



HIGHLIGHTS

- **North Macedonia COVID19 risk categorization is now very high risk** on all the country territories based on community widespread transmission of the virus.
- 42 COVID-19 patients have recovered. Six COVID-19 fatalities and 54 new cases were reported in the last 24 hours. **The total number of registered COVID-19 cases in the country is 908 including 126 cases among health professionals (13.9%).** COVID-19 cases are registered in 20 cities – first case is reported in Kichevo indicating further geographic spread.
- 62.2% of the cases are reported from Skopje and Kumanovo, while 61.4% of the deaths are in Kumanovo, Struga and Skopje. 21% of the confirmed COVID-19 cases and about 68.2% of the deaths were in people above 60 years old. 72.7% of death cases had comorbidities. 33 and 37 cases are registered among children ages 0-9 and 10-19, respectively.
- The National Security Council will examine whether to extend the state of emergency beyond 16 April 2020.
- Bishop Agatangel urges the believers to join the Easter celebrations from home.
- WHO has published interim guidance on oxygen sources and distribution strategies for COVID-19 treatment. The document describes how to quantify oxygen demand, identify oxygen sources that are available, and select appropriate surge sources to best respond to COVID-19 patients' needs, especially in low-and-middle income countries. For more details, please see [here](#).
- A group of scientists, physicians, funders and manufacturers from around the world have pledged to collaborate, in coordination with WHO, to help speed up the availability of a vaccine against COVID-19. Their statement can be found, against [here](#).

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

total (new) cases in the last 24 hours

North Macedonia

908 confirmed (54)

44 deaths

86 recovered

Globally

1 844 863 confirmed (71 779)

117 021 deaths (5369)

European Region

943 272 confirmed (29 923)

80 712 deaths (3293)

Regions of the Americas

644 986 confirmed (34 244)

25 551 deaths (1792)

Western Pacific Region

122 805 confirmed (1379)

4161 deaths (36)

Eastern Mediterranean Region

103 638 confirmed (3925)

5255 deaths (148)

South-East Asia Region

18 663 confirmed (1780)

829 deaths (63)

African Region

10787 confirmed (528)

501 deaths (37)

WHO RISK ASSESSMENT

Very high

RISK ASSESSMENT OF COVID-19 IN NORTH MACEDONIA ACCORDING TO GEOGRAPHICAL SPREAD IS VERY HIGH: meaning community widespread virus transmission on all the country territories.

SURVEILLANCE

Figure 1. North Macedonia – Cumulative confirmed COVID-19 cases (n=854) and deaths (n=38) by 14 April 2020 19:00

