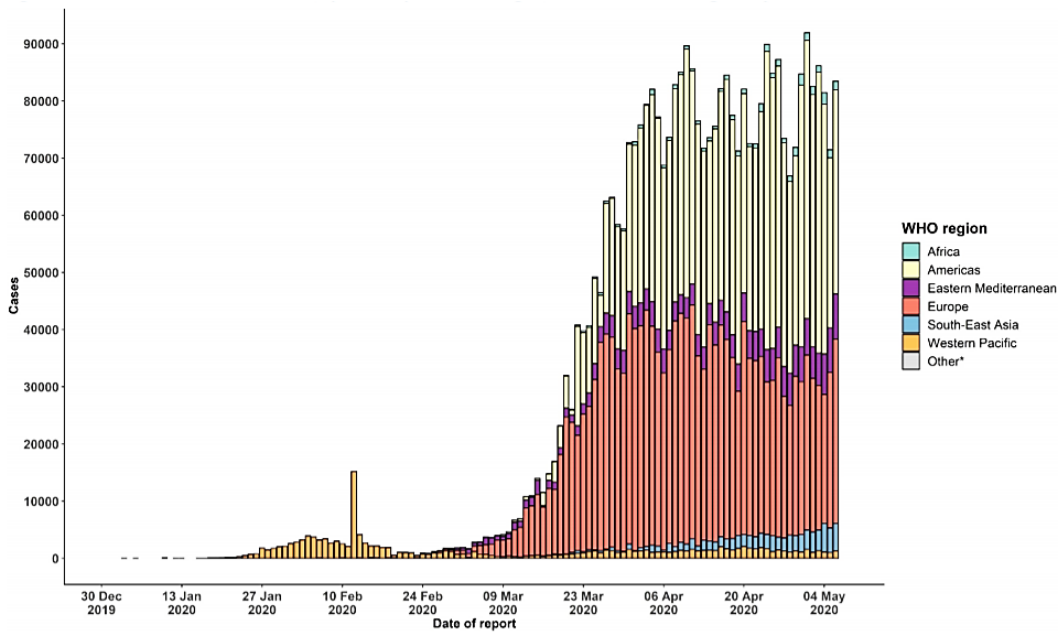
Figure. 3 North Macedonia – COVID-19 statistics as of 7 May (n=1572)

Total number of cases Recovered Deaths Active cases



GLOBAL COVID-19 SITUATION

Epidemic curve of confirmed COVID-19, by date of report and WHO region through 7 May 2020



- **Globally, there have been more than 3.5 Million confirmed cases** of COVID-19 and the **death toll exceeded a quarter of a Million**, as reported to WHO from **215 countries** around the world. With more than 100 countries currently experiencing community transmission.
- Although the number of cases reported from Western Europe is declining, more cases are being reported every day from Eastern Europe, Africa, South-East Asia, the Eastern Mediterranean and the Americas. However, even within regions and within countries there are very divergent trends.
- The most affected WHO regions remain EURO and PAHO. EURO accounts for 44.2% of cases and 59.1% of deaths globally while the **USA alone accounts for 32.4% of cases and 25.6% of deaths.**
- **The 10 countries with the most reported number of cases in past 24 hours: United States of America [1.2 Million cases] , Russian Federation, Brazil, The United Kingdom, India, Turkey, Belarus, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Peru**

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-2019), WHO EUROPE REGION as of 7 May 2020 10:00 CET

- **Today the European Region surpassed the 150,000- death toll mark** with the most deaths occurring in the UK, Italy, Spain and France.
- Since mid-April there has been a stabilizing or decreasing trend in the number of new cases reported per day in the Region. COVID-19 cases continue to increase in Belarus, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and Ukraine.
- The cases in the European Region now are **representing 44% of the global burden** reported to date.
- 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, **59% of the global burden of COVID-19 deaths** (254 045 deaths) **have been reported in the European Region** (150 238 deaths), with **United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, and France each reporting more than 20 000 deaths and jointly accounting for 75% of all deaths in Europe.**
- Another eight countries in the Region reported 1000 deaths or more – Belgium (8339), Germany (7119), Netherlands (5204), Turkey (3584), Sweden (2941), Switzerland (1504), Russian Federation (1625), Ireland (1375), and Portugal (1089);

