



# World Health Organization

COVID-19 - Coronavirus disease 2019

NORTH MACEDONIA

FLASH UPDATE 14

2 April 2020

Data as reported by authorities by 23:00, 2 April 2020

## HIGHLIGHTS

- 30 new cases have been reported making 384 the total number of registered COVID-19 in the country. 63 patients are currently hospitalized at CID. The total number of affected medical staff is 41, out of which 28 have acquired the infection while in their primary clinics.
- New Government's web page for all official COVID-19 related information is available in MK and ENG [www.Koronavirus.mk](http://www.Koronavirus.mk)
- The EU has granted North Macedonia access to the European Solidarity Fund - the country will participate in the mutual procurement procedures of equipment and materials with the EU member states.
- The Government adopted a decision to reorient the funds from the non-productive expenditures into funds for dealing with the health-economic crisis caused by the coronavirus. €50.1 million from the European Investment Bank are diverted to support small and medium enterprises.
- WHO has released a Medical Product Alert that warns consumers, healthcare professionals, and health authorities against a growing number of falsified medical products that claim to prevent, detect, treat or cure COVID-19. [https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/essential-medicines/drug-alerts20/no3-2020-falsified-mp-forcovid-en.pdf?sfvrsn=cd866001\\_16](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/essential-medicines/drug-alerts20/no3-2020-falsified-mp-forcovid-en.pdf?sfvrsn=cd866001_16)
- All positive tests performed by lab testing in the private labs should be confirmed in the Institute of Public health virology lab.

## SITUATION IN NUMBERS

total (new) cases in the last 24 hours

### North Macedonia

384 confirmed (30)

11 deaths

17 recovered

### Globally

896 450 confirmed (72 839)

45 526 deaths (4924)

### Western Pacific Region

107 626 confirmed (1204)

3723 deaths (22)

### European Region

503 006 confirmed (38 809)

33 604 deaths (3515)

### South-East Asia Region

5324 confirmed (149)

216 deaths (21)

### Eastern Mediterranean Region

58 168 confirmed (3887)

3280 deaths (165)

### Regions of the Americas

216 912 confirmed (28 161)

4565 deaths (1165)

### African Region

4702 confirmed (629)

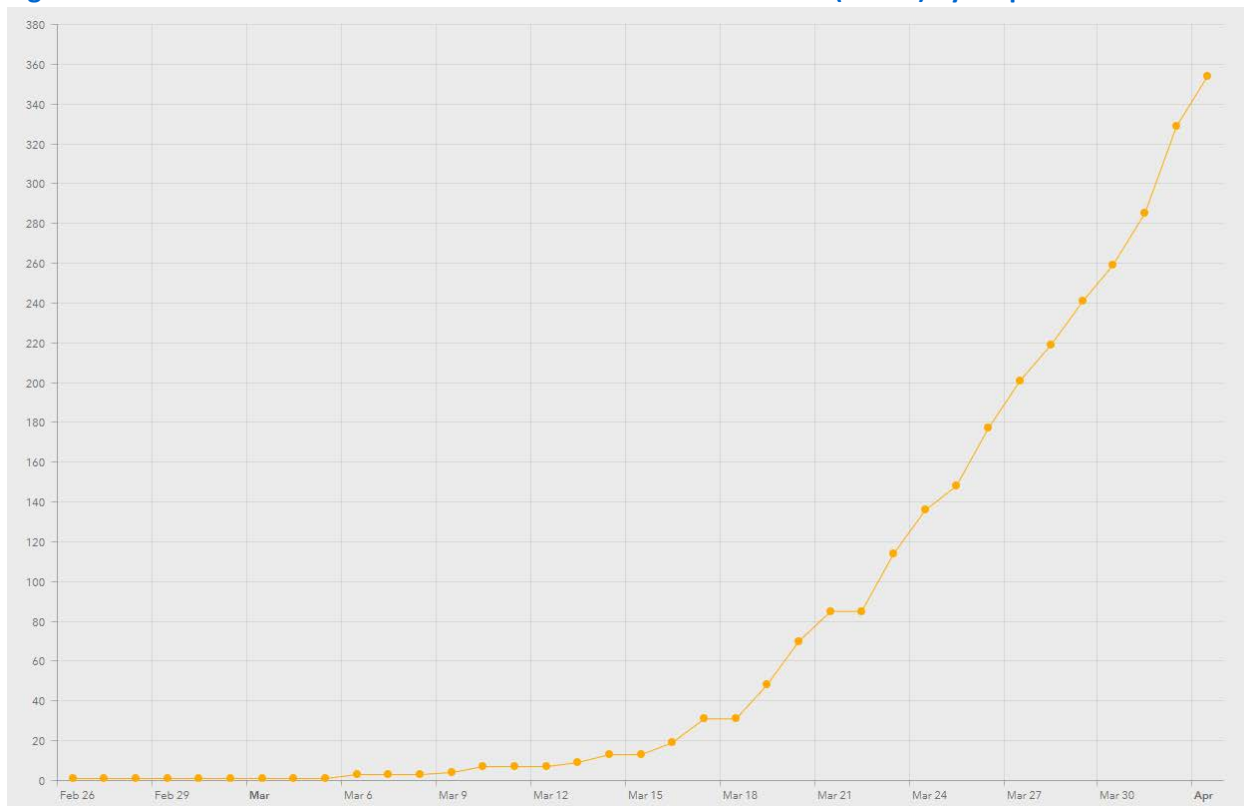
127 deaths (36)

