



COVID-19 in North Macedonia - Update 63

In **North Macedonia**, from **Feb 26** to **3 July 2020, 16:00 CEST**, there have been **6,787 confirmed cases** of COVID-19 with **328 deaths**.

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Globally, over 10.5M cases, including over 500,000 deaths have been reported to WHO from 216 countries. The European Region continues to account for a decreasing share of the global burden with 26% of all cases and 39% of all deaths.

NORTH MACEDONIA COVID-19 EPI SITUATION

Over the last 72 hours – Data as of 3 July 2020 16:00

- **Daily tests performed (% positive):** 4061 (1454 (11.3%), 1653 (10.5%), 954 (12.6%) on Friday, Thursday and Wednesday respectively).
- **New cases:** **458** (165, 173 and 120 new cases registered on each day, respectively)
- **Recovered:** 401 COVID-19 patients
- **Fatalities:** **28 new COVID-19 deaths**

Cumulative registered COVID-19 as of 3 July – **6787** – [see daily curve](#)

- **Tests performed:** **64 837** SARS-CoV-2 tests. Daily testing capacity is from 800-1200 tests
- **Patients recovered:** **2876** (42.3%) COVID-19 patients.
- **Active cases:** **3583** (52.8%) COVID-19 active cases
- **Fatalities:** **328** COVID-19 fatalities (CFR 4.8%) are registered.
- **Hospitalizations as of 2 July:** 90 patients are hospitalized at the Clinic for Infectious Diseases of which 44 are on oxygen support and no patients are on respirator. 26 adult COVID-19 patients, 6 COVID-19 children are hospitalized in Kozle Hospital. 123 patients are hospitalized in 8 September Hospital of which 8 are on respirator. 39 patients are hospitalized in the Hospital in Bitola and 36 in Shtip. 87 patients (confirmed and suspect cases) are hospitalized at the infectious diseases department in Tetovo, Ohrid, Veles, Kumanovo and Prilep.

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Figure 1. North Macedonia – Daily confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths and deaths by 3 July 2020

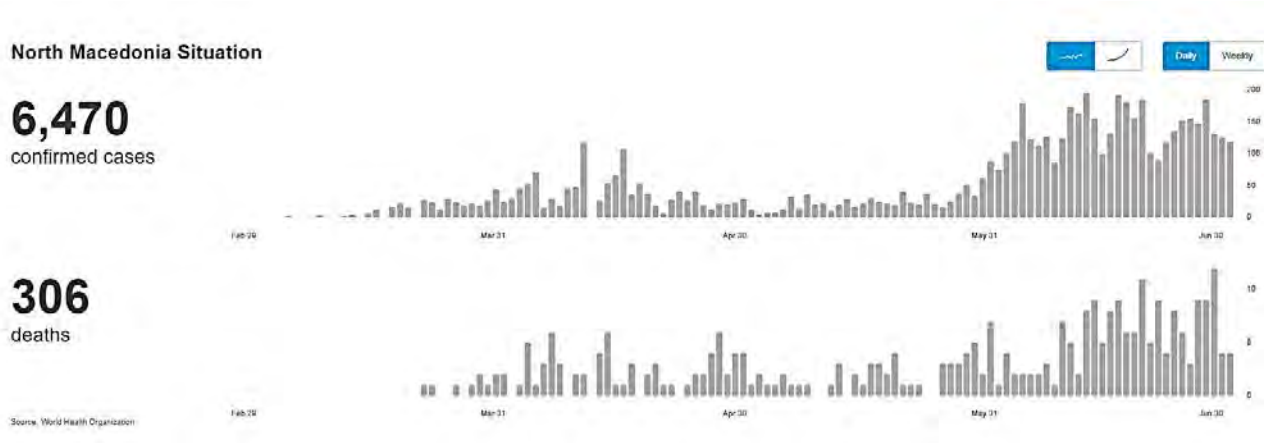
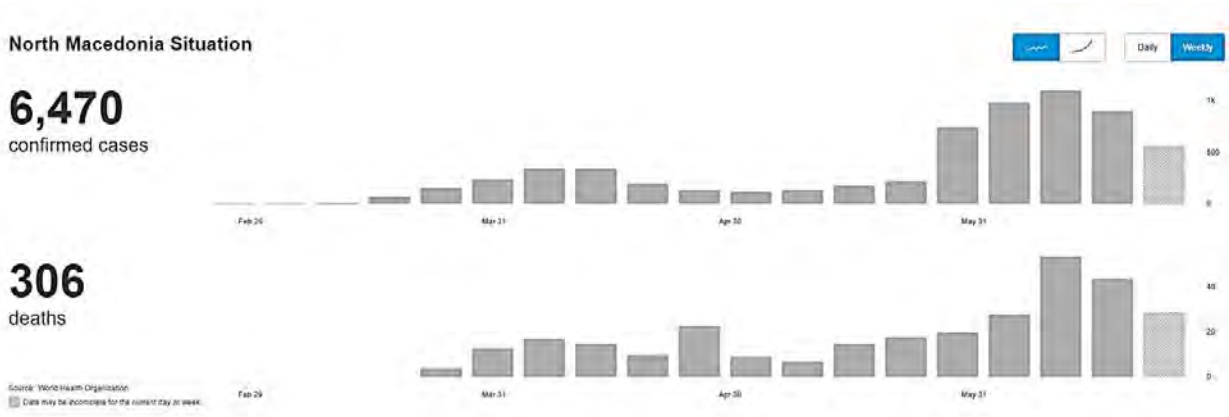


Figure 2. North Macedonia – Weekly confirmed cases and deaths by 3 July 2020



North Macedonia – COVID-19 incidence per 100,000 people, per city, as of 2 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 3208 cases (48%)**.

