



COVID-19 - Coronavirus disease 2019

NORTH MACEDONIA

FLASH UPDATE 13

1 April 2020

Data as reported by authorities by 22:00, 1 April 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

- As North Macedonia enters its second month fighting COVID-19, there is concern about the rapid escalation. 25 new cases were reported today and the total of 354 COVID-19 patients are so far registered in the country. **59 patients are currently hospitalized at CID** – 12 have severe clinical manifestation and 5 are on mechanical respiration. First case is identified in Kochani, indicating further geographic spread.
- 5 COVID-19 patients have recovered and are discharged from CID. Sadly, North Macedonia announced two COVID-19 fatalities today – 64 and 66-years-old women from Struga. **The total number of affected medical staff is 38, out of which 26 have acquired the infection while in their primary clinics.**
- Dr Tedros, WHO DG addressed a letter to His Excellency, Mr Stevo Pendarovski, President of the Republic of North Macedonia to request him catalysing an urgently needed, extensive societal ‘movement’ to stop this disease as rapidly as possible.
- The budget deficit envisaged for 2020 previously estimated at around 300 million euro, could reach up to 1.3 billion euro (\$1.42 billion) due to the coronavirus crisis. The country plans to borrow almost 600 million euro from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank and expects to receive the funds by May 2020.
- The Government will finance the organization and reconstruction of the public areas of the Clinical Center “Mother Teresa” in Skopje to ensure smooth functioning of the clinics during the increased workload due to COVID-19 and to improve the transfer and transport of patients with coronavirus infection.
- MoH is developing an intervention that would enable the extension of the maternity leave. The purpose of this is to support mothers because at this time they cannot enroll babies in kindergartens.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

total (new) cases in the last 24 hours

North Macedonia

354 confirmed (25)

11 deaths

17 recovered

Globally

823 626 confirmed (72 736)

40 598 deaths (4193)

Western Pacific Region

106 422 confirmed (1554)

3701 deaths (30)

European Region

464 212 confirmed (40 266)

30 089 deaths (3395)

South-East Asia Region

5175 confirmed (960)

195 deaths (29)

Eastern Mediterranean Region

54 281 confirmed (3932)

3115 deaths (161)

Regions of the Americas

188 751 confirmed (25 737)

3400 deaths (564)

African Region

4073 confirmed (287)

91 deaths (14)

WHO RISK ASSESSMENT

Very high

- COVID-19 could have serious health, social and economic consequences mainly for the poorest and most vulnerable people. Social welfare measures to ensure vulnerable people have food and other life essentials during this crisis is highly needed.

SURVEILLANCE

Figure 1. North Macedonia – Cumulative confirmed COVID-19 cases (n=329) by 1 April 2020 18:00

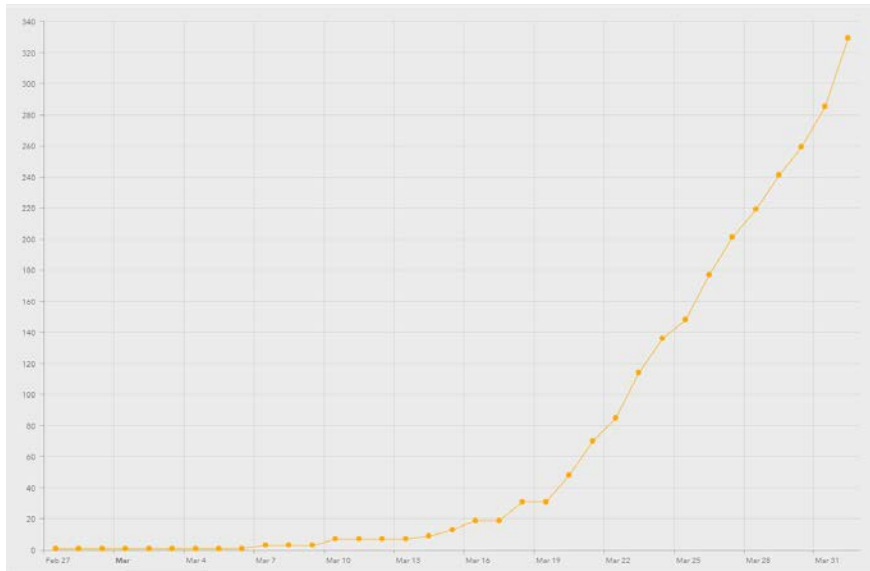
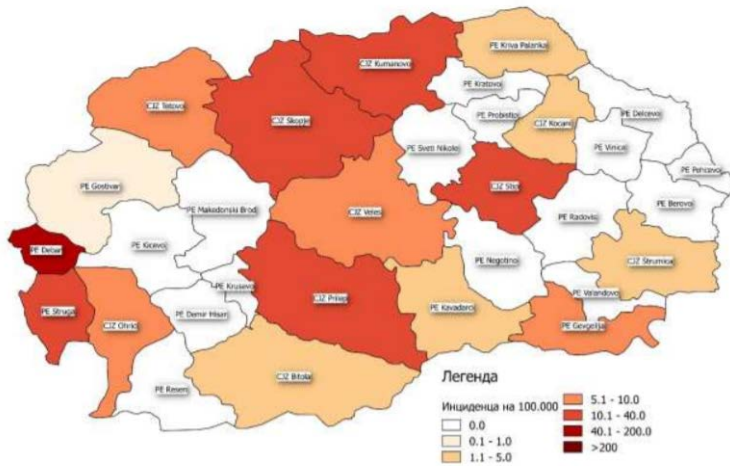


