



## HIGHLIGHTS

### In the last 24 hours

- **Tests performed:** 292 SARS-CoV-2 tests and 4.5% tested positive
- **New cases:** 13 new cases were reported
- **Recovered:** 44 COVID-19 patients
- **Fatalities:** 2 new COVID-19 death.

### Cumulative registered COVID-19 as of 06 May

- The total number of registered COVID-19 cases is 1539 of which 236 (15.3%) are among health workers.
- 17 836 SARS-CoV-2 tests are performed. **1057 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 (515, 402 and 162). Almost 72% of all deaths are registered in Kumanovo, Skopje, Struga and Prilep.**
- **Gender distribution:** More women are infected with coronavirus than men (804 and 735 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: 63 confirmed COVID-19 cases

- Today, in the 'Subject in Focus', we provide details on a webinar that WHO hosted yesterday to find out more about **how young people are contributing to the COVID-19 response** and **how they see their future in a post-pandemic world.**

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

### North Macedonia

1539 confirmed (13)

88 deaths

1057 recovered

236 health workers

### Globally

3 588 773 cases (71 463)

247 503 deaths (4102)

### European Region

1 593 828 cases (27 179)

147 780 deaths (2178)

### Regions of the Americas

1 507 148 cases (29 701)

81 070 deaths (1480)

### Eastern Mediterranean Region

221 230 cases (7854)

8290 deaths (175)

### Western Pacific Region

154 884 cases (1016)

6327 deaths (40)

### South-East Asia Region

76 998 cases (4310)

2821 deaths (139)

### African Region

33 973 cases (1403)

1202 deaths (90)