The **highest cumulative incidence per 100,000 inhabitants is registered in Resen (678.8 / 100,000), Shtip (674.0 / 100,000), Kumanovo (538.9 / 100,000), Skopje (519.4 / 100,000), Debar (367.5 / 100,000), Tetovo (361.9 / 100,000), Struga (356.7 / 100,000) and Ohrid (320.8 / 100,000)** while an incident rate with over 150 patients per 100,000 inhabitants was registered in **Veles, Prilep, Sveti Nikole and Kochani**. **68% 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=196) was reported on 13 June 2020.
- The highest number of cases is registered in Week 25 (n=1035).

☹️ % Change of 14-day Cumulative Death Incidence is **▲52 %**

☹️ % Change of 14-day Cumulative COVID-19 Case Incidence is **●4 %**

☹️ Effective Reproduction Number - 1 (0.9 – 1.1) Clusters phase

Past 14-day incidence per 100,000 population: 95.0
 Past 7-day incidence per 100,000 population: 49.9

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NORTH MACEDONIA COVID-19 HEALTH RESPONSE – in past 72 hours

Test, Trace and Isolate

- **Eight mosques are temporarily closed in Kichevo** due to COVID-19 as the imam of one of the town's mosques tested positive.
- The Health Minister and the Association of Journalists agreed to implement **free of charge COVID-19 screening among journalists and media workers**. The goal is to test 500 journalists and media workers in the first 3-day phase and depending on the outcomes a second phase will be planned.

Maintaining Essential Health Services

- The Government adopted the Action Plan for free vaccination of risk groups for the 2020/2021 season according to which the **number of people to be covered with the flu vaccine increases from 20 000 to 60 000 people** from the following risk groups: adults over 65 years old, people with chronic health conditions, health workers, pregnant women and children from 6 months to 5 years old.

Case Management

- **COVID-19 patients admitted to the Infectious Diseases Clinic in Skopje are no longer put on respirators**. "The experience of the clinic and what is happening on a global scale has shown that such treatment does not give good results in the treatment of COVID-19 patients and in most cases the patients die. Instead of respirators, patients are now put on a ventilation mechanism with the help of masks. This way of treatment requires even greater engagement of the health staff because the health condition of the patient should be constantly monitored and reacted with appropriate therapy if a change occurs".

Physical Infrastructure

- **The past few days have seen a fewer number of COVID-19 hospital admissions compared to ten days ago** when there was a large number of patients admitted and no patients being discharged declared the Health Minister. On Tuesday, for the first time in a while, the number of hospital discharges at the Clinic for Infectious Diseases was higher than the number of hospital admissions.

Public Health Measures

- On June 30th, the Government adopted the Protocol on the operation of museums, galleries and exhibition spaces, the Protocol for implementation of measures for protection from COVID-19 in organizing events, promoters, rental companies, video and audio productions and technical support of these events, Protocol for enrollment of students in public dormitories in the academic year 2020/2021, Protocol for the work of dances and ballet clubs and Protocol for intercity transport.
- On June 30th, the Government decided to **terminate the ban on sports competitions in collective sports with a strict compliance to the preventative measures and without audience**.

Law Enforcement

- Thirteen charges were filed over a wedding held in the Skopje's municipality Chair during the curfew in mid-June.
- The Interior Ministry is proposing charges against the man who tried to forcibly take the body of his mother, who died from COVID-19, from the 8th September hospital. The man came armed and accompanied by his relatives and threatened a doctor demanding that the body of his mother is given without the necessary precautionary measures or autopsy. The man was also ordered into quarantine, as he was also infected with the virus. Several police units had to be dispatched to the hospital to prevent a more serious incident. The Minister of Health condemned the attack on the doctor emphasizing that it is discrediting all health workers who have been fighting for every human life for more than 4 months.
- As of 30 June 2020, over 24 000 citizens were fined or cited for not wearing a mask.

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Behavior Insights

- **A new poll conducted by the National Democratic Institute (NDI) show that the economic development is a priority for the citizens, and they remain concerned about COVID-19.** Economy/living standard in general and employment are most important for one-third of the respondents. Nearly a quarter say that COVID-19 is their biggest concern.
- According to a survey by the **Macedonian Center for International Cooperation and TV Telma**, conducted between June 16 and 21, 2020 on 1,003 respondents, **reforms in the health and education systems are priority for the people, 32% of the respondents put the health system in the first place, 23% gave priority to education, and in the third place is the fight against corruption (12%).** "The results are surprising given previous research in which, in the first few places, there were existential issues such as employment, poverty or the economy", the study concluded.

Borders and Travel

- The Infectious Diseases Committee is actively monitoring the epidemiological situation with the COVID-19 in the region and neighboring countries and will be deciding on about closing borders with Serbia and Kosovo.
- The Hungarian airline provider "Wizz Air" restarts airlines from Skopje and Ohrid to Salzburg, Brussels, Copenhagen, Hamburg, Munich, Budapest, Milan, Rome, Stockholm, Oslo, Barcelona and others. From "Wizz Air" they also inform that they have upgraded their online registration system, which allows passengers to purchase more services online in order to avoid direct physical contacts with employees, thus avoiding the possibility for transmission of the coronavirus.

Migrants and Refugees

- On 30 June, the government announced it was introducing 'crisis measures' on its borders with Greece and Serbia, citing increasing numbers of migrants entering the country. Starting 2 July, the state of crisis will last for 30 days, with the option of extension. It allows the deployment of the army to assist police in controlling the borders. The government is preparing an action plan for the prevention and management of entry and transiting of migrants, as well as an overview of the personnel and material resources.