EUROPE SOCIO/POLITICAL/ECONOMIC SITUATION UPDATE as of 7 May 2020

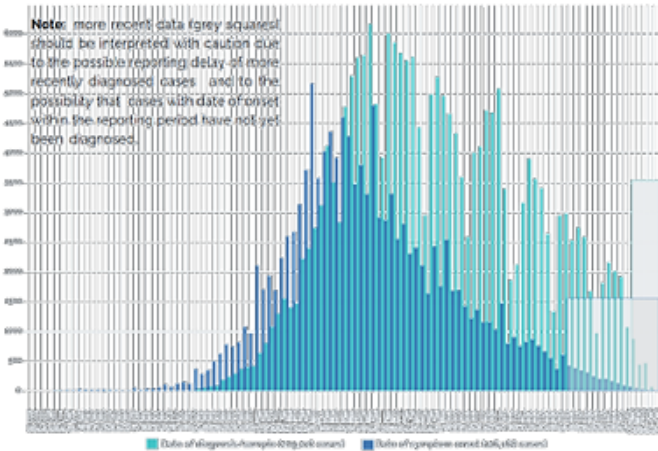
- The **UK published data** showing people from **all minority ethnic groups** apart from Chinese and Mixed are at greater risk of a coronavirus (COVID-19)-related death than the White population, in England and Wales. You can find the report here: [deaths involving COVID-19 up to 10 April and how they vary by ethnicity](#). The analysis looked at different geographical and social factors, such as household overcrowding, multi- person households and education attainment, allowing to account for measures of disadvantage and focus on ethnic variation.
- **Norway and Georgia** will both begin the first phase of their transition out of lockdown on 11 May.
- **France** announced that it will keep **borders closed until at least June 15th.**
- The EU Commission announced that the **EU economy will likely shrink by 7.7% this year** due to COVID-19 and **unemployment could average 9%** across the bloc between 2020-2021. **Greece is likely to be hit the hardest** with a predicted unemployment rate of 19.9%.
- Supranational and multilateral organizations including the European Union, Eurasian Economic Union and the G20 among others, are mobilizing to provide financial aid, use economic levers, address debt vulnerabilities and facilitate discussions.

Focus on Italy (1)

As of 07 May, Italy has reported :

- 212,532 confirmed COVID-19 cases
- 27,402 associated deaths – 12.9% crude case fatality ratio.
- 23,718 health-care worker infections (11.2% of all cases)

6 May 2020 UPDATE



As of 04 May, the number of “active cases” dropped below 100,000 and for the **5th consecutive week new cases were less than in the previous week** (increase factor, IF <1).

Nationally, the daily number of new confirmed cases has slowly decreased since 20 March following a peak of symptomatic cases on 13 March. **The overall positive rate of tests done in Week 18 was ~3.4% compared to 5% in Week 17.**

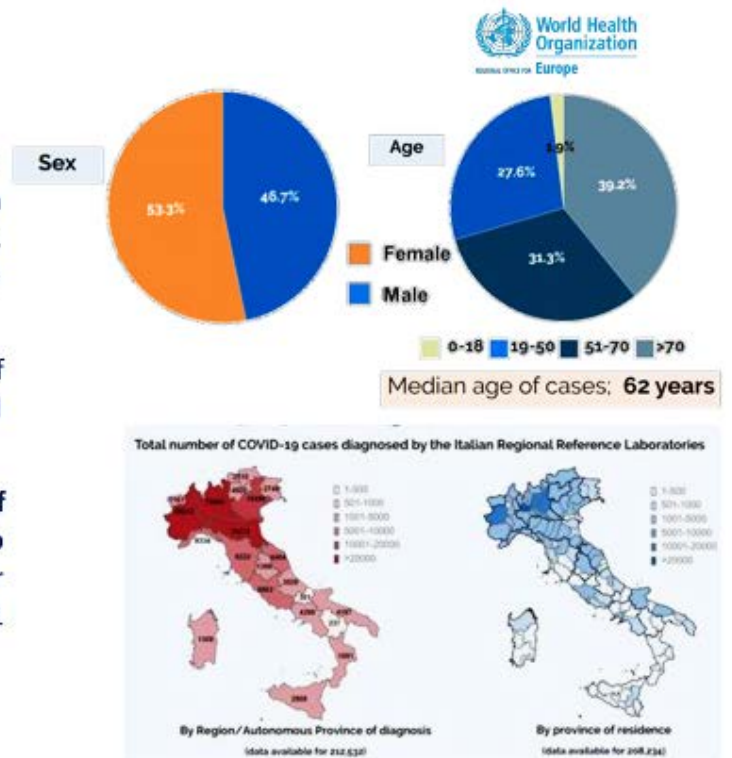
ISS is trying to characterize the latest cases in terms of potential place of exposure. Data from ~10% of cases reported since April 1 (88,000) shows that **50% of were presumably infected in Long Term Care Facilities, 10% in hospital settings and 22% at home.**

