

**CRISIS MANAGEMENT AND DISASTER RESPONSE CENTRE OF  
EXCELLENCE**

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# COVID-19

## PART 25

(05 November – 18 November 2020)

*This report represents a summary of open source information, accumulated between 05 November and 18 November 2020, and was assembled on 19 November 2020. All views and opinions expressed are solely those of the author, unless otherwise stated and do not necessarily represent the official position of the CMDR COE or any government and non-government organization or other group. The author does not bear responsibility for incomplete or incorrect facts cited or referred to herein. The majority of reference materials include official documents published by the World Health Organization, governmental pages, and online statistical databases.*

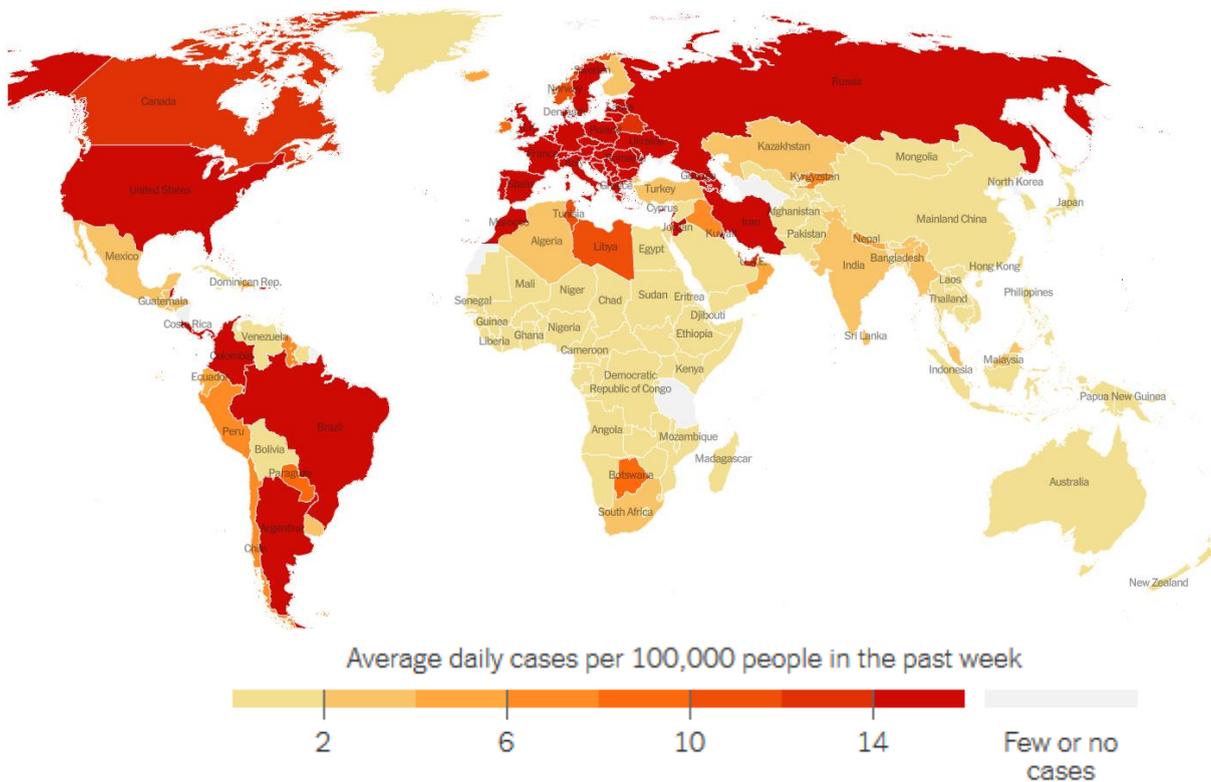
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## OVERALL SITUATION ON THE WORLD

COVID-19 cases are close to 56-million mark globally during last two weeks, with USA, India, Brazil, France and Russia occupying top five worst affected countries on the world respectively. Number of deaths crossed 1,34 million with USA, Brazil, India, Mexico, and UK among top five countries on the world.