NORTH MACEDONIA COVID-19 SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACT AND RESPONSE

- The realisation of total revenue in June 2020 is significantly better than the projected 20 % decrease and is only 9.6 % lower compared to June 2019 according to Finance Ministry data. Personal income tax revenue is also on the rise, registering a positive growth rate of 1.7% in June, after the -11.7 % in April and -25.7 % in May. Total expenditures stand at 113 billion denars, a 9.9 % increase at annual level. This is due to 5.4 billion denars, i.e. 88 million euros for support of citizens and companies affected by COVID-19. More than half of expenditures' increase is due to COVID-19 programs and the rest due to higher pensions, welfare, and increased salaries in the health and education sectors according to the Finance Ministry data. Regarding public debt, at the end of the first quarter of 2020 it amounted 50.7 % of the country's GDP, but an increase is expected considering the loans realized because of the COVID-19 pandemic. At the end of May the public debt reached 53.3 % of GDP, mainly because of the loans from the International Monetary Fund in amount of 176 million euros, as well as the recently issued Eurobond.
- **The Public Revenue Office (PRO) has registered a decrease in the payment of taxes for June 2020 of 6.7 %.** The total incomes from taxes in June 2020 amount 5.2 billion denars. A decrease of 17.3 % is registered in the payment of profit tax, payment of value-added tax decreased by 7.5 % and the gross incomes decreased by 1.7 %, whereas the payment of personal income tax increased by 1.8 %.
- Deputy PM for Economic Affairs discussed with the representatives from labour organisations, state inspectorates and the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy the protection of workers' rights in time of COVID-19 pandemic, calling upon all employees who face violation of their rights to report the cases to the

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authorities.

- **The number of sheep decreased due to COVID-19:** Shepherds around Macedonia complain that the production of lamb and the number of sheep in their sheepfolds is decreasing because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Statistical data reveal that in the past few years the number of sheep in the country has decreased by around 70,000, which by extension has decreased the production of lamb. In meantime, the government provides subsidies in total of 2,500 denars per female lamb in order to assist shepherds. In 2020 around 140 lambs were exported to other countries, which by number is less than in 2019, but due to the greater weight of the lambs, the total amount remains nearly as equal as 2020.
- **The Latest reports of the National Bank of Macedonia (NBRM) reveal that the reduction of the external claims resulted in increase of the net external debt at the end of March 2020.** At the end of the first quarter of 2020, the gross external debt, excluding the effect of the specific activities for managing the foreign reserves of the central bank, amounted to 8,1 million euros and registered a quarterly fall of 64 million euros. The gross external claims, excluding the effect of the specific activities of the central bank, decreased by 195 million euros and amounted to 5,2 million euros. The larger quarterly decrease in claims against liabilities increased the net external debt by 130 million euros, and at the end of March 2020 it amounted to 2,9 million euros. Thus, the increase in the net external debt in the first quarter arises from the increased private and public net debt.
- **According to the State Statistical Office data, the index of the number of employees in industry in May 2020, in comparison with May 2019, was 94.9.** The number of employees in industry in the section Mining and quarrying in May 2020, in comparison with May 2019, decreased by 0.9 %, in the section Manufacturing it decreased by 5.6 % and in the section Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply it decreased by 0.4 %. The number of employees in industry by Main Industrial Groupings in May 2020, in comparison with May 2019, was lower in Energy by 0.4 %, Intermediate goods, except energy by 6.1 %, Capital goods by 2.7 %, Durable consumer goods by 8.5 % and Non-durable consumer goods by 6.1 %. The index of the number of employees in industry in the period January - May 2020, in comparison with January - May 2019, was 95.8.
- According to the preliminary data of the State Statistical Office, in May 2020, in comparison with May 2019, **the turnover in retail trade decreased** in the following groups/classes: Retail sale of food, beverages and tobacco (by 13.8 % in nominal terms and 15.6 % in real terms), Retail sale of non-food products, except fuel (by 13.2 % in nominal terms and 13 % in real terms), and Retail trade, except automotive fuel (by 13.5 % in nominal terms and 14.3 % in real terms) and Retail trade of automotive fuel (by 47.8 % in nominal terms and 29.2 % in real terms).

SUPPORT TO NORTH MACEDONIA COVID-19 EMERGENCY

- With the delivery of 20 monitors for intensive care patients, 20 pulse oximeter sensors with monitors and 25,000 COVID-19 tests to the Ministry of Health, the European Union has completed the delivery of the support worth 4 million EUR for procurement of urgent medical equipment and supplies.

HIGHLIGHTS OF WHO NORTH MACEDONIA ACTION IN COVID-19 TIMES

- The WHO Regional Office for Europe and ECDC is organizing a weekly laboratory workshop on 6 July 2020 to discuss questions related to the COVID-19 virus laboratory work and to exchange information. This week topic is: The SARS-CoV-2 molecular point of care diagnostics landscape, by *Frank Konings, Ph.D., WHO/HQ COVID-19 IMST, WHO/EMRO Regional Advisor*
- WHO translated and adapted in Macedonian and Albanian language social media materials (info graphics and videos) on Social media myth buster, How to wear a medical mask safely, How to wear non-medical mask safely, Preventing COVID-19 in your workplace and Heat and Health

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#Keepcool in the heat!

Во текот на епидемијата на КОВИД-19 не паничете.

ИЗБЕГНУВАЈТЕ ИЗЛОЖENОСТ НА СОНЦЕ ИЛИ НА ТЕМПЕРАТУРИ ПОВСОКИ ОД 25°C, БИДЕЈЌИ ТОВА НИТУ ГО СПРЕЧУВА НИТУ ГО ЛЕКУВА КОВИД-19.

МОЖНОСТА ДА СЕ ЗАРАЗИТЕ СО КОВИД-19 ПОСТОИ, БЕЗ РАЗЛИКА КОЛКУ ВРЕМЕТО Е СОНЧЕВО ИЛИ ТОПЛО.

ЗАШТИТЕТЕ СЕ СО РЕДОВНО МИЕЊЕ РАЦЕ И ИЗБЕГНУВАЊЕ ДОПИР НА ЛИЦЕТО.

Како да бидеме сигурни дека новиот корона вирус не се шири преку облеката и постелнината?

Не носете нечиста ткаенина или облека врз Вашето тело. Исперете ја во жешка вода (меѓу 60 и 90C) користејќи детергент за перење или сапун.

Ако можете, додадете и варикина. Прочитајте ги и применете ги упатствата на производот. Сушете во машина за сушење на висока температура или пак на директна сончева светлина.