Focus on Italy (2)

Cases have been reported in all 21 regions/autonomous provinces however **a majority of cases have been reported by four regions only: Lombardia (40%), Piemonte (12.8), Emilia Romagna (12.5%) and Veneto (8.8%).**

To note, in Week 17 Piemonte accounted for 9% of Italy’s case count and **has now moved to be the second most affected Region in the country in Week 18.**

On 26 April, Italy announced the gradual easing of measures beginning 04 May with the second phase to begin 18 May. On April 30, MoH published criteria for the Regions to consider in order to move from Phase 1 to Phase 2A.



[NEW]: IMMUNITY PASSPORT Q/A WITH DR MARIA VAN KERKHOVE

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h2fffFufPhs&feature=youtu.be>



[NEW] WHAT ABOUT EASING THE LOCKDOWN AND MOBILITY RESTRICTIONS?

From WHO Director-General's opening remarks at the media briefing on COVID-19 - 6 May 2020

As more and more countries consider how to ease so-called lockdown restrictions, I want to reiterate the six criteria that WHO recommends countries consider:

- First, that surveillance is strong, cases are declining, and transmission is controlled;
- Second, that health system capacities are in place to detect, isolate, test and treat every case and trace every contact;
- Third, that outbreak risks are minimized in special settings like health facilities and nursing homes;
- Fourth, that preventive measures are in place in workplaces, schools and other places where it's essential for people to go;
- Fifth, that importation risks can be managed; and
- Sixth, that communities are fully educated, engaged and empowered to adjust to the "new norm".

The risk of returning to lockdown remains very real if countries do not manage the transition extremely carefully, and in a phased approach. The pandemic has highlighted the importance of strong national and sub-national health systems as the foundation of global health security and universal health coverage. Strong and resilient health systems are the best defense not only against outbreaks and pandemics, but also against the multiple health threats that people around the world face every day. And yet, on current trends, more than 5 billion people will lack access to essential health services by 2030 – including the ability to see a health worker, access to essential medicines, and running water in hospitals. Gaps like these don't just undermine the health of individuals, families and communities; they also put global security and economic development at risk. The COVID-19 pandemic will eventually recede, but there can be no going back to business as usual. We cannot continue to rush to fund panic but let preparedness go by the wayside. The world spends around US\$7.5 trillion on health each year – almost 10 percent of global GDP. But the best investments are in promoting health and preventing disease at the primary health care level, which will save lives and save money. Prevention is not only better than cure, it's cheaper, and the smartest thing to do.

As we work on responding to this pandemic, we must also work harder to prepare for the next one. Now is an opportunity to lay the foundations for resilient health systems around the world, which has been ignored for too long. That includes

systems to prepare, prevent and respond to emerging pathogens. If we learn anything from COVID-19, it must be that investing in health now will save lives later.




[who.int](https://www.who.int)

The WHO website has attracted over 1.250 Billion page views and 709 Million visitors from 1 January - 30 April 2020.

Additional statistics of how people are navigating to who.int:

- ✓ 357 million from Google
- ✓ 167 million direct (people typing the web address)
- ✓ 96 million other referrals

[NEW]  A new video timeline of how WHO has responded to COVID-19. [#ProudtobeWHO](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qHksVwOrpbE&feature=youtu.be)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qHksVwOrpbE&feature=youtu.be>

[New] WHAT IS NEW AT WHO?