## WHO RISK ASSESSMENT

Very high in all North Macedonia

Very High Globally

## SURVEILLANCE

**Figure 1. North Macedonia – Cumulative confirmed COVID-19 cases (n=1526) and deaths (n=86) by 6 May 2020 20:00**

**1,526**

confirmed cases

Source: World Health Organization

Cumulative

Feb 29 Mar 7 Mar 14 Mar 21 Mar 28 Apr 4 Apr 11 Apr 18 Apr 25 May 2

### Deaths Over Time

**86**

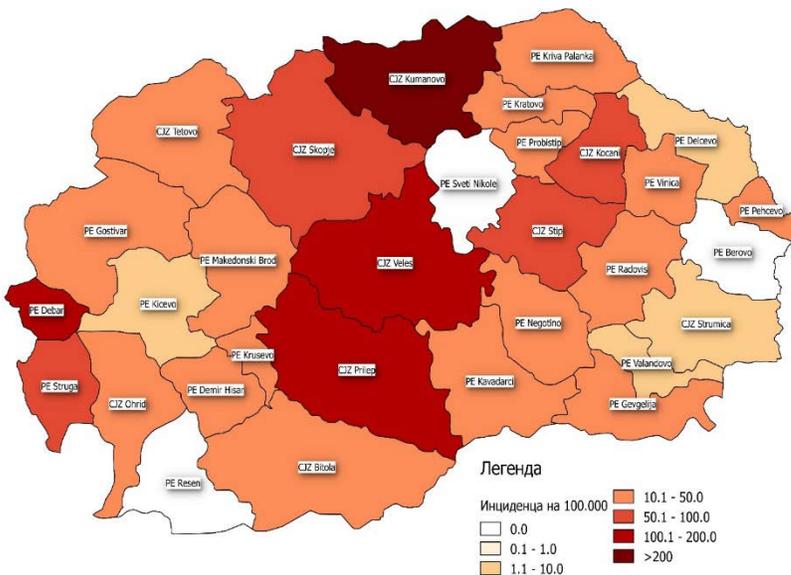
deaths

Source: World Health Organization

Cumulative

Feb 29 Mar 7 Mar 14 Mar 21 Mar 28 Apr 4 Apr 11 Apr 18 Apr 25 May 2

**Figure 2. North Macedonia – COVID-19 incidence per 100,000 people, as of 6 May 2020**

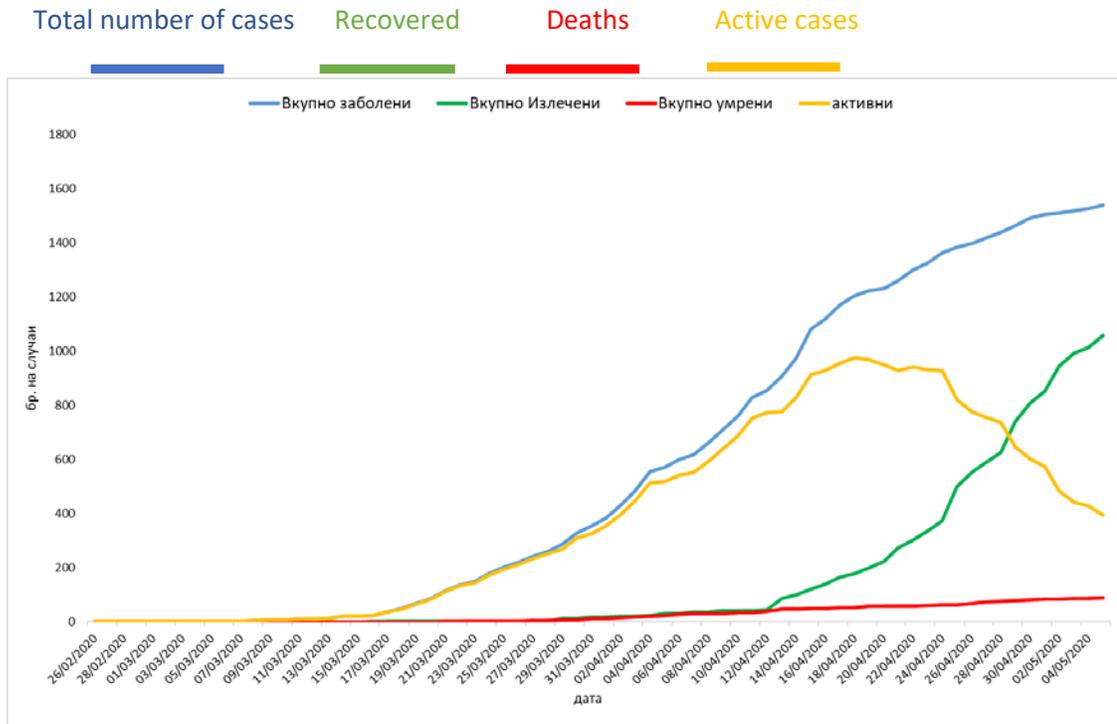


The highest cumulative incidence is in Kumanovo (281.7/100,000 people), followed by Debar (183.8/100,000 people), Prilep (170.0/100,000 people) and Veles (129.8/100,000 people). Four other cities have incidence above 50.0 cases per 100,000 people (Struga, Skopje, Shtip and Kochani).