World Health Organization
Western Pacific Region

#COVID19
25 Feb 2020

Луѓето кои се дијагностицирани со КОВИД-19 заслужуваат поддршка и нега. Треба да им се помогне на истите да комуницираат со нивните најблиски по телефон, видео или праќање пораки, бидејќи сè ова за нив значи многу во текот на самата изолација.

ПОБРЗО ЗАКРЕПНУВАЊЕ!

#MentalHealth #COVID19 #coronavirus

World Health Organization
Western Pacific Region

КАКО БЕЗБЕДНО СЕ НОСИ НЕМЕДИЦИНСКА ПЛАТНЕНА МАСКА

Корисно

Штетно

World Health Organization

SI TË VENDOSËT NË MËNYRË TË SIGURT MASKA MEDICINALE

Bëni

Mos bëni

World Health Organization

SI TË VENDOSËT NË MËNYRË TË SIGURT MASKA MEDICINALE


Mos bëni

Mos harroni se një maskë e vetme nuk mund t'ju mbrojtë nga COVID-19; Mbani të paktën një metër distancë nga të tjerët dhe lani duart shpesh dhe tërësisht, madje edhe kur mbani maskë.

World Health Organization

3/7/2020

Како треба да се мијат овошјето и зеленчукот во време на КОВИД-19?




Мијте ги на истиот начин на кој сте го правеле тоа во вообичаени околности.

Пред да го направите ова, измијте си ги рацете со сапун и вода.

Потоа, темелно измијте го овошјето и зеленчукот со чиста вода, особено ако ги конзумирате свежи.

17 April 2020

#Coronavirus #COVID19



EUROPE COVID-19 SITUATION AS OF 3 JULY 2020; WWW.COVID19.WHO.INT

EPI Situation

Over the past 7 days, cumulative cases across the Region **increased 5.5% to 2,725,957 cases** (from 2,631,917 cases on 26 June) and cumulative deaths **increased by 2% to 199,029 deaths** (from 195,635 deaths on 26 June).

- Overall the situation in the European Region remains stable - **with a 50% decrease in weekly cases and 87% decrease in deaths since week 14 - the situation however remains fragile** as the number of countries reporting a resurgence of cases, following the adjustment of public health and social measures throughout May and June, continues to grow.
- Serbia is experiencing a resurgence in cases after relaxing restrictions in early June, after weeks of maintaining relatively low incidence. **Several towns are now considered "COVID-19 hotspots" with some of the worst-affected areas reintroducing a state of emergency**, with further measures expected to be implemented nationwide as of 6 July.

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

- **>100%** - Montenegro (2,046%), Croatia (2,823%), Kazakhstan (586%), Luxembourg (375%), Kyrgyzstan (366%), Slovakia (283%), Slovenia (281%), Iceland (240%), Israel (172%), Bosnia & Herzegovina (160%), Czech Republic (165%), Switzerland (149%), Serbia (147%)
- **40-99%** - Austria (93%), Uzbekistan (77%), Kosovo [1] (57%), Azerbaijan (53%), Bulgaria (51%), Romania (47%), Albania (46%), Ukraine (31%)
- **<40%** - Germany (36%), France (25%), Spain (14%), Armenia (11%), Turkey (10%)

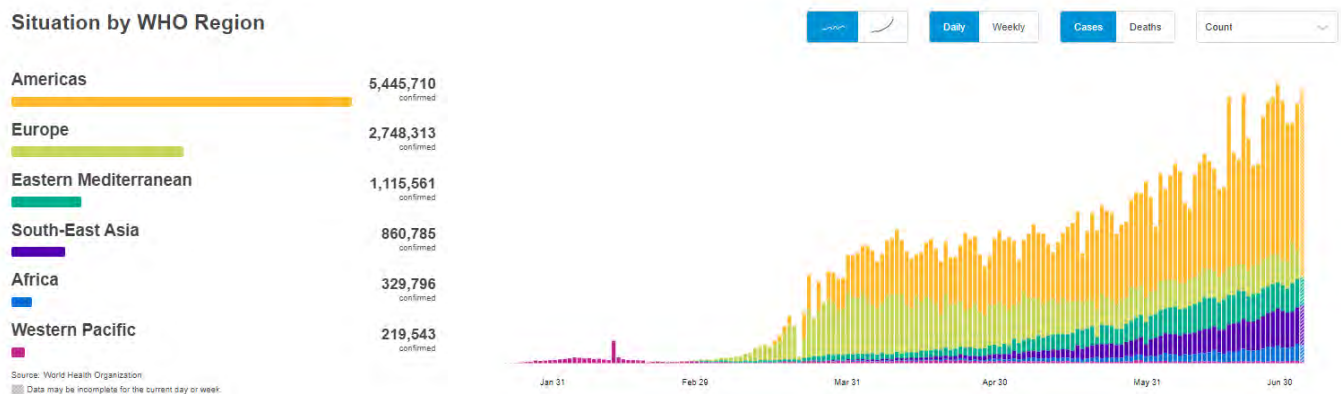
Socio/Political/Economic

- On 2 July, the **Swedish Prime Minister ordered an inquiry** into the country's COVID-19 response strategy.
- **OCHA** released the first progress report for the [Global Humanitarian Response Plan](#) (GHRP) for COVID-19 on 3 July highlighting the operational context, reflecting field adaptations for humanitarian aid delivery; global logistics support; and the impact of COVID-19 on gender-based violence.
- The United States has reportedly bought nearly all available global supplies of anti-viral drug remdesivir. The US Department of Health Services (HHS) announced on 29 June it had secured more than 500 000 treatment courses of remdesivir from drug maker Gilead Sciences for US hospitals until September 2020
- As of 29 June, there were **149 candidates vaccines for COVID-19**: 17 in clinical trials and 132 in pre-clinical trials

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- **WHO EURO** is currently working to ship nearly 3 tons of PPE and essential supplies to 9 countries in the Region

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



Situation in numbers (by WHO Region)