Regional Director for Europe Press Briefing - During COVID-19 violence remains preventable, not inevitable: online press briefing. The full transcript and video are available [Here](#). **Dr. Kluge's** key messages were:

- The situation remains very fragile and could quickly relapse if the basic measures are not scaled up, their surge maintained and if the transition is not planned carefully and gradually.
- Reports coming from many countries show an increase in interpersonal violence.
- Governments and local authorities should consider it a moral obligation to make sure services to address violence are available and resourced, and expand hotlines and online services.
- The RD encouraged communities and the public to stay in touch, contact and support neighbours, acquaintances, families and friends. Violence is not a private matter – if you see something, say something.
- The RD reminds those experiencing violence it is never their fault. Home should be a secure place and should it be needed, people must get in touch -safely- with family, friends, shelters or community groups.

Health Systems

- A report on [Strengthening the health financing response to COVID-19 in Europe](#) was recently published (available in [ENGLISH](#) and [RUSSIAN](#)). This short paper sets out the key health financing actions countries in Europe can take to reduce the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic as part of a broader health system response.

Vulnerable groups

- A [checklist was launched to support prison administrators and policy-makers](#) for rapid and effective response to COVID-19. This checklist is intended for use by policy-makers and prison administrators to evaluate their level of preparedness to prevent and control COVID-19 in prisons and other places of detention (available [Here](#) and in [RUSSIAN](#))
- A [web survey was developed](#) (available [Here](#)) to support countries in assessing the implementation of the WHO interim guidance on preparedness, prevention and control of COVID-19 in prisons.

Points of entry

- The Online course on **Management of ill travelers at Points of Entry – international airports, seaports and ground crossings – in the context of COVID-19 outbreak** is now available in [RUSSIAN](#).
- The Online course on **Operational considerations for managing COVID-19 cases and outbreaks on board ships** is now available in [RUSSIAN](#).

Public Health and Social Measures

- The **IASC interim Guidance for COVID19 Preparedness and Response Operations in Low Capacity and Humanitarian Settings** has been published. The document was developed by ICRC, IFRC, IOM, NRC, UNICEF, UN-HABITAT, UNHCR, WHO in consultation with IASC members. This Interim Guidance outlines how key public health and social measures needed to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread and the impact of the disease can be adapted for use in low capacity and humanitarian settings. It is intended for humanitarian and development actors of all operational levels working with communities, as well as local authorities involved in COVID-19 preparedness and response operations in these settings, in support of national and local governments and plans.

Technical Guidance

- The **new technical guidance page** is now live and linked to the COVID-19 homepage (available [Here](#)).

COVID-19 and Food Safety

- In commemoration of World Food Safety Day 2020, **FAO and WHO is organizing a webinar on 'Safe Food in Markets'**. The webinar will take place on **13 May 2020** at 16.00 CEST. The webinar can be accessed [Here](#).

COVID-19 Situation update

- The latest **COVID-19 Situation Report – 107** has been published and is available [Here](#)

Learning Resources

- **OpenWHO courses are now available in Bengali, Polish and Urdu**. The most recent translations include:
 - [ePROTECT Respiratory Infections in Arabic](#)
 - [Country preparedness and response in Arabic](#)
 - [SARI Treatment Facility Design in Italian](#)
 - [IPC for COVID-19 in Polish](#)
 - [SARI Treatment Facility Design in Russian](#)

Staff Health and Wellbeing:

- **Digital Walk the Talk!** - Walk the Talk is going to be a virtual event. On 16 & 17 May, everyone is encouraged to get involved and participate from home. A follow-up 'live' event is also being planned in the Autumn. Click [here](#) to learn more about how you can get involved and [register](#) for this year's Walk the Talk - from home.

