



Update on COVID-19 in North Macedonia - 52

In **North Macedonia**, from **Feb 26** to **9:32am CEST, 23 May 2020**, there have been **1,898 confirmed cases** of COVID-19 with **111 deaths**.

SUBJECT IN FOCUS: STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY DURING LONG WEEK END HOLIDAYS of
SS CYRIL & METHODIUS & EID AL FITR

NORTH MACEDONIA COVID-19 **EPI SITUATION**

EUROPE COVID-19 SITUATION

NORTH MACEDONIA COVID-19 **HEALTH RESPONSE**

NORTH MACEDONIA COVID-19 **SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACT AND RESPONSE**

SUPPORT TO NORTH MACEDONIA COVID-19 EMERGENCY

During the last 24 hours – Data as of 21 May 2020 23:00

- Total tests performed (% positive) : 702 (%) SARS-CoV-2 tests and
- **Targeted screening tests (number positive)** : 365 (0) tests are among employees in kindergartens in Skopje, Veles and Kocani . 38 (0) tests are in elderly homes .
- **New cases**: 23 new cases
- **Recovered**: 9 COVID-19 patients
- **Fatalities**: 1 new COVID-19 deaths

Cumulative registered COVID-19 as of 21 May – **1921** (Incidence=92.8/100.000) – [see daily curve](#)

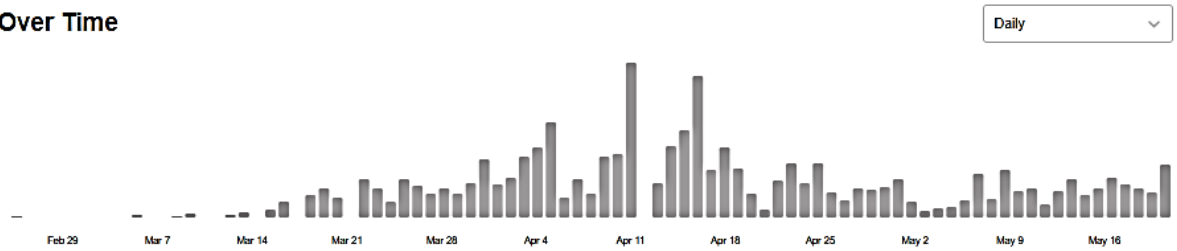
- **Cases among health workers**: **257 (13.4% of all cases)** of which 234 (92.1%) have recovered.
- **Tests performed**: 23 316 SARS-CoV-2 tests.
- **Patients recovered**: 1378 COVID-19 patients.
- **Fatalities**: **111** COVID-19 fatalities (CFR 5.8%) are registered.
- **Gender distribution**: More women are infected with coronavirus than men (988 and 933 respectively). However, almost **68% of all deaths are men**.
- **Comorbidity**: 74% of death cases
- **Age distribution**: Median age at infection: 46 years; largest number of cases is in >60-year: 21.9%; >60-year: 65% of all deaths; but the highest age specific incidence of 141.7 / 100,000 is registered in the age group of 50-59 years (394 patients); 0-9-year: 69 confirmed COVID-19 cases; 10-19-year: 86 confirmed COVID-19 cases.

Public Health Measures: **Extended curfew hours on the holiday weekend, from Sunday at 11 am, until Tuesday until 05.00.**

Figure 1. North Macedonia – Daily confirmed and deaths COVID-19 cases (n=1898) and deaths (n=111) by 21May 2020