In the **African Region**, the gradual increase in the number of new weekly cases since last September continued, with 40 990 new cases reported, a 22% increase compared to the previous weeks. Death rates across the region remained similar to the previous week. South Africa, Kenya, Algeria and Ethiopia reported the largest number of new weekly cases in the region.



With its rickety healthcare infrastructure and poor living conditions, Africa was being described as a COVID-19 disaster waiting to happen. However, what has happened in reality is just the opposite. Even as the wealthier parts of the world grapple with their second or third waves of coronavirus, Africa has managed to retain the casualty numbers at the lowest levels among big continents. Against the World Health Organization’s (WHO’s) prediction in May that 190,000 people would die in the continent if measures to check the pandemic failed, in all 46,357 deaths had been reported until Wednesday. While experts have pointed out the low levels of testing in Africa as the likely cause of underreporting of deaths, reports from other quarters, including hospitals, have mentioned no unusual spurt in casualties.

There are many factors going in Africa’s favor here. The continent’s relative isolation means

that many countries receive very few foreign visitors or send people abroad. A case in point is South Africa, which is among the African countries recording maximum interaction with the outside world, and leads the table in total deaths related to COVID-19. Africa's relative isolation also meant that the virus hit the continent late and countries got time to prepare themselves for the outbreak.

The other reason is the continent's young population. According to the United Nations (UN), as much as three-quarters of Africa's population is aged below 35. COVID-19 is known to have more adverse impact on older population and those with comorbidities.

The continent has also gone through other outbreaks like Ebola in the recent past to prepare for the current pandemic to some extent. Experts are also looking into whether a TB vaccine popular in the continent is helping impart immunity in this case also.

Cases and deaths in **the Region of the Americas** continue to rise, with cases increasing over 40% and deaths over 10% in the past 14 days. The United States of America reported the largest number of cases in the Region, with over 1 million cases (3036 cases per 1 million population) in the past week, amounting to nearly 11 million cumulative cases since the start of the pandemic.

The incidence of new cases continued to increase in the **Eastern Mediterranean Region**, with over 238 000 new cases this past week, an 11% increase on the previous week, while the number of reported deaths was similar. Countries, which reported the greatest number of new cases included Iran, Jordan and Morocco.

Over the past weeks, the **European Region** recorded 46% of all cases and 49% of all deaths reported globally, with nearly 2 million new cases and almost 30 000 new deaths. However, in the past week, for the first time in over three months, the region observed a decline of 10% in weekly cases. At the same time, deaths continued to increase, with an 18% increase the past week in comparison to the previous week.

Varying patterns were seen in Europe with decreases in cases being observed in 24 countries in the past 7 days, ranging from a 2% to over 40% decrease in new cases in these 24 countries compared to the previous week. Whereas in other countries, weekly increases in new cases ranging from 1% to over 40% were reported. The countries reporting the highest number of cases in the past week were Italy, France, the United Kingdom, Poland, the Russian Federation, Germany, Spain, Ukraine, Romania, and Austria. Among these ten countries, Austria reported the sharpest increase, with new cases this week 30% higher compared to the previous week. The countries with the highest weekly mortality rates, exceeding 60 deaths per 1 million population, were Czechia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Belgium, North Macedonia, Armenia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Poland, France, Croatia and Montenegro. The United Kingdom was the first country in the region to record over 50 000 cumulative deaths.

The **South-East Asia Region** observed six weeks of continued decline in cases and deaths

from the second half of September until the end of October. New weekly cases fell from over 690 000 to around 380 000, and new weekly deaths decreased from over 9300 in the week commencing on 14 September to under 4600 in the past week. Since the start of November, weekly cases have stabilized under 400 000 for the past three weeks, with 373 786 cases reported in the past week. Weekly deaths have also remained relatively stable, with 4534 deaths reported in the past week. Countries with highest number of weekly new cases per million population in the past week included Nepal, Maldives and India.

The number of cases continues to gradually rise in the **Western Pacific Region**, which reported nearly 33 000 new cases and over 400 deaths in the past week. New cases increased by 5% and new deaths increased by 15% compared to the previous week. This reporting period is the second consecutive week that the Western Pacific Region reported more than 30 000 new cases per week since mid-September. The Philippines, Japan, Malaysia and French Polynesia reported the highest number of cases in the region.