Other WHO News:

- **A Digital World Health Assembly (WHA) 73 - FOCUS: COVID-19:** The 73rd World Health Assembly later this month will be totally virtual, with the agenda stripped back to fit into just two days. Starting on Monday 18 May and concluding no later than Tuesday 19 May, the session will focus entirely on the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information about the agenda and how delegates will participate, keep an eye out on the [World Health Assembly](#) portal.
- **Digital Health For All Film Festival (just before the WHA):** WHO's inaugural Health for All Film Festival, received nearly 1300 short films from more than 110 countries. Submissions focused on a wide range of health topics including health in communities, health centers, hospitals or at the scientific level. On Tuesday, Dr Tedros will announce LIVE five winners, after that, you'll also have a chance to watch the winning films on YouTube.

When: Tuesday | 12 May | 17:30 CET

Join LIVE in English on WHO's: [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [YouTube](#)

Join here for LIVE translation in [Spanish](#) and [French](#)

Watch a sneak preview here... [video reports](#) | [animations](#) | [Nurses and Midwives](#)

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 **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:
 - Update on tests available for COVID-19 testing
 - Verification and validation processes
 - Recommendations to ensure procurement during scaling up national laboratory capacities for COVID-19

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>

- 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

- As part of the USAID grant to WHO preparatory activities for undertaking of rapid infection prevention and control assessment (IPC assessment) with accent to COVID – 19 for EMS, primary, secondary and tertiary care facilities including long term care for the elderly, palliative care, home-based patronage services, nursing homes and outpatient clinics have been initiated. The assessment will be undertaken in collaboration with the Macedonian Association for Control of Intra - hospital Infection <https://www.mzkihi.mk/index-en>. The assessment will be undertaken by using the WHO IPC assessment tools listed below which **have been translated in Macedonian language**:
 - WHO Infection Prevention and Control Assessment Framework: Health care facility level <https://www.who.int/infection-prevention/tools/core-components/IPCAF-facility.PDF?ua=1>
 - Hospital readiness checklist for COVID-19 http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/430210/Hospital-Readiness-Checklist.pdf?ua=1
 - National IPC assessment tool, Supporting core components for infection prevention and control programmes <https://www.who.int/infection-prevention/tools/core-components/en/>
- **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. 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 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 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 24 HOURS:

➤ **Physical Infrastructure**

- **A new modular hospital was set up next to the Clinic for Infectious Diseases (CID)** with financial support from the Swiss Embassy. This allows doubling the capacities of the Clinic and for the COVID-19. It took two weeks to set it up as a COVID-19 center and in the future it will be used as the Clinic's emergency center, where patients will undergo a triage and be referred to services as per their health condition. It's a facility of more than 1000 square meters with day care, emergency, and triage rooms that are functionally organized according to specific protocols and paths for the personnel and the patients.

- **Twenty monitors, additional 25,000 N95 masks**, 100,000 surgical masks, 750,000 pairs of gloves, 10,000 googles, which are part of the EU assistance, have arrived in the country.
- **Surveillance and Monitoring**
 - The Institute of Public Health and the center of Public Health in Skopje completed plan for SARS-CoV-2 screening to start as of next week for about 400-500 for vulnerable groups including: health workers, kindergarten staff, and nursing / elderly homes in the first phase, and in later phase: members of the police, drivers, employees in public service, patients before hospitalization, and patients needing biological therapy; practically these are categories where it is essential assess the risk and identify asymptomatic carriers. Screening will be done by PCR tests and with the help of the primary care dentists and supported by president of the Dental Association .
 - 55 000 people have downloaded the application “StopKorona”. The aim of the app is to facilitate the contact tracing by the epidemiologists.
- **Health workforce**
 - 197 of the 237 health professionals infected with coronavirus have recovered and most of them have returned to work.
- **Testing**
 - About 400-500 PCR tests will be performed as part of the screening initiative of the MoH among people 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) and will be conducted by the GPs and primary health care dentists.
- **Socioeconomic measures and impact**
 - Around 2 000 new applications are submitted to the Ministry for Labor and Social Policy for guaranteed minimum income and social welfare.
 - The total number of unemployed citizens concluding with 30 April 2020 is 114,762, and is by 7,030 increased compared to the previous month.
 - Between 11 March and 30 April, since the first proclamation of a state of emergency in the country, the Employment Agency has registered 8,160 new unemployed citizens who have applied for financial contributions as recently unemployed due to the COVID-19 crisis. Of these, 4,279 reported with expired temporary employment agreements, 1,987 with mutual agreement with their employers for ending of their service, 853 were dismissed by their employers, 597 voluntarily quit their jobs, 199 were dismissed due to business reasons, 68 were dismissed as a result of liquidation of the company they worked for, 37 were dismissed because the companies they worked in were shut down, and 140 for other reasons. Majority of the new unemployed citizens (34.4 %) come from the processing industry, 20.9 % are from the retail trade industry and 15.2 % from the food production and processing industry. Of the total number of unemployed citizens, majority are registered in Skopje (20,916), while the smallest number is in the municipality of Kratovo (638). Almost half of the unemployed citizens are women, and when it comes to age, majority of the unemployed citizens are aged between 55 and 59 years (14,947), while 21,424 are from the young group between 19 and 29.
 - The software development company “TechPack” to offer free of charge software solutions and services to micro, small and medium companies affected by the COVID-19 crisis.
 - The Association for E-trade of Macedonia (AETM), supported by the Fund for Innovations and Technological Development (FITD) as part of the “CREATON” public call for software solutions, has created an online platform “Digital Services for All” for digital services for all citizens while they are staying at home due to the COVID-19 crisis. The platform contains three groups of tools: the first one allows the citizens to attend educational and cultural events, or to work from home, the second group contains all e-shops that function in Macedonia, while the third group gathers all online platforms for payment of bills and other services provided by public enterprises in the country.