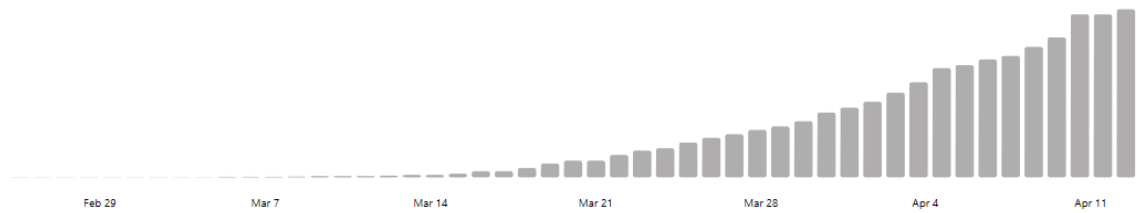
Confirmed Cases Over Time

Cumulative

854

confirmed cases

Source: World Health Organization



Deaths Over Time

Cumulative

38

deaths

Source: World Health Organization

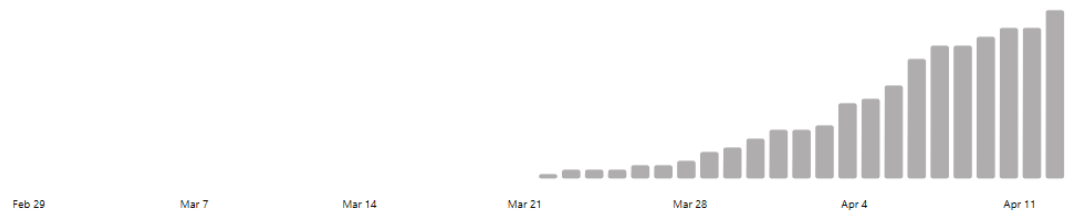
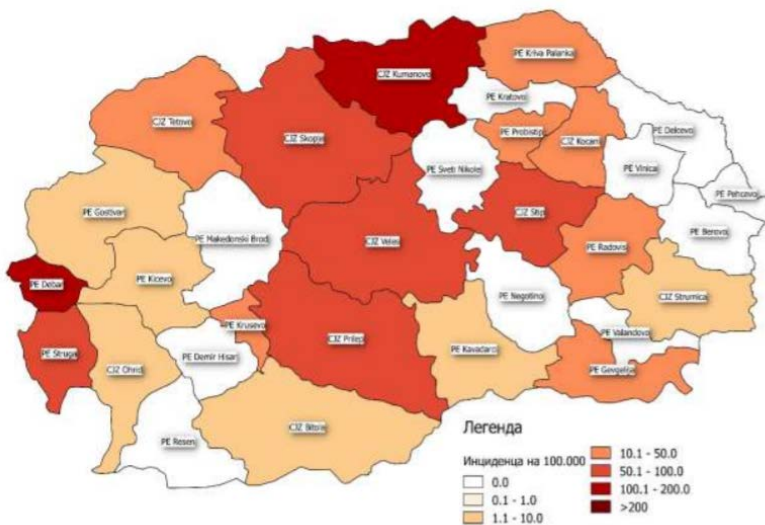


Figure 2. North Macedonia – COVID-19 incidence per 100,000 people, as of 14 April 2020



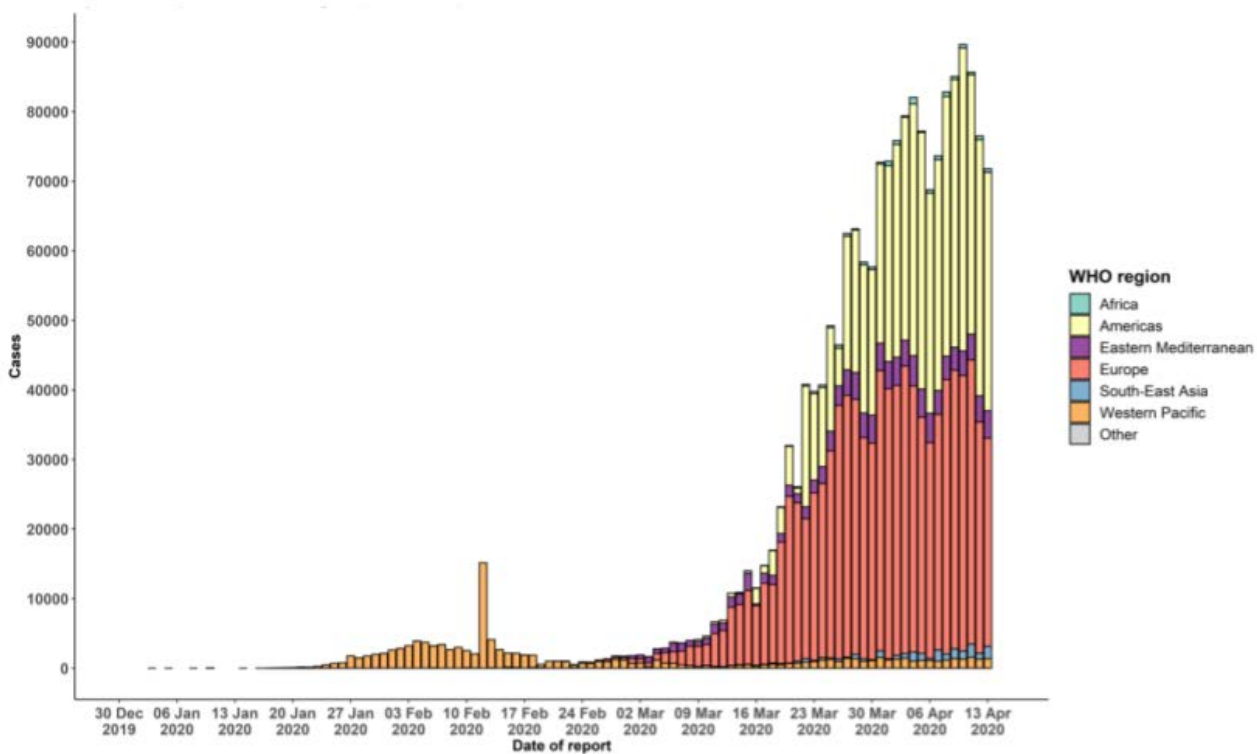
The highest cumulative incidence is in Debar (176,5 cases per 100,000 people), followed by Kumanovo (165.4 cases per 100,000 people). Five other cities have incidence above 50.0 cases per 100,000 people (Prilep, Struga, Veles, Shtip and Skopje).