## COVID-19: COVID “CONSPIRACY THEORIES”

Significant numbers of people around the world believe Covid-19 was created deliberately, has killed far fewer people than reported, or is a hoax and does not actually exist, according to a global survey. Along with belief in other conspiracy theories a survey of about 26,000 people in 25 countries found widespread and concerning skepticism about vaccine safety.

Among the most widely believed COVID CONSPIRACIES is that the death rate of the virus has been “deliberately and greatly exaggerated”. There is evidence the coronavirus pandemic has prompted some people to say they trust experts more, but it has also triggered a wave of disinformation and fake news propagated by science deniers and conspiracy theorists that has spread virally on social networks.

Any scary event – a pandemic, a mass shooting – that denies people a sense of control will lead to a proliferation of conspiracy theories. It gives people a sense of psychological comfort: the feeling that they are not at the mercy of randomness. They’re dangerous at any time, but more so in a pandemic if they lead people to ignore official advice, or commit acts of vandalism or violence. Conspiracy theories also could have thrived on “governments’ inability to have a clear message. Among other countries, roughly one in four French and one in five British and Spanish respondents believed the death rate of the virus had been exaggerated, while Australians, Swedes and Japanese were more likely to dismiss such a belief.

Significant numbers also thought the virus had been “deliberately created and spread” by the Chinese or US government.

The false claim that 5G mobile technology is to blame for the spread of Covid-19 also has plenty of adherents, according to the survey, which was conducted in July and August.

More than half respondents believed it was definitely or probably true that Covid-19 had been deliberately created and spread by the Chinese government.

The survey revealed widespread and significant anti-vaccination sentiment, a matter of serious concern to many governments that hope soon to be able to inoculate their populations against Covid-19.

## **MONITORING**

### **1. ALBANIA**

Albania ranks 92nd in the world in terms of the number of total confirmed cases which is about 27 800 since the beginning of the pandemic. For the last week the new cases are about 3400 with 623 total deaths. For a week period there are less than 100 deaths. Within the period the new daily cases varies between 400 - 530. This number shows a significant increase in number of daily cases compared to the previous period, when it was 270 - 295.

Some of measures in Albania include:

- Starting October 15, wearing a mask in public areas, indoors and outdoors, for any individual 11 years old and above is mandatory. Non-compliance with this rule may result in a fine up to 3,000 ALL.
- Preschools and kindergartens reopened on June 1, 2020.
- All cultural events and other large public gatherings in Albania are cancelled indefinitely.
- Professional sporting events have resumed, with no spectators allowed to attend.
- Malls and shops are open with strict social distancing guidelines in place.
- Hairdressers and dentists are open with strict social distancing guidelines in place.
- Restaurants and cafes are open.
- All indoor activity centers for children, gyms, sports centers, swimming pools, internet cafes, cultural centers, and entertainment centers reopened on June 1, 2020.
- Outdoor exercise is permitted.
- Libraries and museums are open.
- Public transportation has resumed.