- The sale of flats and other real estates has decreased in the first quarter of 2020. Between January and March 2020 the Agency for Real Estate registered sale of 4,953 flats, of which only 719 newly constructed ones, 162 less than the same period in 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]*

- **Swiss Ambassador** donated a new modular hospital that was set up next to the Clinic for Infectious Diseases. The modules were procured and set up with the financial support from the Swiss Embassy, thus doubling the capacities of the Clinic and for the COVID-19. It took two weeks to set it up as a COVID-19 center and later as the Clinic's emergency center, where patients will undergo a triage and referred to services as per their health condition. It's a facility of more than 1000 square meters. This was possible through Swiss cooperation with the Ministry of Self-Governance, the project "Sustainable and Inclusive Balanced Regional Development".
- **The European Investment Bank (EIB)** Group will provide €1.7 billion to support the social and economic recovery of the Western Balkans (WB) from the COVID-19 pandemic. This is part of the €3.3 billion financial support package for the region announced on 29 April by the European Commission and follows the Team Europe efforts to support the Western Balkans.
- **The EU assistance** of monitors and PPE have arrived in the country. The total value the EU support to the country to help tackle the COVID-19 crisis is estimated at EUR 3.2 million.
- The **Secretariat of European Affairs of North Macedonia** is to support the Institute of Public Health increase its testing capacities.

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




[who.int](https://www.who.int)

The WHO website has attracted over 1.250 Billion page views and 709 Million visitors from 1 January - 30 April 2020.

Additional statistics of how people are navigating to who.int:

- ✓ 357 million from Google
- ✓ 167 million direct (people typing the web address)
- ✓ 96 million other referrals

[NEW]  A new video timeline of how WHO has responded to COVID-19. [#ProudtobeWHO](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qHksVwOrpbE&feature=youtu.be)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qHksVwOrpbE&feature=youtu.be>

WHO Department of Communications invites you to a Virtual Conference

Topic: COVID-19 and a focus on commemoration of the 40th anniversary of smallpox eradication

Date: 8 MAY 2020; Time: 1700 CEST (Geneva time) and we will update the time if necessary.

Speakers:

- Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General
- Dr Gassan Souleimanov, Medical epidemiologist, Martinovsky Institute of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine, Moscow.
- Dr David Heymann, Professor of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and Distinguished Fellow, Global Health Security at Chatham House, London
- Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa

Related link:

Commemorating the 40th Anniversary of Smallpox Eradication

<https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2020/05/08/default-calendar/commemorating-the-40th-anniversary-of-smallpox-eradication>

Join the Virtual Press Conference: <https://who.zoom.us/j/97889657380>; Password: 1948*0407W



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How has WHO responded to COVID-19