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

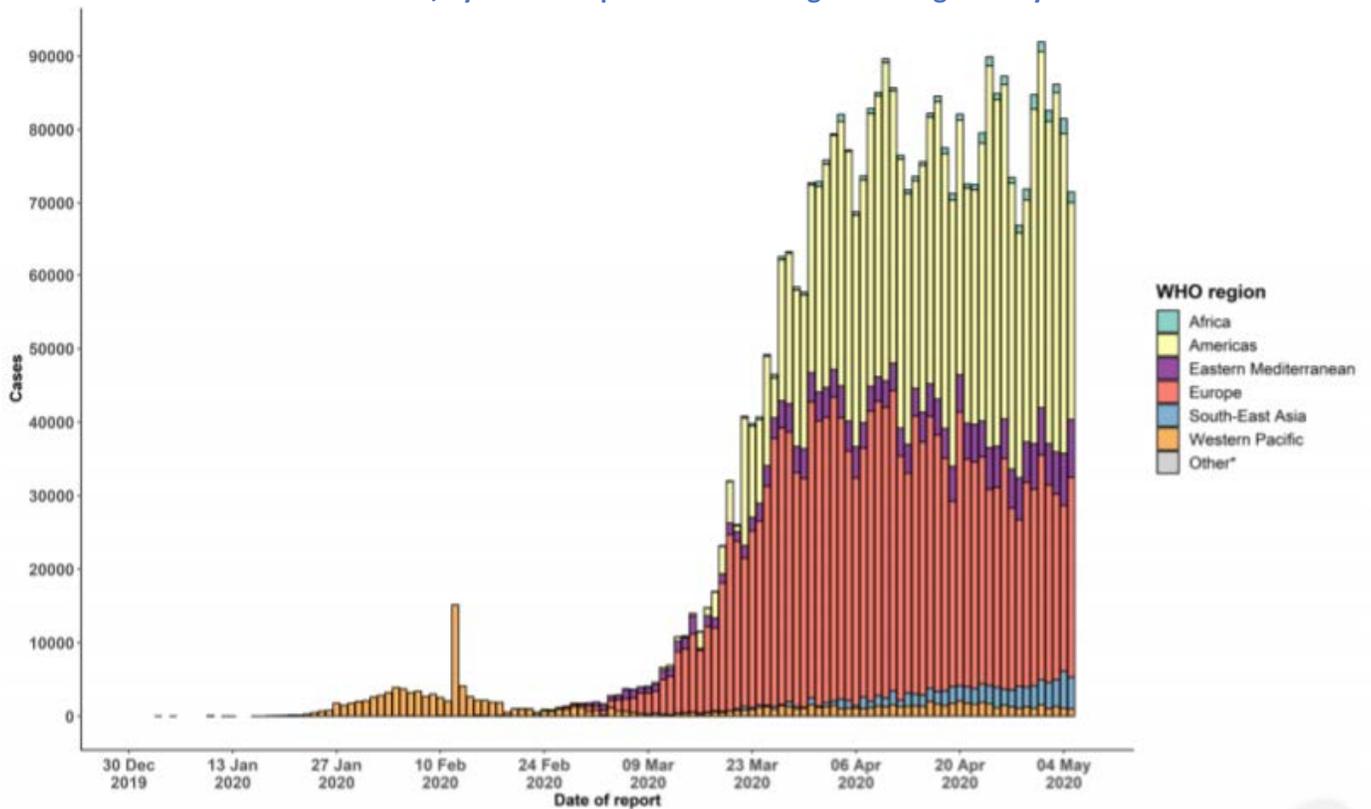
The disaggregated data of the confirmed COVID-19 cases through 5 May 2020 which includes the cases reported on 6 May 2020 by MoH could be accessed at the [www.iph.mk](http://www.iph.mk)

Figure. 3 North Macedonia – COVID-19 statistics as of 6 May (n=1539)



GLOBAL COVID-19 SITUATION

Epidemic curve of confirmed COVID-19, by date of report and WHO region through 6 May 2020



## CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-2019), WHO EUROPE REGION as of 6 May 2020 10:00 CET

- Since the beginning of April, the **epidemiological curve appears to be flattening** in the WHO European Region and cases now are representing 44% of the global burden reported to date.
- Globally, **USA carries the heaviest case load** (1 171 185), with **Spain and Italy** concluding top-3. In addition, five more countries from the European Region are in the top-10 worldwide (**United Kingdom, Germany, Russian Federation, France and Turkey**). These are reporting more than 100 000 cases.
- Besides, **twelve more countries reported 10 000 cases or more**, listed in descending order (Belgium, Netherlands, Switzerland, Portugal, Sweden, Ireland, Belarus, Israel, Austria, Poland, Romania, and Ukraine);
- Cumulatively, **60% of the global burden of COVID-19 deaths** (247 503 deaths) **have been reported in the European Region** (147 820 deaths), with Italy, United Kingdom, 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 (8016), Germany (6996), Netherlands (5168), Turkey (3520), Sweden (2854), Switzerland (1482), Russian Federation (1537), Ireland (1339), and Portugal (1074);
- The situation in countries with the highest cumulative case count in Western Europe seems to be decreasing (e.g., France, Germany, Italy and Spain) with a % decrease of last 7-day Cumulative Incidence >30% over the data 1 week ago, while a **continuing growth in case numbers is observed in the eastern part of the Region (Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan and Russian Federation), with a % increase of last 7-day Cumulative Incidence >10% over last week's data.**
- **32 countries in the region have begun shifting public health and social measures and enter a transition phase.**

### Key Public Health and Social Measures (PHSM) as of 6 May 2020

- 43 countries in the European Region have implemented partial or full domestic movement restrictions. Several countries currently do not implement full or partial domestic movement restrictions (Belarus, Denmark, Iceland, Latvia, Netherlands, Sweden, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan)
- 31 countries have declared a state of national emergency due to COVID-19
- 32 countries have started easing/ some of the PHSM measures
  - *Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Denmark, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland*
- Additional countries have announced plans to lift measures in the coming weeks Estonia, Finland, France, Ireland, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Portugal, North Macedonia, Russian Federation, Turkey, Ukraine, Uzbekistan
- 53 of 55 States Parties have implemented international travel measures (Exceptions are United Kingdom and Lichtenstein)
- 27 countries made wearing of face masks in public mandatory (national or regional level. Additional countries have announced plans to make wearing masks mandatory (Belgium, France).