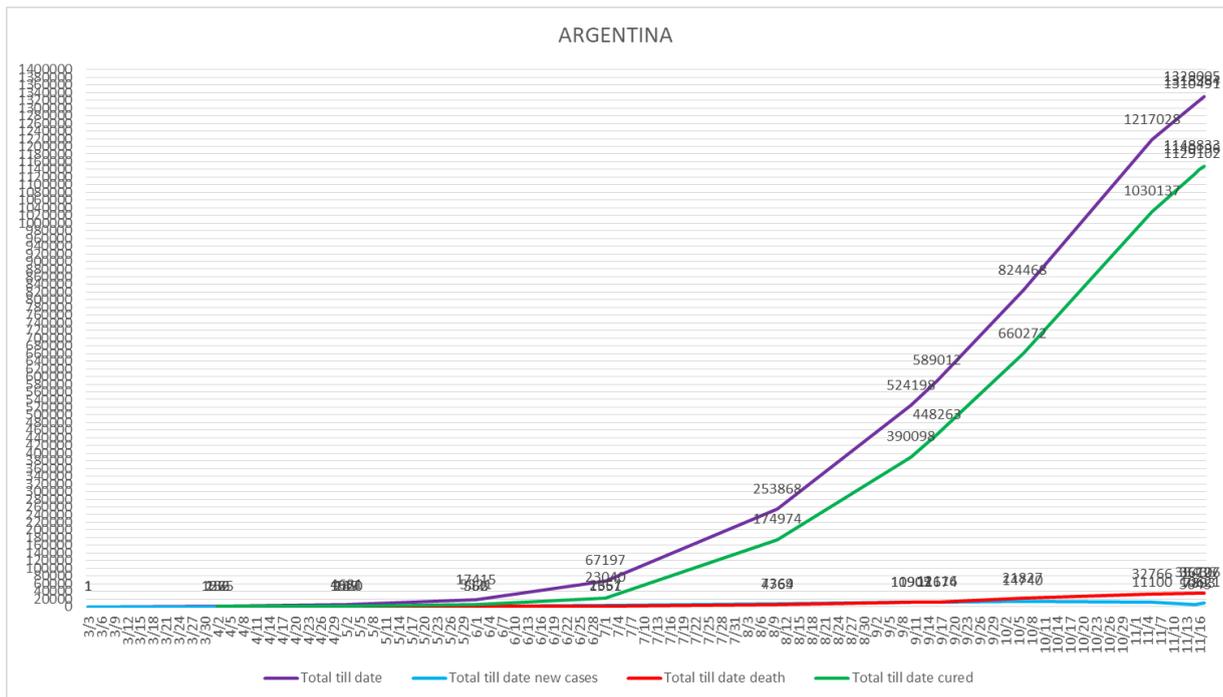
## 2. ARGENTINA

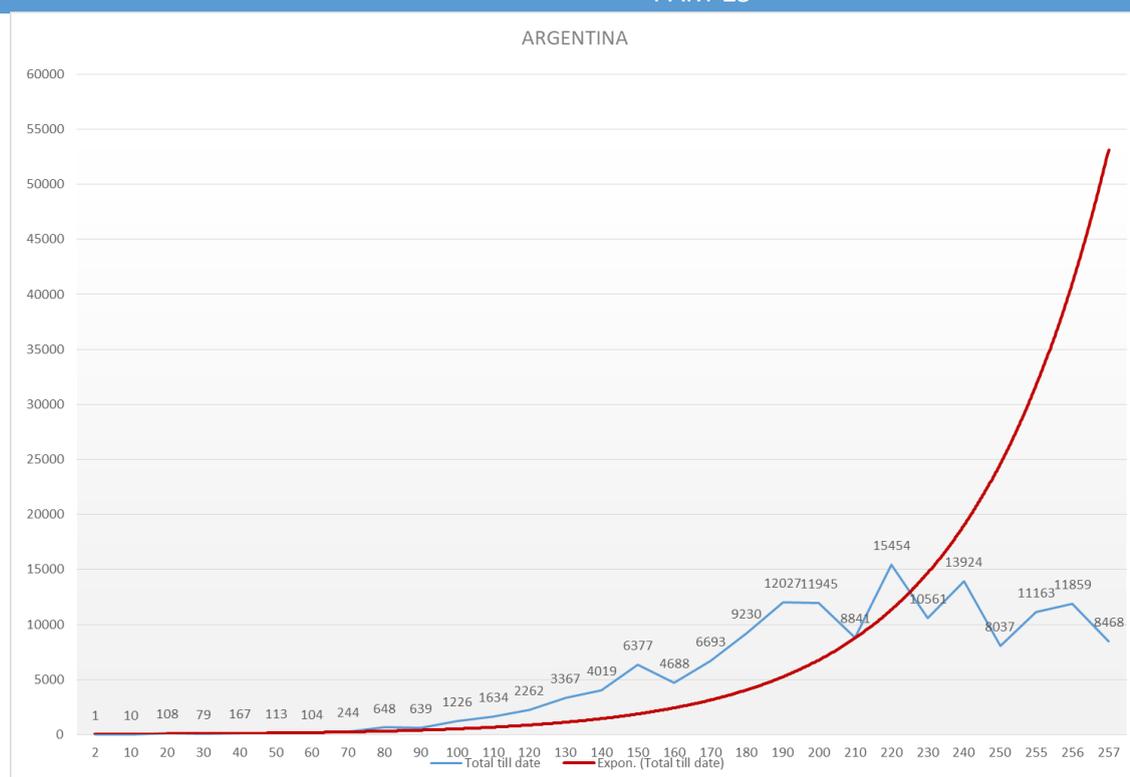
### 1. Defining Patient 0.