Confirmed Cases Over Time

1,898
 confirmed cases
Source: World Health Organization



Deaths Over Time

111
 deaths
Source: World Health Organization

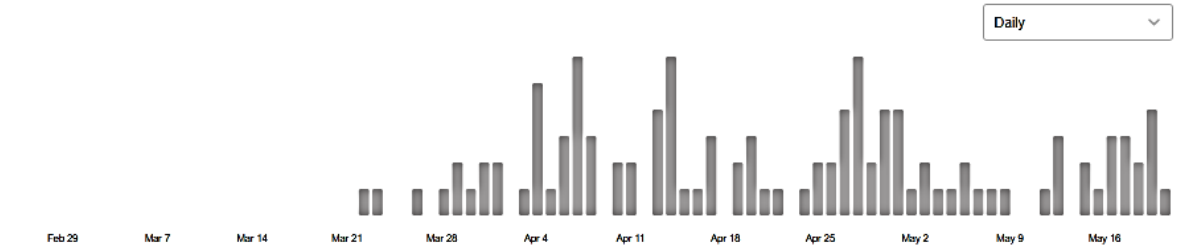
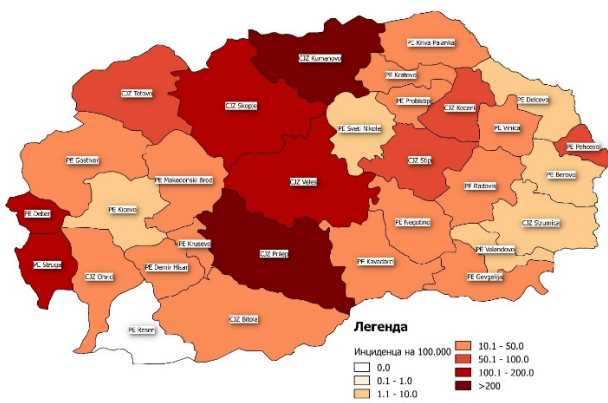


Figure 2. North Macedonia – COVID-19 incidence per 100,000 people, per city, as of 21 May 2020



Geographic spread and deaths:

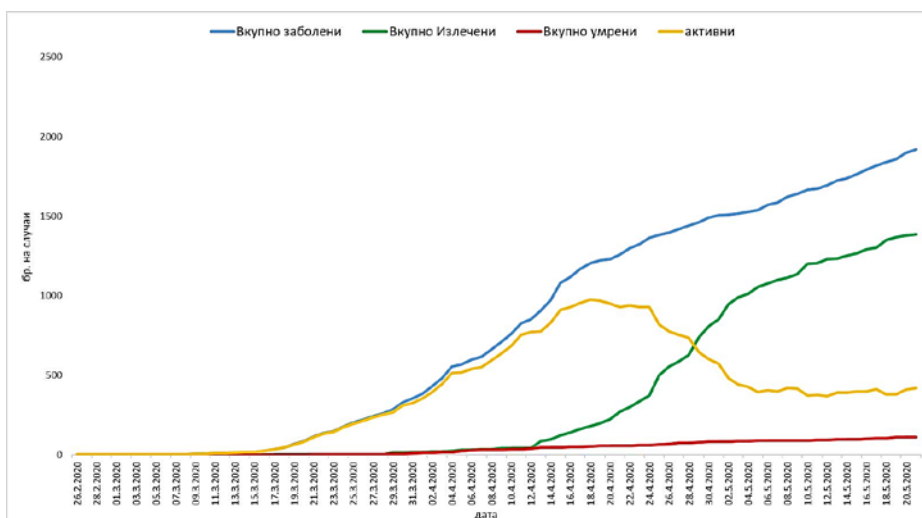
COVID-19 cases are registered in 31 cities.

The highest cumulative incidence per 100,000 inhabitants is registered in Kumanovo with 296.5 patients per 100,000 inhabitants, Prilep (216.1 / 100,000), Veles (191.7 / 100,000), Debar (183.8 / 100,000), Skopje (110, 9 / 100,000) and Struga (104.6 / 100,000), while an incident with over 50 patients per 100,000 inhabitants was registered in Tetovo, Stip, Kocani and Pehchevo. 79% of all deaths are registered in Kumanovo, Skopje, Struga, Tetovo and Prilep.

All data can be accessed at www.iph.mk

Figure 3 North Macedonia – COVID-19 statistics as of 21 May (n=1898)