### SUBJECT IN FOCUS: COVID-19 – LEARNING FROM THE YOUTH OF TODAY

As the COVID-19 pandemic has left communities around the world reeling, young people have mobilized their networks and placed themselves firmly in the forefront of the COVID-19 response. WHO hosted a webinar on 5 May, with 808 participants from around the world, to find out more about how young people are contributing to the COVID-19 response and how they see their future in a post-pandemic world.

The panellists included representatives from the Global Health Workforce Network Youth Hub (GHWF Youth Hub), the International Federation of Medical Students' Association (IFMSA) representing 1.3 million students; the Global Shapers representing over 9000 youths; and the #MOREVIRALTHANTHEVIRUS global movement with hubs in over 100 countries.

The representative from GHWF Youth Hub highlighted the fact that all over the world young people have stepped up to respond to COVID-19. She spoke about the many healthcare students who have been drawn into delivering care, assisting in contact tracing and working for COVID-19 hotlines and call centres. The representative from IFMSA shared inspiring stories of how young people have helped their own communities by developing technology-driven solutions such as apps to support the delivery of supplies to vulnerable, isolated people; and the creation of an online dashboard to monitor university and school closures around the world while linking online training and alternative learning resources to areas of need. The representative from the #MOREVIRALTHANTHEVIRUS movement described how they started as a group of medical students but soon realized that all students everywhere were affected, and all had something to share and give.

Young people have an unparalleled potential as networkers and amplifiers of information. At the beginning of the pandemic there was a lack of youth-focused communication; this prompted young people around the world to share information. With extensive global networks, digital know-how and creativity, youth organizations and movements can rapidly detect rumours, identify common information needs and disseminate accurate information. WHO's European region (EURO) has a successful ongoing collaboration with the Global Shapers in Denmark to do just this and IFMSA is collaborating with the Infodemic Management Team of the WHO Information Network for Epidemics (EPI-WIN) to crowdsource fact-checking and myth-busting worldwide.

There was a collective sense at the close of the webinar that young people living through the COVID19 pandemic will emerge an empowered generation: a generation that values solidarity and collaboration. The representative from the Global Shapers stated: "It was fantastic to see youth organizations and movements all around the world taking the initiative and solving different problems that have arisen due to COVID-19. Thanks to this session, I have personally reached out to some of them to see how we can collaborate and amplify our efforts together as one."

## **[New]** WHAT IS NEW AT WHO?

**DG's Opening Remarks at the Media Briefing on COVID-19 - 6 MAY 2020** can be accessed in full [Here](#). **Dr. Tedros'** key messages focused on:

- There are many divergent trends within regions and within countries. It is important that every country and every region use a tailored approach.
- It is vital that countries must pay careful attention to the most vulnerable members of their society as crises can exacerbate existing inequalities.
- The DG warns that the risk of returning to lockdown remains very real if countries do not manage the transition extremely carefully and in a phased approach. The six recommended criteria to easing lockdown restrictions were reiterated.
- 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.

## **Risk Communications**

- **WHO/Europe's Canto Library** (available [Here](#)) released new risk communication materials. The following new infographics are available:
  - Transition infographic: [English](#), [Russian](#), [editable](#)
  - Tobacco infographics and posters: [English](#), [Russian](#), [editable](#)
  - Disability infographics: [editable](#)
  - Moving around poster: [Estonian](#)

## **Points of Entry**

- The updated **Handbook for public health capacity-building at ground crossings and cross-border collaboration** has been published and is available [Here](#). The handbook follows a comprehensive approach to health system strengthening at borders in order to support the development and implementation of evidence-based action plans for IHR capacity development at ground crossings.