A first case of the COVID-19 was confirmed in Buenos Aires on 3 March, in a 43-year-old man who had arrived two days earlier from Milan, Italy.

### 2. The total number of infected, deaths, new cases and recoveries is as follows:

- Infected – 1 329 005 (Eight in the World);
- Coronavirus deaths – 36 106 (2,7 %);
- New cases for the last 24 hours as of 17.11.2020 – 10621;
- Recovered after illness – 1 148 833 (86 %);





It can be assumed that the peak of new cases of COVID - 19 was reached around 08.10.2020 - 15454 cases. Since then, there has been a relative downward trend in the number of new cases, although the number of cases continues to grow exponentially.

#### 4. Measures taken.

No changes in already established measures.

The situation to date shows the ineffectiveness of the measures. The negative tendencies continue.

#### 5. Measures that could be implemented effectively in Bulgaria.

Given the different approaches of the governments of Argentina and Bulgaria, in response to the developing pandemic, measures applicable in Bulgaria to deal with the spreading exponential contagion cannot be determined.

### 3. BRAZIL

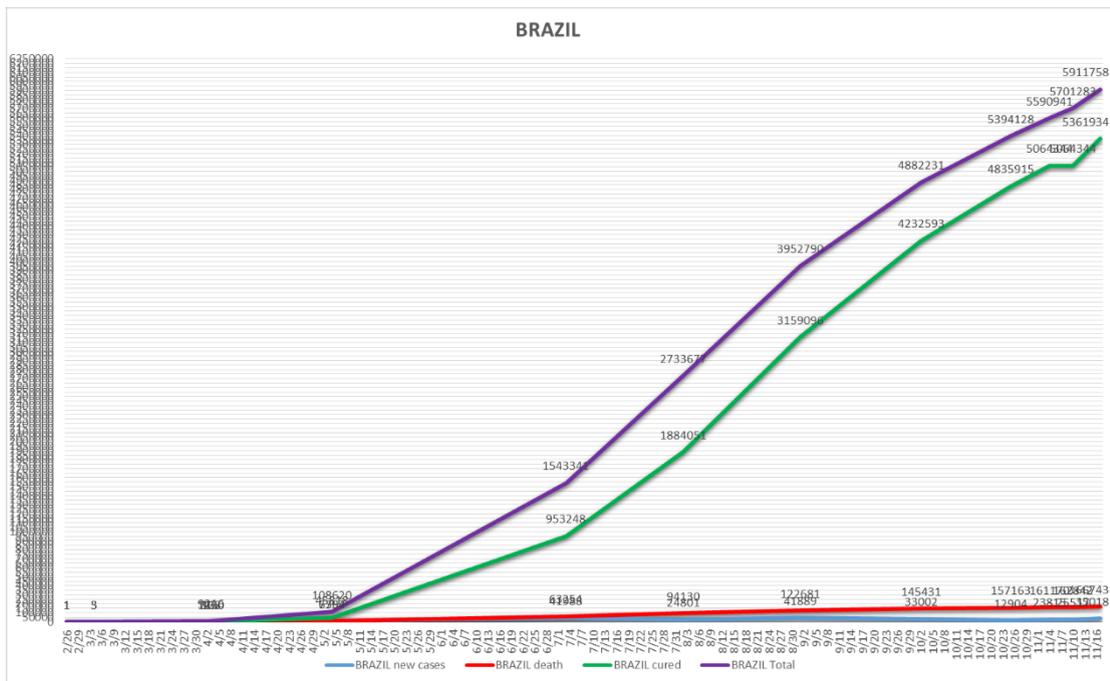
#### 1. Defining Patient 0.