Figure 2. North Macedonia –COVID-19 incidence per 100,000 people, as of 1 April 2020



The highest cumulative incidence is in Debar 169,3 cases per 100,000 people, followed by 37.8 cases per 100,000 people in Kumanovo and 29.6 cases per 100,000 people in Skopje.

Age of patients vary from 2-91 years. However, the highest risk groups are between 30-39 years old and above 60 years old.

The disaggregated data of the confirmed COVID-19 cases through 31 March 2020 which includes the cases reported on 1 April 2020 by MoH could be accessed at the www.IPH.mk

Risk Assessment of COVID-19 in North Macedonia according to geographical spread

According to the WHO risk categorization, Debar, Skopje and Kumanovo are in Phase 4 (widespread community transmission) and the rest of the Republic of Northern Macedonia is in phase 2 (sporadic cases).

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-2019), EUROPE

- Based on the WHO and ECDC data as of 1 April 2020 10:00 CET, the WHO European Region number of cases is representing **over 56% of the global burden** of cases reported. Globally, **USA carries the heaviest case load (163 199)**, with **Italy and Spain concluding top-3**. Overall, five more countries from the European Region are in top-10 (Germany, France, United Kingdom, Switzerland, and Turkey);
- In Europe, **Italy has the highest case count** (105 792 cases, 23%), followed by Spain (94 417 cases, 20%), Germany (67 366 cases, 15%), France (51 477 cases, 11%), and the United Kingdom (25 154 cases, 6%). Five other countries reported more than 10 000 cases (Switzerland, Turkey, Belgium, the Netherlands and Austria), while another 14 countries in the Region reported 1000 cases or more, listed in descending order (Portugal, Israel, Norway, Sweden, Czechia, Ireland, Denmark, Russian Federation, Poland, Romania, Luxembourg, Finland, Greece, and Iceland);
- **74% of the global burden of COVID-19 deaths have been reported in the European Region**, with Italy and Spain accounting for roughly 69% of all deaths in Europe, followed by France, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Germany, and Belgium.

WHO ACTION in NORTH MACEDONIA

In line with the strategic shift of the Government's strategy in fighting COVID19 whereby efforts are put on increasing testing, maintaining quality COVID19 care and essential care and protecting health care workers, WHO's support in the coming phase will focus on:

- Infection control and prevention in all health settings.
- Procurement of ventilators and protective personal equipment.
- Strengthening surveillance capacity, identification, testing and quarantine with special focus on vulnerable groups: elderly and migrants.

USAID and WHO join forces through USAID emergency fund for infectious- disease outbreaks to respond to the COVID-19 in North Macedonia. This collaboration will: contribute to the Ministry of Health priority to protect frontline health workers through infection control and prevention in health facilities; support the viral laboratory systems, and strengthen case-finding and event-based monitoring.

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.