Total number of cases **Recovered** **Deaths** **Active cases**

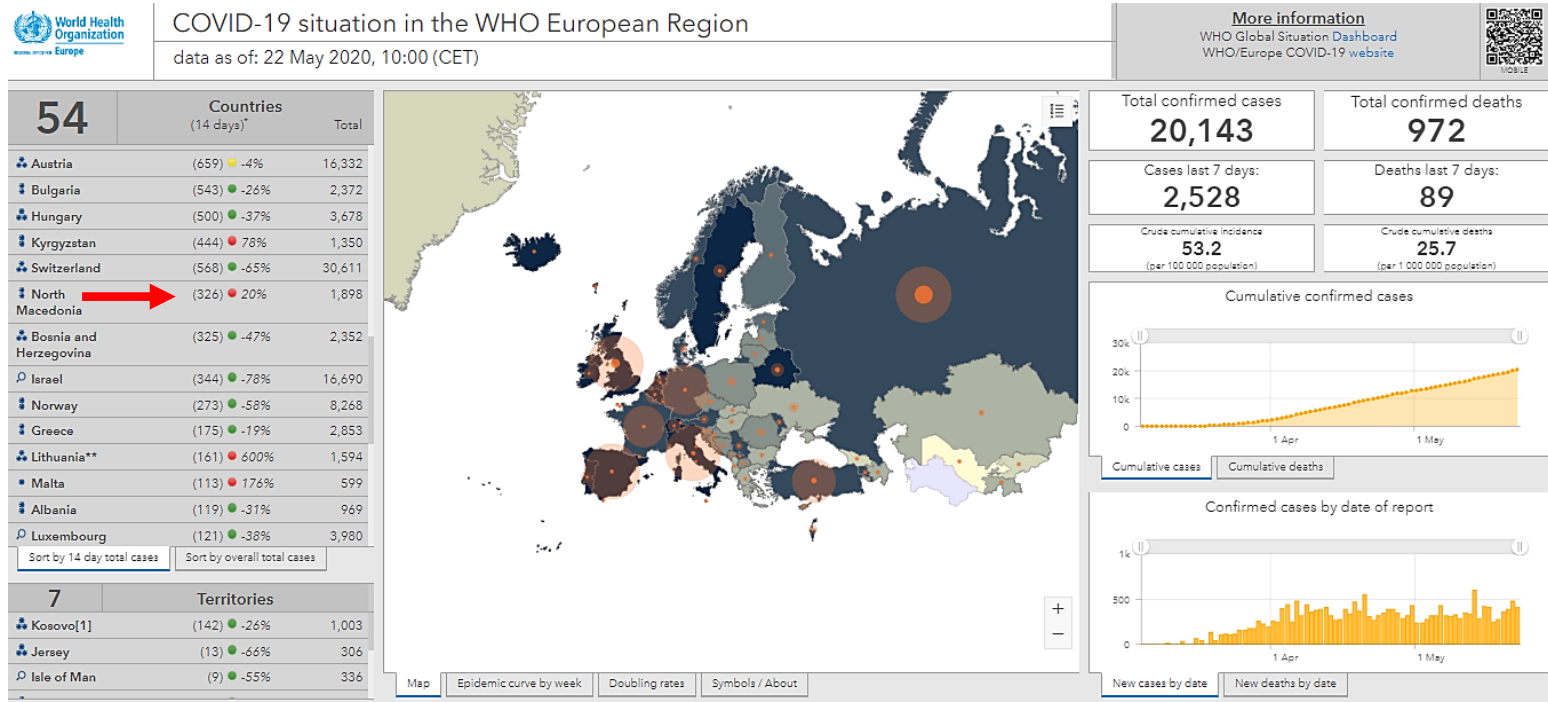


😊 % Change of 14-day Cumulative Death Incidence is ▼ -33%

😞 % Change of 14-day Cumulative COVID-19 Case Incidence is ▲ 20%

😞 Effective Reproduction Number - 1.2 (0.8 – 1.6)
 Clusters phase

EUROPE COVID-19 SITUATION as of 22 May 2020 in last 7 days; www.covid19.who.int



Over the past 7 days:

- Cumulative cases across the Region **increased 7.6% to 1,968,813 cases** (from 1,828,498 cases on 15 May) and cumulative deaths increased by 5% to **171,378 deaths** (from 163,321 deaths on 15 May).