Age of patients vary from 0-91 years (median age – 46 years old). However, the highest risk group is between 50-59 years old.

The disaggregated data of the confirmed COVID-19 cases through 12 April 2020 which includes the cases reported on 13 April 2020 by MoH could be accessed at the www.iph.mk

GLOBAL COVID19 Situation

Epidemic curve of confirmed COVID-19, by date of report and WHO region through 14 April 2020



Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-2019), Europe

- Based on the WHO and ECDC data as of 14 April 2020 10:00 CET, there have been 943 272 cases reported in the WHO European Region, representing 51% of the global burden of 1 844 863 cases reported to date. Globally, USA carries the heaviest case load (553 822), with Spain and Italy concluding top-3. In addition, five more countries from the European Region are in the top-10 (Germany, France, United Kingdom, Turkey and Belgium).
- In Europe, three countries reported 100 000 cases or more (Spain 169 496 cases, Italy 159 516 cases, and Germany 125 098 cases), accounting for just under half (48%) of all European cases. Twelve countries reported 10 000 cases or more, listed in descending order (France, United Kingdom, Turkey, Belgium, Netherlands, Switzerland, the Russian Federation, Portugal, Austria, Israel, Sweden and Ireland).
- Cumulatively, 69% of the global burden of COVID-19 deaths (117 021 deaths) have been reported in the European Region (80 712 deaths), with Italy, Spain, France and the United Kingdom each reporting more than 10 thousand deaths and together accounting for almost 80% of all deaths in Europe (20 465, 17 489, 14 967, 11 329 deaths respectively). Another four countries in the Region reported 1000 deaths or more (Belgium 3903 deaths, Germany 2969 deaths, Netherlands 2823 deaths, and Turkey 1296 deaths).

- Countries with highest incidence per 100 000 population in the Region are Spain (363), Switzerland (297), Belgium (265), and Italy (263). The most highly affected countries appear to be stabilizing (Spain, Italy and France); while continued increases in case numbers have been observed mostly in Turkey and Russia.

WHAT WHO IS DOING FOR COVID19 IN NORTH MACEDONIA?

In line with the strategic shift of the 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.

In North Macedonia:

- WHO is supporting North Macedonia for Sero-epidemiological studies investigate 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: <https://www.who.int/publications-detail/population-based-age-stratified-seroepidemiological-investigation-protocol-for-covid-19-virus-infection>
- 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 with new premises, refurbishing and IT equipment.
- **WHO held a training meeting on Solidarity trial** to all those involved in the scheme from COVID19 treating hospitals.
- 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 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>

- 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 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 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>

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/>
- Generating Robust data needed to show which treatments are the most effective, by North Macedonia joining the WHO SOLIDARITY Trial which is a large, international therapeutic study that will allow also receiving free of charge medicines for COVID19 and latest evidence-based indications for changing treatment protocols when needed to reduce mortality, length of stay under mechanical respiration and reducing complications.
- 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)

HEADS UP on WHO FRONT

- WHO is preparing the **2nd Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan**: The plan will build on the first SPRP to incorporate what we know now and the evolving global context. The strategies for preparedness and response remain the same.

- WHO is preparing to **scale up laboratory diagnostic capacity: GeneXpert**: A test for the COVID-19 coronavirus developed by Cepheid for their GeneXpert instrument has received an Emergency Use Authorization by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on 22 March 2020. WHO is currently working to negotiate access to this test. Rapid communication on the **role of the GeneXpert® platform** for rapid molecular testing for SARS-CoV-2 in the WHO European Region [link](#).

HOW MANY HEALTH CARE WORKERS ARE CURRENTLY INFECTED WITH COVID-19?