The coronavirus pandemic was confirmed to have spread to Brazil on February 25, 2020 after a 61-year-old man from São Paulo, who returned from Lombardy, Italy, tested positive.

#### 2. The total number of infected, deaths, new cases and recoveries is as follows:

- Infected – 5 911 758 (Third in the World);
- Coronavirus deaths – 166 743 (2.8 %);

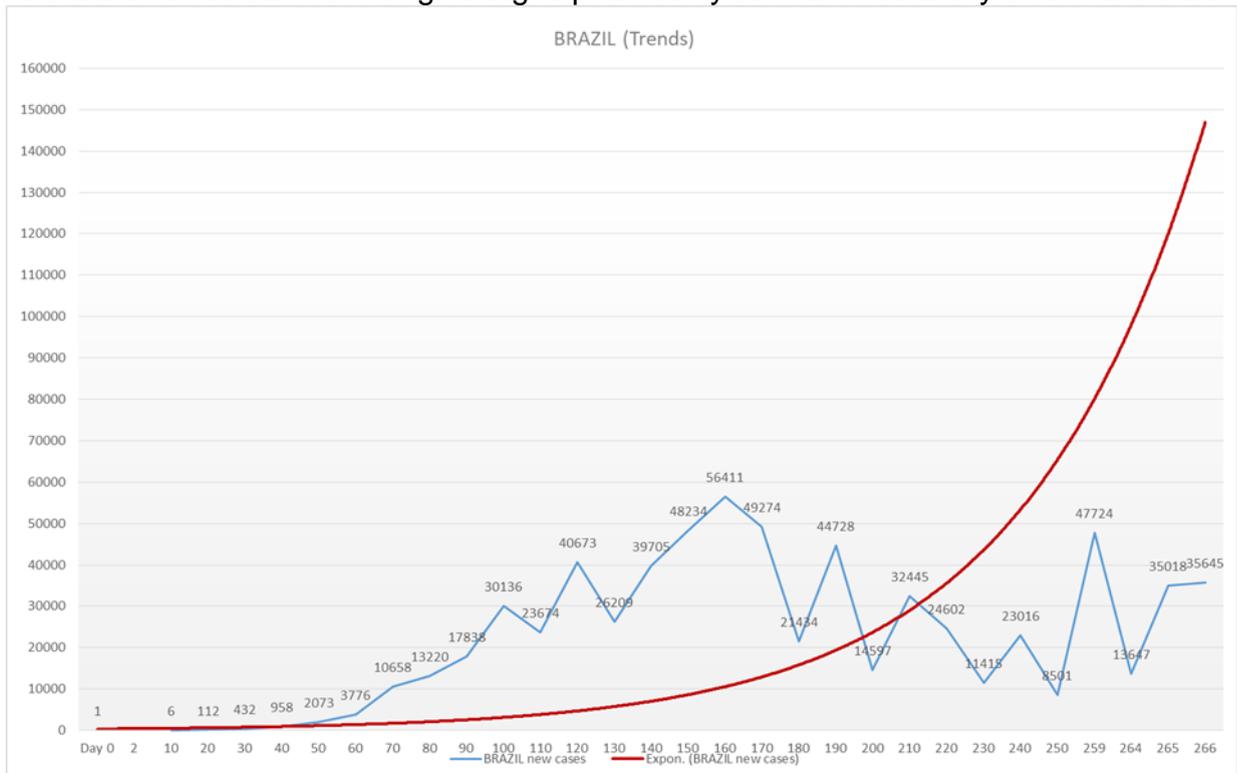
- New cases for the last 24 hours as of 17.11.2020 – 35 018;
- Recovered after illness – 5 361 934 (90 %);



- Cases per 1 M of the population – 27 373.

### 3. Trends.

The number of new cases is growing exponentially and uncontrollably at the moment.



It can be assumed that the peak of new cases of COVID - 19 was reached around 13.08.2020 - 59 147 cases. Since then, there has been a relative downward trend in the number of new cases, although the number of cases continues to grow exponentially.