Over the past 14 days:

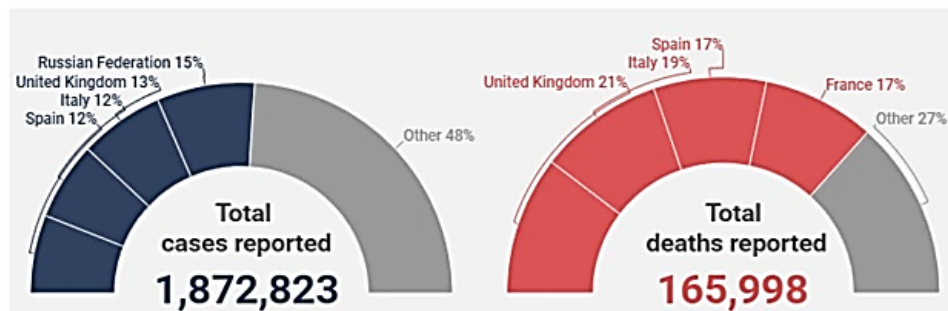
- 5 countries reporting the highest numbers of confirmed COVID-19 cases: **Russian Federation (138,359); United Kingdom (44,193), Turkey (19,827), Belarus (14,135), Italy (12,148).**
- 5 (of 55) countries** have shown an increase in the number of new cases greater than 80% in the past two weeks: Lithuania (600% but low incidence); **Tajikistan (310%)**; Malta (176% but low incidence); **Azerbaijan (136%); Armenia (92%)**

COVID-19 weekly surveillance report
Data for the week of 11 - 17 May 2020 (Epi week 20)



In Week 20:

- 59% of the cases reported in the past week were from the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom
- 73% of cumulative deaths were reported from the United Kingdom, Italy, Spain and France
- 19% of all reported infections with information available were in health care workers
- 79% of all ICU admissions were in persons aged 50-79 years, with 70% of all ICU admissions in men



Country	Cases	Deaths	Attack rate
Serbia	11,024	237	157.45
Republic Of North Macedonia	1,921	112	92.56
Bosnia And Herzegovina	2,372	141	71.36
Kosovo *	1,004	29	55.82
Montenegro	324	9	52.06
Albania	981	31	34.18

Situation in numbers (by WHO Region)

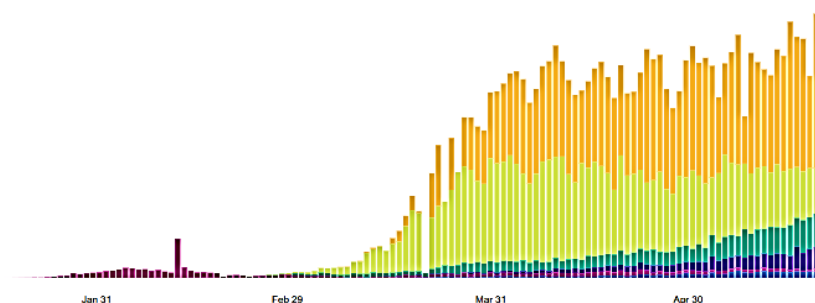
Total (new cases in last 24 hours)

Globally	4 993 470 cases (100 284)	327 738 deaths (4 482)
Africa	71 752 cases (3 405)	1 981 deaths (71)
Americas	2 220 267 cases (54 264)	131 605 deaths (2 956)
Eastern Mediterranean	389 588 cases (13 209)	10 648 deaths (180)
Europe	1 966 244 cases (19 634)	171 327 deaths (1 044)
South-East Asia	173 159 cases (8 934)	5 347 deaths (207)
Western Pacific	171 748 cases (838)	6 817 deaths (24)

Figure 4: Comparison Epi curve of confirmed COVID-19, by date of report and WHO region through 22 May 2020 for all WHO Regions

Case Comparison WHO Regions

Americas	2,282,488 confirmed cases
Europe	1,966,244 confirmed cases
Eastern Mediterranean	389,588 confirmed cases
South-East Asia	175,521 confirmed cases
Western Pacific	172,667 confirmed cases
Africa	74,256 confirmed cases



Source: World Health Organization

Daily Cases

SUBJECT IN FOCUS: STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY DURING EID AL FITR

Stay safe and healthy during Eid al Fitr #COVID19 #coronavirus

This year our Eid celebration will look a bit different. Thank you for keeping yourself and your loved ones safe and healthy. Together, we will get through the pandemic.

Eat healthy during the celebration. Balance your diet with enough fruits and vegetables, and eat a healthy amount of salt and fat, including in meat. If you celebrate with people outside of your household, keep at least one metre distance.