North Macedonia is among first Countries in Europe to contribute to the COVID-19 outbreak Health System Response Monitor (HSRM) of the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies. Up-to-date information on relevant health system responses and public health initiatives is available via www.covid19healthsystem.org/

North Macedonia has joined the WHO SOLIDARITY Trial which is a large, international medical study designed to generate scientific evidence which treatments are the most effective. There has been an extraordinary response globally to WHO call for countries to join the Solidarity trial, which is comparing four drugs and drug combinations. So far, 74 countries have either joined the trial or are in the process of joining.

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/> .

WHO contributes to the efforts the UN in the country to make sure that timely procurement takes place and also supports newly set UN coordination mechanism for the COVID19, where UN RC takes the lead in order to streamline joint response efforts to the COVID-19 and provide support to the people and government of North Macedonia as effectively as possible.

NORTH MACEDONIA STRATEGIC RESPONSE AND ACTION

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

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

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

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

Today:

- A coronavirus mobile app is being developed, following the example of other European countries, to monitor people in isolation.
- So far, the Foreign Ministry (MFA) has assisted in repatriating 2,020 Macedonian nationals, including 1,275 people who were brought home by chartered flights, organized by the Ministry. 5,228 people are still to be repatriated, mostly from European countries.
- Student dormitories will be used for quarantine purposes.

- Inline classes are available from all schools however there is limitation with internet access for families with no income and a number of children do not have internet not computer access.
- Foreign diplomats accredited in Macedonia and the members of their families will also be quarantined upon entering the country.
- In Ohrid, the State Sanitary and Health Inspectorate completed the investigation - fines have been imposed on the former director, specialists from the Department for Infectious Diseases and the hospital itself.
- Institute for Rehabilitation is shut down and patients are either discharged for home treatment and the ones that need health care will receive it at the outpatient units at the 8th September Hospital.

COVID-19 UN AND PARTNER COORDINATION

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

- Deputy PM for European Affairs Bujar Osmani announced that EU's emergency assistance for North Macedonia includes re-allocation of a portion of IPA funds, and that the that the country is becoming a part of the common European mechanism for COVID-19 protection and joint procurement of medical equipment through EU solidarity fund.

GAPS/NEEDS AND CHALLENGES

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

- **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;
- **Challenges:**
 - Protecting health care workers whether those working in the COVID-19 designated facilities or elsewhere countrywide because of the community transmission.
 - Procurement : Access to local or international supplies and mainly respirators for the critical needs identified because of international shortages.
 - Shortage in health workforce if the situation progresses
 - Ensuring sustainability of the health facilities and health care during and after the crisis.
 - Community support and outreach activities for the vulnerable
 - Ensuring continuity of treatment and access to regular health care for all citizens including the vulnerable groups with other diseases and pathologies.
 - Isolation and mental health support to the elderly and disabled.
 - Compliance of the citizens to instructions of the government and self-isolation.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS NORTH MACEDONIA: Call Center 0800 002 03; "Alo Doctor" 02 15 123

Useful Links

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

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

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

[All Government information and measures / ENG](#)

[MoH COVID-19 information](#)

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

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

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

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

For symptoms related to COVID-19

CPH Bitola 071 261 330

CPH Veles 071 219 278

CPH Gevgelija 071 219 278

CPH Kochani 071 373 913

CPH Kumanovo 070 215 851

CPH Ohrid 070 723 029

CPH Prilep 076 475 747

CPH Skopje 071 289 614

CPH Strumica 072 235 543

CPH Tetovo 075 240 464

RU Gostivar 076 365 161

CPH Shtip 078 365 613

IPH Skopje 078 387 194

Psychological support

-Self-isolated adults

072 919 009

-Citizens of municipalities Debar and Center Zhupa

070 241 807

-adolescents and their parents

078 378 728

-parents of children with disabilities

070291574

-Parents of preschool and school

children 072 912 676

Red Cross mobile teams for elderly support

Red Cross Center 070 297 166

Red Cross Kisela Voda 071 349 225

Red Cross Chair 070 208 383

Red Cross Karpos 071 349 230

Red Cross Gazi Baba

Team for support of homeless people

Foreign Affairs

Regular line 075 446 647

Regular line, Viber and WhatsApp: 070 282 078

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