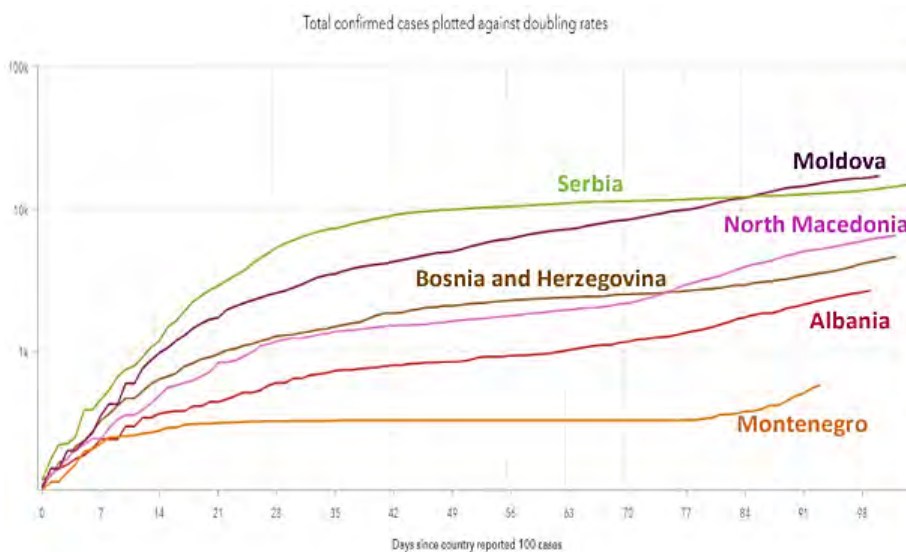
Total (new cases in last 24 hours)

Region	Cases (new in last 24 hours)	Deaths (new in last 24 hours)
Globally	10 533 779 cases (176 102)	512 842 deaths (4 787)
Africa	318 432 cases (11 638)	6 340 deaths (148)
Americas	5 317 792 cases (99 202)	252 340 deaths (3 022)
Eastern Mediterranean	1 096 565 cases (19 139)	25 517 deaths (547)
Europe	2 747 810 cases (19 736)	198 405 deaths (531)
South-East Asia	833 735 cases (24 829)	22 769 deaths (534)
Western Pacific	218 704 cases (1 558)	7 458 deaths (5)

*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](#)

WESTERN BALKAN DOUBLING RATES OF NEW CASES as of 2 July 2020



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

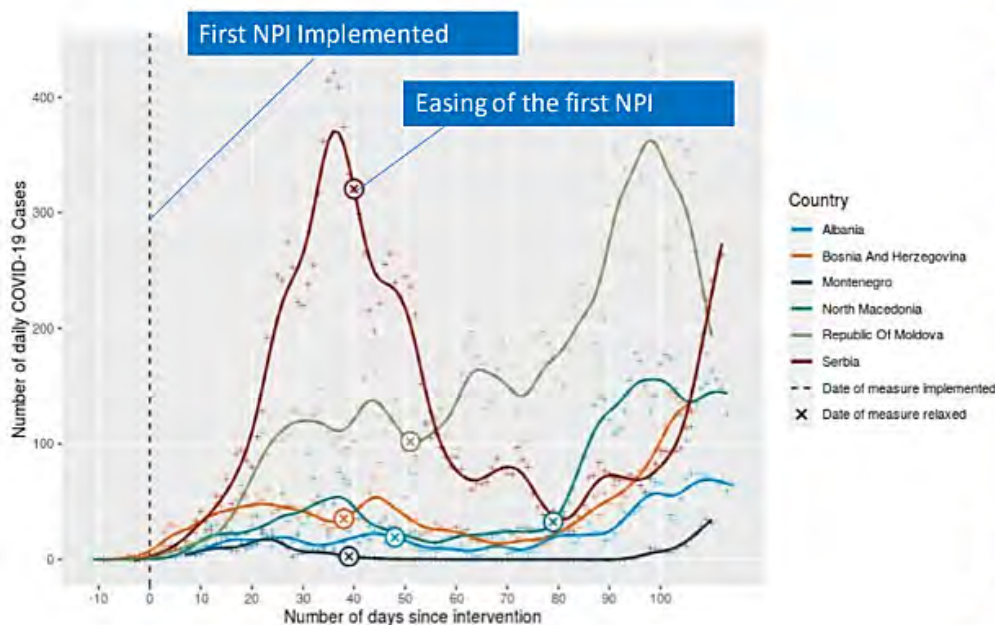
A peak of cases was observed in in mid-April and mid-June.

COVID-19 transmission in all countries has increased, with a >9% increase in new cases over the past two weeks. Serbia, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina have seen the most significant increases in new cases in the past two weeks - 120%, 2,600% and 149% respectively.

The doubling rates across the Balkan Hub have increased, and effective control measures must be strengthened and countries must be ready to reintroduce physical and social distancing measures at sub-national levels.

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WESTERN BALKAN EPI-CURVES IN RELATION WITH NON-PHARMACEUTICAL INTERVENTIONS (NPI), as of 2 July 2020



NPIs were implemented across all countries in the Balkan Hub, and with the exception of Serbia and Moldova, each saw stable trends in new cases for ~10-25 days following the implementation.

All countries have since begun adjusting NPIs to varying degrees and timeframes:

- Majority of the countries began adjusting measures 40-50 days after implementing the first NPI.
- Serbia was the first to adjust NPIs - 40 days after the intervention was first implemented.
- North Macedonia was last among the Balkan Hub Countries to ease NPIs - nearly 80 days after measures were first implemented.