## WHO RISK ASSESSMENT

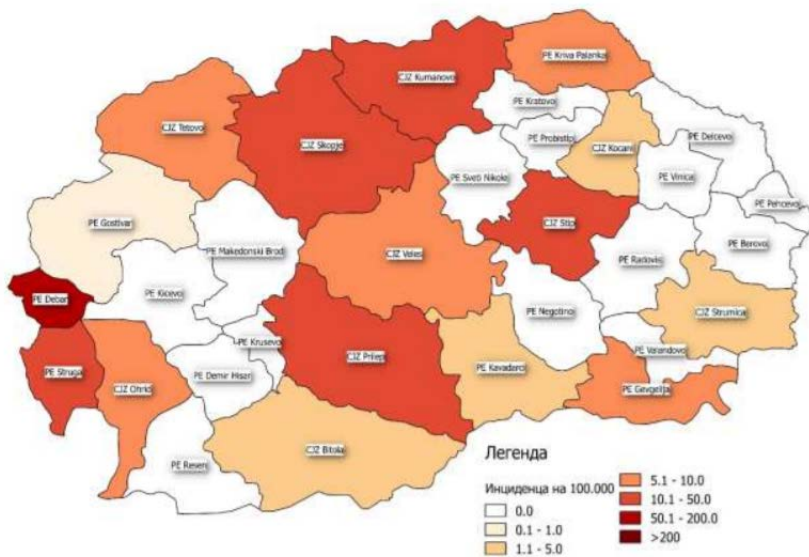
Very high

## SURVEILLANCE

**Figure 1. North Macedonia – Cumulative confirmed COVID-19 cases (n=354) by 2 April 2020 10:00**



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



The highest cumulative incidence is in Debar 169,3 cases per 100,000 people, followed by 43.5 cases per 100,000 people in Kumanovo and 31.6 cases per 100,000 people in Skopje.

Age of patients vary from 2-91 years. However, the highest risk groups are between 40-49 years old and above 60 years old.

The disaggregated data of the confirmed COVID-19 cases through 01 April 2020 which includes the cases reported on 2 April 2020 by MoH could be accessed at the [Institute of Public Health](#).

## 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 2 April 2020 10:00 CET, the WHO European Region number of cases is representing **over 56% of the global burden** of 896 450 cases reported globally to date. Globally, USA carries the heaviest case load (187 302), 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** (110 574 cases, 22%), followed by Spain (102 136 cases, 20%), Germany (73 522 cases, 16%), France (56 261 cases, 11%), and the United Kingdom (29 478 cases, 6%). Five other countries reported more than 10 000 cases (Switzerland, Turkey, Belgium, the Netherlands and Austria), while another 15 countries in the Region reported 1000 cases or more, listed in descending order (Portugal, Israel, Sweden, Norway, Czechia, Ireland, Denmark, Russian Federation, Poland, Romania, Luxembourg, Finland, Greece, Iceland and Serbia);
- **74% of the global burden of COVID-19 deaths have been reported in the European Region**, with Italy and Spain accounting for roughly 66% of all deaths in Europe, followed by France, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Germany, and Belgium.

### WHO ROLE AND 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.

North Macedonia has joined the WHO SOLIDARITY Trial which is a large, international study designed to generate robust data needed to show which treatments are the most effective. The online WHO training course for COVID-19 for health care and infection control and protection (IPC) is now available in

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.

Macedonian Language on the WHO learning platform for Health workers. <https://openwho.org/> . UNFPA and WHO are working now on producing the Albanian Language version.

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:

- The health authorities informed that the tests for coronavirus used by the private hospital “Acibadem Sistina” are different from the tests available by the MoH as they do not directly detect the presence of the virus but rather the presence of the antibodies. Therefore, the Minister informed that all patients found positive in Sistina will need to be confirmed at the IPH laboratory after it was reported that 54 people tested positive in the private hospital.
- COVID-19 case has been registered in the Psychiatry Hospital in Demir Hisar - steps are undertaken and the psychiatrists in the hospital are self-isolated.
- Public Prosecutor's Office in Skopje has filed 38 motions for sentencing for 43 people for violating rules during an epidemic and proposed fines of EUR 2,000 euros, or a total of EUR 86,000.

## **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.

Packages with food and hygiene assets in the amount of 100.000 USD will be allocated to most jeopardized Roma families in Macedonia that are socially and economically hit by the health crisis, announced the Foundation Open Society – Macedonia which donated the funds.

Minister Osmani announced that Crisis teams are to be set up in local communities to deal with covid-19 by local self-governments (municipalities and the city of Skopje).

### 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](#)

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

[MoH COVID-19 information](#)

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

#### *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

#### *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

[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

*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

Text hi to +41 79 412 32 36 on WhatsApp