Stay safe and healthy during Eid al Fitr #COVID19 #coronavirus

This year our Eid celebration will look a bit different. We understand you may feel tired, upset, or sad about this. We applaud all of you for keeping yourself and your loved ones safe and healthy.

Together, we will get through this pandemic.

Stay safe and healthy during Eid al Fitr #COVID19 #coronavirus

This year our Eid celebration will look a bit different. Thank you for keeping yourself and your loved ones safe and healthy. Together, we will get through the pandemic.

Instead of taking a trip, stay connected with friends and family via group video calls. You can also take other activities online: take virtual museum tours or online visits to parks and attractions.

Stay safe and healthy during Eid al Fitr #COVID19 #coronavirus

This year our Eid celebration will look a bit different. Thank you for keeping yourself and your loved ones safe and healthy. Together, we will get through the pandemic.

The main health advice is the same: wash your hands, keep your distance, cover your cough and sneeze with a bent elbow or tissue. If you feel sick (dry cough, fever, shortness of breath) please stay at home as much as possible and wear a mask if you must go out.

NORTH MACEDONIA COVID-19 HEALTH RESPONSE – in past 24 hours

Test, Trace and Treat

- **Scaling up COVID-19 testing** is conducted and targeted to specific groups: Elderly homes residents and health care workers and employees of kindergarten. More than 1.340 teachers and employees have been tested to determine when kindergartens can open, in order to allow parents to also go back to work. One teacher in Skopje and one in Bitola were found positive so far, and the testing will continue until the targeted 2.000 employees are all tested. Kindergartens have been closed since March 10.
- 103 police officers have been put in isolation in Skopje, Tetovo, and several other cities throughout the country, 14 of

which have tested positive for COVID-19. The source of infection is still under investigation.

- **Mental Health:** The University Clinic for Psychiatry on the occasion of World Mental Health Awareness Week (May 18-22) emphasized the importance of promoting mental health, especially at the current pandemic with Covid-19. For that purpose more activities for promotion and prevention for mental health will be organized in the next period, for the entire population, as well as certain groups at risk, such as elderly, children and adolescents, various groups at increased risk for violence, persons treated for mental disorders, as well as health workers. Aiming at promoting mental health, the Psychiatry Clinic has opened more phone lines, intended for psychological support of adults in self-isolation, for mothers in pregnancy and childbirth, for parents of children of preschool and school age, for adolescents, for parents of children with disabilities, as well as a hotline for psychological support in Albanian. **Helpline numbers for psychological support: adults in self-insulation 072 919 009; mothers in pregnancy and childbirth 078 378 766; parents of children of preschool and school age 072 912 676; adolescents 078 378 728; parents of children with development disabilities 070 291 574; psychological support in Albanian language 070 291 657.**
- **COVID-19 Plasma therapy:** The Institute of Transfusion Medicine acquired a new equipment for separation of plasma and platelets also used for treatment by COVID-19 convalescent plasma from healthy donors who recovered from coronavirus.

Public Health Measures:

- Long holiday weekend curfew from 11 a.m. Sunday until 5 a.m. Tuesday as per the recommendations of the Committee for Infectious Diseases, the Government and due to two overlapping long holidays – Ss.Cyril and Methodius and Eid el Fitr .
- Health Minister Venko Filipche says the screening of kindergartens will end next week and the daycare institutions will open at the onset of June.
- 46 People fined for breaking curfew in past 24 Hours and 41 detained. 113 people were caught without mandatory protective equipment, i.e. face masks. Over the past 24 hours, the Interior Ministry issued 85 isolation orders and 18 people signed self-isolation statements.

Travel and borders

- Borders are expected to open in mid-July, this is a reasonable period for this move according to Minister of Health
- Government decided yesterday that State Quarantine is replaced by Home Isolation with COVID-19 PCR Test for persons returning from abroad by humanitarian flights or convoys. Travelers should have made PCR COVID-19 tests 72 hours prior to entering North Macedonia. They will be put on mandatory home isolation instead of mandatory state quarantine. Mandatory home isolation applies as well on foreigners whose entry have been granted by the Crisis HQ in case of national or economic interest. They will have to present a medical certificate of a negative PCR test, in accordance with the protocols defined by the Commission for Infectious Diseases within the Ministry of Health.