Following the adjustment of NPIs, all countries have seen significant increases in new COVID-19 cases – particularly in **Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and North Macedonia.**

WESTERN BALKAN OVERVIEW as of 2 July 2020

- **Albania** has reported an increasing daily trend with a 53% increase in the number of new cases over the past two weeks – in total 2,192 cases have been reported. During week 26, the daily trend of COVID-19 cases has been increasing, from 69 to 71 cases, compared to week 25. **The number of districts / municipalities that have reported new cases also increased from 4 to 14 municipalities.**
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina** has seen an increasing trend as of late May, with 149% increase in new cases over the past two weeks. **The most affected region/city is Banja Luka, with 730 cases (16.44%), followed by Sarajevo canton, with 315 cases (7.09%).** International airports opened for international flights as of 01 June, with Tuzla International airport operating more than 10 destinations daily and Sarajevo International airport 5 destinations daily.
- **Serbia** has reported 14,564 total cases with a 120% increase in the number of new cases seen over the past two weeks. **On 29 June, the COVID-19 Crisis Response Team adopted new measures to prevent the spread of the coronavirus and protect the health of citizens.** Taking into account the different epidemiological situation in different cities, it was decided that the measures will be gradually adopted in certain cities, which can be made stricter at any moment if they are not respected or prove to be insufficiently effective. Starting from 30 June, the use of masks on public transport and in all closed spaces is obligatory in Belgrade, without any exception.
- **North Macedonia** has reported 6,350 total cases with a 9% increase in new cases over the past two weeks. **Based on the recommendations of the Commission for Infectious Diseases, as of 26 June the Government decided to fully open all border crossings** for unimpeded movement of passengers and vehicles without attaching PCR tests, and without reference to domestic isolation or implementation in mandatory state quarantine.
- **The Republic of Moldova** has reported an increase in the number of new cases since the end of May with a 18% increase over the past two weeks - although incidence in the past week seems to be steadily decreasing. **However, the Public Health Emergency was extended until 15 July.** Cases are being reported from 37 administrative territories (35 districts, 2 municipalities and Transnistria region). The most affected territories are, Chisinau, Balti, Orhei.
- **Montenegro** – after declaring the country to be COVID-19 free following 40 days with no cases, **an increase in new cases has been reported as of 15 June – with a high of 47 cases reported on 1 July and a 2,600% increase in new cases over the past two weeks.**

COVID-19 VACCINE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Key Updates:

- Global development efforts continue at unprecedented speed and scale to find a safe and effective vaccine. **One candidate vaccine (Oxford University) is in phase 3 trial.**
- ACT Accelerator vaccines pillar aims for 2 billion doses of a vaccine to be available for priority groups by end of 2021 (in addition to 1 billion to be procured by self-financing high-income countries and upper middle-income countries through the COVAX Facility). **On 26 June:** the ACT Accelerator investment case and pillar plans was announced. WHO and partners are developing an allocation framework, but countries need to agree and come to a consensus for equitable distribution to work. Some individual countries have also secured hundreds of millions of doses from individual manufacturers. GAVI has secured 700 million doses.

Candidate vaccines:

- As of 29 June 2020, there were **149 potential vaccine candidates:** 17 in clinical evaluation and 132 in the preclinical phase.
- One vaccine candidate has entered phase 3 clinical trials (ChAdOx1, Univ. of Oxford/AstraZeneca) See table.

WHO role in development – Update

- **Coordinating vaccine trials:** WHO expert group has designed a large international randomized controlled clinical trial to enable the simultaneous evaluation of the benefits and risks of different vaccines at sites with sufficiently high rates of the disease. This will ensure a faster turnaround of results. **This ‘Solidarity Trial’ for vaccines should now be seriously considered and discussed.**

MIGRANT AND REFUGEE HEALTH IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19

- So far in 2020, national emergency measures due to COVID-19 have led to an 87% reduction in asylum applications. Only about **8,700 applications for international protection** were registered in EU+ countries in April, the lowest since 2008. As national and travel restrictions begin to ease, the European Asylum Support Office expects that asylum applications will begin to increase and return to pre-COVID-19 trends.
- On 29 June, the state of North Rhine-Westphalia lifted the lockdown on the community of Warendorf, however, it has **extended the confinement in neighboring Gütersloh for an additional week.** Both communities had been in lockdown since week 25, after a COVID-19 outbreak at a meat-processing plant which **employs almost entirely migrant workers** from eastern Europe.
- On 30 June, the fourth Supporting Syria and the Region conference took place in Brussels. Heads of UN agencies called for solidarity with countries hosting record levels of refugees, and international donors to redouble their commitments to Syrians and the region. The conference highlighted that **more than 13.2 million remain displaced inside and outside the country, and that public health and socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 has only compounded the situation.**
- UNHCR released the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan Consolidated COVID-19 Appeal providing a comprehensive strategic response to support the Turkish government’s efforts to address the needs of Syrian refugees, host communities, and relevant institutions. **A total US \$163 million is requested to address immediate impacts of COVID-19, including US \$12.4 million for health sector needs.** New COVID-19 related health sector needs are linked primarily to infection prevention and control measures. Related to this, the think tank TEPAV has conducted research finding the effects of COVID-19 on labour markets have had a more negative impact on Syrian workers.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL MEASURES (PHSM) FOCUS: Schools and International travel as of 1 July 2020

School Closure

Approaches to school closures are extremely diverse across the EURO Region with countries consistently adapting to the changing situation due to COVID-19. As of 30-Jun, 15 countries have no school closures in place, 1 country has recommended the closure of schools at some or all levels, 28 require some levels of schools to close and 9 require the closure of all schools at all levels. Many countries recommended or required schools to close early- to mid-March. This was adapted through either a precautionary approach based on age (i.e., kindergarten, primary, secondary, university). While the majority of countries in

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the region initially closed schools rapidly without prior recommendation, a phased approach was implemented when reopening often beginning with kindergartens, daycares or accommodating for students completing exams to move to their next educational levels.

Some countries, such as France, Germany and Denmark, have begun to adjust their requirements and recommendations to allow for students to return to school. Others, such as Italy, Romania and Tajikistan have extended school closures until Fall Semester, 2020. Alternatively, Turkey has implemented a nation-wide obligation for students to complete course work through their summer holidays due to missed school days during the regular academic year.

Additionally, several countries ensured educational or childcare services were made available to the essential workforce when schools were required to close. This was primarily focused within the kindergarten to primary school age range.