#### Medical Supply Chain

- A **Scientific brief on the use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs in patients with COVID-19**, was recently published and is available [Here](#).

#### Public Health and Social Measures:

- A **global database of public health and social measures (PHSM)** has gone live on the WHO website (available [Here](#)). This database brings in the records from six core datasets and harmonizes them using the PHSM taxonomy.

#### Health Systems

- A report on **Community-based health care, including outreach and campaigns, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic** was just published and is available [here](#). This guidance addresses the specific role of community-based health care in the pandemic context and outlines the adaptations needed to keep people safe, maintain continuity of essential services and ensure an effective response to COVID-19.
- The **WHO and European Investment Bank strengthen efforts to combat COVID-19 and build resilient health systems to face future pandemics**. The full article is available [Here](#) and in [RUSSIAN](#).

#### Partner Coordination:

- **WHO and GOARN partnership turns 20**, a successful two decade long partnership tackling global health emergencies together. The full article is available [Here](#).

#### Vulnerable Groups:

- A report on **COVID-19 and violence against women** was just published online (available [Here](#) and in [RUSSIAN](#) ). Violence against women remains a major threat to global public health and women's health during emergencies, this report addresses what the health sector or system can do.

#### COVID-19 and Food Safety:

- The FAO/WHO guidance document published in April, **COVID-19 and food safety: Guidance for competent authorities responsible for national food safety control systems**, is available in [RUSSIAN](#) and [ARABIC](#).

#### Journal Articles:

- A study on **SARS-CoV-2 spreading in France in late December 2019**, was published by the International Journal of Antimicrobial Agents (available [Here](#)).
- A study on **a human monoclonal antibody blocking SARS-CoV-2 infection** (available [Here](#)), was published in Nature Communications. The study examines cross-neutralizing antibodies which may offer potential prevention and treatment for COVID-19.
- A study on the **Predicted impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on global tuberculosis deaths in 2020** was recently published (available [Here](#))

#### Learning resources

- A report on **Geographic data reporting on COVID-19 courses** was published by OpenWHO.
- New **OpenWHO course on Standard precautions: Hand Hygiene** is available [Here](#).
- The **WHO COVID-19 Health Literature Database** (available [Here](#)) has recently added database citations. The database is limited to journal articles (published or pre-publication). Approximately 339 citations have been added in the past 24 hours in the following topics:

- [Stroke / Clotting](#)
- [Children](#)
- [Antibodies/Immunity](#)
- [Equity/Human Rights](#)
- [Face masks](#)
- [Mental Health and related](#)
- [Guidelines](#)

## 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

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>

- Verification and validation processes
- Recommendations to ensure procurement during scaling up national laboratory capacities for COVID-19
- 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](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:

##### ➤ Health workforce

- 195 of the 236 health professionals infected with coronavirus have recovered and most of them have returned to work.

##### ➤ Education

- The Government adopted the Decree stipulating that the state graduation exam will not be taken this year, and the school year will end on June 10 and will be completed through electronic distance learning.
- **Public Health**
  - 55 people are caught breaking the curfew in the past 24 hours – 42 of them are detained.
- **Socioeconomic measures and impact**
  - Over 19 000 companies have applied for the financial measure to support salaries of employees so far. The public call closes today at midnight.
  - The Government adopted changes to the regulation on providing subsidies for payment of contributions for social insurance of employees during the state of emergency. These changes allows sectors which face most dire consequences of the COVID-19 crisis (tourism, hospitality, transport etc.) to use alternate sources of funding prescribed in this regulation. The changes also demand that employers using these benefits are not allowed to reduce the number of employees in their businesses until the end of August 2020, exception being specific cases justified by the regulation.
  - The total value of exported goods from Macedonia in the period January-March 2020 amounted to 86.7 billion denars, an 8.1 % decrease compared to the same period last year. The catering price index in April 2020, in comparison with March 2020, remained at the same level. The catering price index in April 2020, in comparison with the same month of the previous year, increased by 0.6 %. The cumulative catering price index for the period January-April 2020, compared to the same period of the previous year, increased by 0.3 %, and in comparison with December 2019 it increased by 0.3 %.

#### 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]*

- The Norwegian Embassy confirmed that Norway will donate 20 respirators to North Macedonia and the devices are expected to arrive in the country on May 15.

#### 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