As of 8 April, over 22 000 cases of COVID-19 among health care workers from 52 countries had been reported to WHO. However, at the present time, there is no systematic reporting of health care worker infections to WHO and therefore this number probably under-represents the true number of COVID-19 of such infections globally.

To date, there are a limited number of publications and national situation reports that provide information on the number of healthcare worker infections. Preliminary results suggest they are being infected both in the workplace and in the community, most often through infected family members.

Understanding infection in health workers is critical to informing the specific infection prevention and control measures needed to protect them from infection. More [here](#).

In [EURO region](#), data show that one out of every 13 reported infections with information available was in a health care worker (as of 5 April). In North Macedonia, about 14% of all reported cases are among health care workers.

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.

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.

- President Stevo Pendarovski considers that state of emergency will be extended by another 30 days given the current situation. The current period ends on April 16 when National Security Council is to hold a session and decide on extension of the nationwide state of emergency to help halt the spread of the coronavirus.
- Bishop Agatangel of the Macedonian Orthodox Church - Ohrid Archbishopric (MOC-OA) urged the believers to stay home and not go to church during the Easter holiday. MOC-OA instructed the citizens to respect the recommendations of the health authorities to prevent the spread of coronavirus, that is, to respect the curfew during the holidays.

- The preparations of the two additional labs at the Macedonian Academy for Science and Art and the Institute for Forensic Medicine is ongoing - the postmortem testing materials will be analyzed at IFM and the lab of MASA will be designated to the patients from the health facilities outside of Skopje.
- The health authorities informed that the procurement procedure for respirators is completed – part of the respirators will arrive in the country over the next 7 days and the rest in the next 30 days
- The request of the parents of children with autism regarding the movement in the upcoming days - as they need to move throughout the day which is most often part of their treatment – will be discussed tomorrow informed the Minister of Health.
- Due to the increased control over the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Government regarding the pandemic, the Municipal Crisis Headquarters Kavadarci asked the Ministry of Defense to send 25 soldiers to Kavadarci who will be involved in the control and security process.
- The Kumanovo Crisis HQ urged for a 14-day quarantine in the city, including a number of specific measures. The call comes after the number of coronavirus cases in the municipality has risen at a faster pace compared to other regions in the country.
- Additional 118 companies having 1 116 employees are approved for the interest-free loans in the total amount of €936 602. So far, a total of 254 loan applications are approved in the total amount of €2.2 million for companies with 2 853 employees.
- Financial support for companies, unemployment, lending and movement permits during curfews are the most frequently asked questions at the government's contact center for economic measures, where 1,579 calls have been registered this week.
- 152 citizens are repatriated from Italy and will be in state quarantine for 21 days. So far, the Foreign Ministry has assisted in organizing flights and humanitarian convoys to repatriate 3,032 Macedonian nationals stranded abroad. Of these, 2,022 were repatriated from 13 countries (Malta, Croatia, Slovenia, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Belgium, France, Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands and Italy) on flights from 15 cities
- 98 people were caught breaking curfew in the past 24 hours, of which 67 were detained.
- A phone line (075/277-806) for support and consultations for people with dementia and their caregivers is available on Mondays and Wednesdays from 11:00-13:00 – informed the University Clinic for Neurology.

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.

- **Czech Republic** donation of one million masks arrived Skopje by a military plane from Prague.
- **China's** assistance for North Macedonia is expected by the end of April with protective gloves, hand and surface disinfectants
- **Slovenia** provided 100,000 surgical masks and 100,000 protective masks.
- **Norway** has also donated medical supplies to North Macedonia (worth 180 000 Euro) which will be shipped from the NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA). North Macedonia is currently using a field hospital donated by Norway, allowing it to double the capacity at the Infectious Disease Clinic.
- Sixteen applications have been picked out of more than 500 sent for the **CREATON public** call to tackle COVID-19 challenges, issued by the Fund for Innovations and Technology Development. The public call was supported by the Embassy of Switzerland to North Macedonia, USAID, UNDP, UNICEF, and the Chamber of Commerce for Information and Communication Technologies – MASIT. Nearly 158 applications were shortlisted. Of those that made the cut, there are solutions involving medicine, digital tools as support to micro, small and medium-sized

enterprises to weather the crisis, education digital tools, culture and leisure tools. The total budget is 10 million denars and each proposal can receive up to EUR 10,000 in local currency. The call is the first in a series of the Fund's initiatives to tackle with the COVID-19 consequences.