Migrants: The Ministry of Interior fears that lifting of the coronavirus linked restrictions across the region will again re-activate the migrant smuggling routes in the Balkans, especially through Mount Belasica, in the direction of Camp Muries in Greece to North Macedonia. With the onset of Covid-19 there was a dramatic reduction in the number of illegal migrants. With the better weather, migrant smugglers are re-surfacing, and there is some illegal migration noticeable at the Gevgelija railway line, but also on mount Belasica.

NORTH MACEDONIA COVID-19 SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACT AND RESPONSE

- **Health Sector:** The government decided to give reward of 20 % of the basic salary for 2 months for each of the frontline health workers involved with COVID-19 care . These include the doctors and medical staff of the Infectious Diseases Clinic, infectious Departments, the Institute for Public Health and Public Health Centers, as all members of the emergency medical assistance teams.
- **Agriculture** ministry adopted its third stimulus package support for 'green fuel'. It is planned to increase from 30% to 50% because of the coronavirus crisis, and to increase farmers' competitiveness and productivity. Initially nearly 5,000 new farmers should pick up their fuel cards. EUR 4.5 million is projected for this measure from EU funds.

- The **World Bank loan, estimated at EUR 50 million for Agriculture**, is already signed to be sent to Parliament. These Funds will be used for the construction of three distribution centers in Skopje, Strumica and Resen and for the registry of state agricultural land. Some of the funds are planned to build an incinerator, together with a EUR 4.5 million grant from the European Union and to reconstruct the Paying Agency. Support has been also designed to benefit family-owned agricultural businesses by financing startups, wineries with grants up to EUR 10,000, including EUR 1,000 to hire experts.
- **Tourism and Catering sector:** It is estimated that the coronavirus crisis reduced the number of employees in the tourism sector between 81-100 %. A new critical period has started where a new set of economic measures will be necessary, according to the “Study of the Effects on the Private Sector – Tourism and Catering” that were hit by the health-economic crisis resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The analysis contains proposals for managing the economic consequences and was prepared as part of the USAID project – Partnership for Better Business Regulation.
- **Transport:** The coronavirus pandemic and the imposing of curfew have significantly reduced the collection of highway toll in Macedonia. The Public Enterprise for State Roads said for Meta.mk that the income from the collection of highway toll during the period between January and April 2020 were reduced by 9.79 % compared to the same period, last year. It is thought that the electronic toll collection will help in the situation. In the period between July 2019 and May 2020, 16.933 electronic devices were sold, out of which 10.832 M-Smart cards and 6.101 tags. A total income of 3.246.717 EUR was collected and during this period, a total of 87.660 single top ups for the cards and the tags were made. Since the start of 2020 and up until the midst of May 2020, 3.226 of these electronic devices were sold which indicated that the number of drivers that use the electronic toll payment is on the rise and are benefiting the discounts of 2 to 7% at the payment stations

SUPPORT TO NORTH MACEDONIA COVID-19 EMERGENCY PANDEMIC

- Four **Socially responsible companies** Mega, Golden Art, Akustik and Grimak, donated 85 **non-invasive ventilators** as well as 24 oxygen concentrators set to be distributed to infectious diseases wards in hospitals throughout North Macedonia.
- North Macedonia received **PPE equipment donation** from **Bulgaria** consisting of 600 re-usable protective suits, 300 pairs of protective goggles, and 300 face visors to be distributed to the public and military healthcare systems.
- **OSCE Mission to Skopje** launched an exceptional call for proposals from local civil society organizations, associations and charities aimed to address the needs of the most vulnerable and underserved communities in the country in areas covered by the Mission’s mandate in the time of the COVID-19 crisis. This call is also intended to support organizations that face difficulties in maintaining their operations due to the pandemic. These are the organizations that work with youth, people at risk, including the elderly, people with disabilities, and those with long-term physical and mental health conditions; smaller communities, including Roma and Sinti; survivors of domestic violence, gender-based violence and trafficked persons, refugees and migrants. The support also covers activities in areas such human rights protection and advocacy. Civil society groups, associations, and charities to receive financial will be supported up to €15,000.



Photo Credit – Ministry of Health – National Socially Responsible companies’ donation