Austria, Luxembourg and Greece have created a rotational system in which students alternate

days or weeks where they are physically present in schools or engaging in distance learning from home. Groups of students have been determined based upon age, class or rank within school.



International Travel Limitations:

All of the 55 States Parties have implemented international travel measures. 43 countries currently have mandatory quarantine measures in place for travellers (foreigners and/or citizens) arriving from abroad. 7 countries have fully lifted mandatory quarantine measures that were previously in place (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Greece, North Macedonia, Serbia).

The Council of the EU published yesterday its first non- legally binding recommendation to start lifting non- essential travel restrictions with 15 non-EU countries from 1 July. The list will be updated every 2 weeks Accessible here: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/coronavirus/>

WHAT IS [NEW]?

DG's Statement – WHO Director-General's opening remarks at the media briefing on COVID-19 – 1 July can be accessed in full [Here](#) . **Dr. Tedros' key messages focused on:**

- Find, isolate, test and care for every case, trace and quarantine every contact, equip and train health workers and educate and empower communities to protect themselves and others. Not testing alone. Not physical distancing alone. Not contact tracing alone. Not masks alone. Do it all.
- Flare-ups are to be expected as countries start to lift restrictions. But countries that have the systems in place to apply a comprehensive approach should be able to contain these flare-ups locally and avoid reintroducing widespread restrictions.
- WHO is holding a second research and innovation forum, bringing together more than 1000 scientists from all over the world to take stock of the progress made so far, to discuss new research questions and knowledge gaps, and to define research priorities for the remainder of this year and beyond.

Vulnerable populations

- A WHO news story on [WHO-backed telephone counselling in Turkey for those dealing with COVID-19 stress](#) was recently published (available [Here](#)). A psychosocial health support line was established in Turkey to help people cope with stressors caused by changes to the lives of health workers and the public from COVID-19. It also assists individuals with chronic mental illness and provides a referral mechanism for people who need to access social services.

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- A recently published guidance document on the [provision of support for medically and socially vulnerable populations in EU/EEA countries and the United Kingdom during the COVID-19](#) is available [Here](#).

Communications

- The WHO [Advice for the public](#) was recently updated and can be found [Here](#).
- As the first [WHO Infodemiology Conference](#) continues from 29 June – 16 July, more information about the conference can be found [Here](#).

Surveillance

- The [COVID-19 surveillance report for the epi week 26](#) is now published on the WHO Euro website. It is accessible [Here](#) and on the COVID-19 site homepage. It is possible to download the report as a PDF using Chrome and Firefox browsers (via the menu on the right top corner).

Supply Chain

- A WHO new story on [WHO reinforcing COVID-19 response efforts in Turkey: millions of protective items distributed](#) was recently published [Here](#). Millions of masks, gloves, goggles and other items worth US\$ 1.7 million were dispatched by WHO to protect health-care professionals and other frontline workers in Turkey from COVID-19, thanks to funding provided by the German government through KfW Development Bank.

Travel and trade

- The [official communiqué of the European Council](#) with the list of 15 third countries with which gradual lifting of restrictions for non-essential travel is recommended and the related criteria proposed by the Council is available [Here](#). This list is expected to be reviewed every 2 weeks.

Public Health and Social Measures

- Information sheets providing WHO advice on [Moving around during the COVID-19 outbreak](#) were recently published [Here](#). While cities around the world are introducing a broad range of measures to limit physical contacts to prevent and slow down the COVID-19 pandemic, many people might still have a need to move around cities to reach their workplaces when possible, meet essential daily needs or provide assistance to vulnerable people.

Points of Entry

- The online course on [Controlling the Spread of COVID-19 at Ground Crossings](#) has now been published [Here](#). Since the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005) entered into force in 2007, there has been increasing recognition that, unlike airports and ports, ground crossings often constitute informal passages between two countries without a physical structure, barriers, or borders. Moreover, ground crossings play an important role in the international spread of disease. Travellers and people living and working on and around borders are particularly vulnerable to this threat.

Partnership Coordination

- A WHO news story on [WHO addressing European Parliament on COVID-19 response](#) was recently published [Here](#). On 25 June, WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and WHO Regional Director for Europe Dr Hans Henri P. Kluge spoke to the European Parliament Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) about the global response to COVID-19. They highlighted the leadership of the European Union (EU) at this unprecedented time and responded to questions from Members of the European Parliament.

Journal articles

- An article published in Nature examines the [Suppression of a SARS-CoV-2 outbreak in the Italian municipality of Vo'](#) (available [Here](#)). On the 21st of February 2020 a resident of the municipality of Vo', a small town near

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Padua, died of pneumonia due to SARS-CoV-2 infection. This was the first COVID-19 death detected in Italy since the emergence of SARS-CoV-2 in the Chinese city of Wuhan, Hubei province.

- An articles published in the Lancet examining **The effect of frailty on survival in patients with COVID-19 (COPE): a multicentre, European, observational cohort study** is available [Here](#). The COVID-19 pandemic has placed unprecedented strain on health-care systems. Frailty is being used in clinical decision making for patients with COVID-19, yet the prevalence and effect of frailty in people with COVID-19 is not known. In the COVID-19 in Older PEople (COPE) study aimed to establish the prevalence of frailty in patients with COVID-19 who were admitted to hospital and investigate its association with mortality and duration of hospital stay.
- An article published in the New England Journal of Medicine examining the **Reduced Rate of Hospital Admissions for ACS during Covid-19 Outbreak in Northern Italy** is available [Here](#). To address the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, strict social containment measures have been adopted worldwide, and health care systems have been reorganized to cope with the enormous increase in the numbers of acutely ill patients. During this same period, some changes in the pattern of hospital admissions for other conditions have been noted. The aim of the present analysis is to investigate the rate of hospital admissions for acute coronary syndrome (ACS) during the early days of the Covid-19 outbreak.