- Disabled and elderly persons will receive aid during the coronavirus crisis. This activity is accomplished with the **UNPD** and in cooperation with the **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation**.
- Government authorized the Minister of Health Venko Filipce to sign the Donation Agreement between the **Information Technology Company Nextsen DOO** as a Donor and the Ministry of Health as a recipient of the donation.
- **British Embassy** Donated Equipment to Defence Ministry: The Embassy of the United Kingdom to Macedonia handed over to the Defence Ministry a donation consisting of protective equipment for better handling of the coronavirus situation
- The **Hungarian government** donated 100,000 protective masks and 5,000 protective suits
- **Turkey** delivered a donation to North Macedonia to deal with the coronavirus on 8 April 2020. The Turkish donation consists of 50,000 protective medical masks, 1,000 protective suits, 1,000 diagnostic tests and other medical supplies.
- **MOH Solidarity fund is established:** Companies, individuals, organizations, institutions, embassies donated 59.3 million denars on the account of the Ministry of Health including donations of medical devices, protective equipment and other materials.
- North Macedonia to receive urgent medical equipment with 4 million euros from **EU for procurement** through UNOPS.
- **USAID** supported both WHO and UNICEF with 1.1. million USD in their efforts to fight the epidemic in North Macedonia
- **Germany** offered support to the Ministry of Health with an amount of USD 2 million in PPE
- **OSCE** is proposing donation of essential PPE for the COVID19 Center of Infectious Diseases for 30,000 Euros.
- 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.
- **Macedonian Red Cross** supports the elderly and the disabled in shopping and basic needs for hygiene, protection and their livelihood.

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, protecting the health care workers and ensuring essential social and medical care to the vulnerable.

➤ **Technical needs at the health front:**

- 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

➤ **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

SUBJECTS IN FOCUS

WHO STRENGTHENING SUPPLY NETWORKS, FORECASTING REQUIRED SUPPLIES, AND SENDING CRITICAL SHIPMENTS

COVID-19 Supply Chain Task Force:

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to create an acute shortage of essential supplies, including personal protective equipment, diagnostics and medical equipment. On 8 April 2020, WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros announced a Supply Chain Task Force that will establish a COVID-19 Supply Chain System (CSCS) to provide countries with essential supplies for their COVID-19 response. The COVID-19 Supply Chain Task Force will: a. Establish and implement a global strategy to ensure access to critical and life-saving supplies, as identified by WHO; b. Bring together the collective capabilities of public and private actors to meet these needs; c. Ensure the flow of vital supplies and essential cargo.

Pandemic Supply Chain Network

WHO Operations Support and Logistics, in partnership with the Pandemic Supply Chain Network (PSCN), continues to engage private companies in efforts to meet the unprecedented global demand for life-saving medical equipment, laboratory testing supplies and personal protective equipment.

Initial talks with manufacturers of oxygen production concentrators and ancillary equipment indicate there is potential to secure PSA oxygen plants for installment in the coming weeks. A number of oxygen producers have expressed interest in supporting WHO efforts to secure vital equipment for its stockpile and to meet intermediate to long-term procurement requests. WHO continues to deliver laboratory testing supplies to countries in need and is ramping up

efforts to consolidate demand and work with PSCN stakeholders to ensure access and proper allocation of diagnostics equipment to increase testing capacity in those countries most in need.

COVID-19 Essential Supplies Forecasting Tool

Through collaboration with the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) and UNICEF, OSL's COVID-19 Essential Supplies Forecasting Tool (COVID-19 ESFT) is now available online. Demonstrations have been conducted in WHO EURO, EMRO and AFRO regions. The forecasting tool is designed to help governments, partners and other stakeholders to estimate potential requirements for essential supplies to respond to COVID-19 pandemic. The tool enables the projecting of essential supply needs, including the estimation of personal protective equipment, diagnostic equipment, biomedical equipment for case management, essential drugs for supportive care, and consumable medical supplies.

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](#))

[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

[New] Call Center for the economic measures in response to COVID-19
02/324-8040

WHO WhatsApp messaging service

[New] Text hi to +41 79 893 1892
Text hi to +41 79 412 32 36