Other WHO News

- A WHO news story on **WHO/Europe launches new podcast – Health in Europe** is now available [Here](#). The first episode of the podcast focuses on the Health Evidence Network report on how the poor labelling of alcoholic drinks leaves consumers in the dark about what is in the bottle. This is available on multiple podcast platforms. Download and subscribe to Health in Europe by following the links on the podcast’s homepage [Here](#).

OpenWHO.org : online learning platform

OpenWHO published its 100th course to support the response to coronavirus disease on 26 June, exactly 5 months after launching its first COVID-19 course. On average, OpenWHO has produced one course every working day since the first [COVID-19 course](#) launched on 26 January. The platform prioritized the production of multilingual learning resources for COVID-19 - with some 4.6 million words translated - recognizing that people prefer information in their own language. In total, OpenWHO offers COVID-19 courses on 13 topics across 34 languages and was featured in the [timeline](#) of WHO’s COVID-19 response. The platform has more than 3.7 million course enrolments.

LATEST COURSES



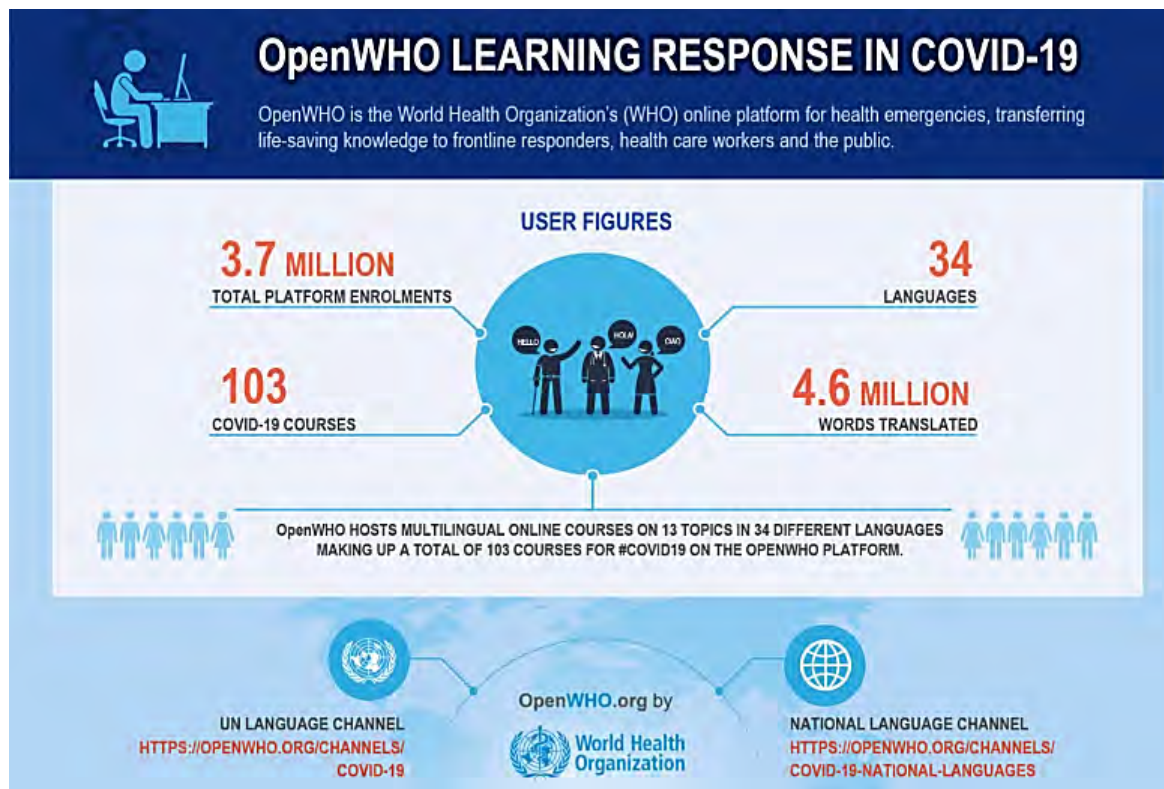
MAKE SMART INJECTION CHOICES
Standard precautions:
Injection safety and needle-stick injury management



Routine Cleaning
Standard precautions:
Environmental cleaning and disinfection



Decontamination and sterilization of medical devices



LEARNING SESSIONS FOR THIS WEEK

A PAHO webinar on **Communicators on Stigma related to COVID-19 and Mental Health** will be held on **9 July from 10-12pm EST**. This session will explore the role of journalists and communicators in addressing stigma and discrimination related to COVID-19 and mental health. Participants will be provided with specific tips and recommendations on how to address stigma and discrimination, an introduction to the guide “Social Stigma associated with COVID-19”, as well as an overview of “Time to Change”, a UK-based campaign that has successfully addressed stigma about mental health, including through global work in India and selected African countries. Find more information [Here](#)

OBSERVATORY VENICE SUMMER SCHOOL “The hospital of the future in times of COVID-19”

Online event 20-30 July 2020 **APPLY NOW** at <https://theobservatorysummerschool.org/edition-2020-online>
 The Observatory Venice Summer Schools are short, intensive courses of one week aimed at policy makers, civil servants and professionals with responsibility for hospital care, whether at policy, self-regulatory, clinical or managerial level. This course takes the opportunity not only to analyze and discuss what Covid-19 means for hospitals in this moment but also the implications for the hospital of the future.
 The deadline for applications is 15 July 2020. There are no costs involved.

VIRTUAL PRESS CONFERENCE -- COVID-19 impact on services for HIV -- 7 JULY 2020 at 18:00 CEST Geneva time
<https://zoom.us/j/96723496971?pwd=M1lna1J5dEpoTU1qSnI6YVJWVa1lqUT09>

Meeting ID: 967 2349 6971; Password: 963089

How is COVID-19 impacting services for HIV and related health areas, including those related to HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections? new data and evidence on essential service disruptions, supply chain challenges and stockouts as well as the findings of a new study on the associated risks and poor outcomes due to COVID among people living with HIV