### 4. Measures taken.

No changes in already established measures.

The situation to date shows the ineffectiveness of the measures. The negative tendencies continue.

#### **5. Measures that could be implemented effectively in Bulgaria.**

Given the different approaches of the governments of Brazil and Bulgaria, in response to the developing pandemic, measures applicable in Bulgaria to deal with the spreading exponential contagion cannot be determined.

### **4. CANADA**

Newly confirmed COVID-19 cases reported by the provinces have brought the national total to **295,000 cases and over 10,950 deaths**. Over 235,400 people have recovered — about 80 per cent of the remaining confirmed cases. Over 13 million people have been tested for COVID-19 in Canada. This corresponds to a test rate of 278,351 per 1 million people. Of all people tested, 2.7% have been found to be positive.

In Canada, there was an average of 3 516 new daily cases reported during the week of 1 November to 7 November, representing an 18% increase in comparison to the previous week (week of 25 October to 31 October). All provinces and territories, with the exception of Northwest Territories and Yukon, reported new cases, including Nunavut where a case was reported for the first time since the pandemic started.

Manitoba reported the highest age-standardized incidence rate (150.7 cases per 100 000 population) and the largest increase in age-standardized incidence rate when compared to the previous week (from 106.4 to 150.7 cases per 100 000 population).

For the week of 1 November to 7 November, incidence rates amongst all age groups increased compared to the previous week, including in those 80 years of age and older where a notable increase was observed (from 69.7 per 100 000 to 77.9 per 100 000). The 80+ age group had the highest incidence rate among any age groups this week.

Since September, long-term care/retirement residences and schools/childcare centres continue to account for the highest number of outbreaks.

A notable increase was observed in the average number of daily deaths reported for the week of 1 November to 7 November compared to the average from the previous week (an average of 51 daily deaths compared to 31 reported in the previous week).

On 7 November there were 1 377 cases hospitalized and 261 cases in ICU, representing a 16% and 13% increase, respectively, in the daily hospitalized and ICU cases compared to 31 October. Based on detailed case information provided to PHAC, the overall cumulative hospitalization rate (including ICU admissions) is 46 cases per 100 000 population, with the

highest rates observed in those 80 years of age and older (354 cases per 100 000 population). The average number of people tested daily decreased from the previous week, with 54 668 people tested per day, representing a 10% decrease compared to the previous week. The average weekly percent positivity increased to 5.8% from 4.7% the week prior. The highest increase in percent positivity compared to the previous week was observed in Québec, where percent positivity increased from 9.2% to 14.5%.

## KEY FINDINGS

- Among patients hospitalized with COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic:
  - 21% have been admitted to the ICU (890/4 231)\*
  - 13% required mechanical ventilation (554/4 231)\*
  - 1% received extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) (41/4 231)\*
  - 15% have died (all-cause mortality) (645/4 231)\*
- The median age of patients hospitalized with COVID-19 was 71 years (range 0-102) and 3% are paediatric (<18 years) (140/4 231)\*
- Males accounted for 52% of hospitalized patients (1 079/2 067)
- The majority of hospitalized patients were described as White/Caucasian (83%; 483/583), with patients described as Black representing the second greatest proportion (6%; 34/583).
- The majority of cases (72.7%) and deaths (90.7%) have been reported by Ontario and Quebec.
- Of the jurisdictions reporting updates (n=13), no new cases have been reported in 2 provinces or territories within the past 24 hours.
- Of the jurisdictions reporting updates (n=13), no new deaths have been reported in 8 provinces or territories within the past 24 hours.
- The majority of cases (72.7%) and deaths (90.7%) have been reported by Ontario and Quebec.
- Of the jurisdictions reporting updates (n=13), no new cases have been reported in 2 provinces or territories within the past 24 hours.
- Of the jurisdictions reporting updates (n=13), no new deaths have been reported in 8 provinces or territories within the past 24 hours.

Ontario reports a record-high case spike, with 100 new patients linked to schools.

Alberta reports record-high spike, prompting new voluntarily restrictions for Edmonton zone.

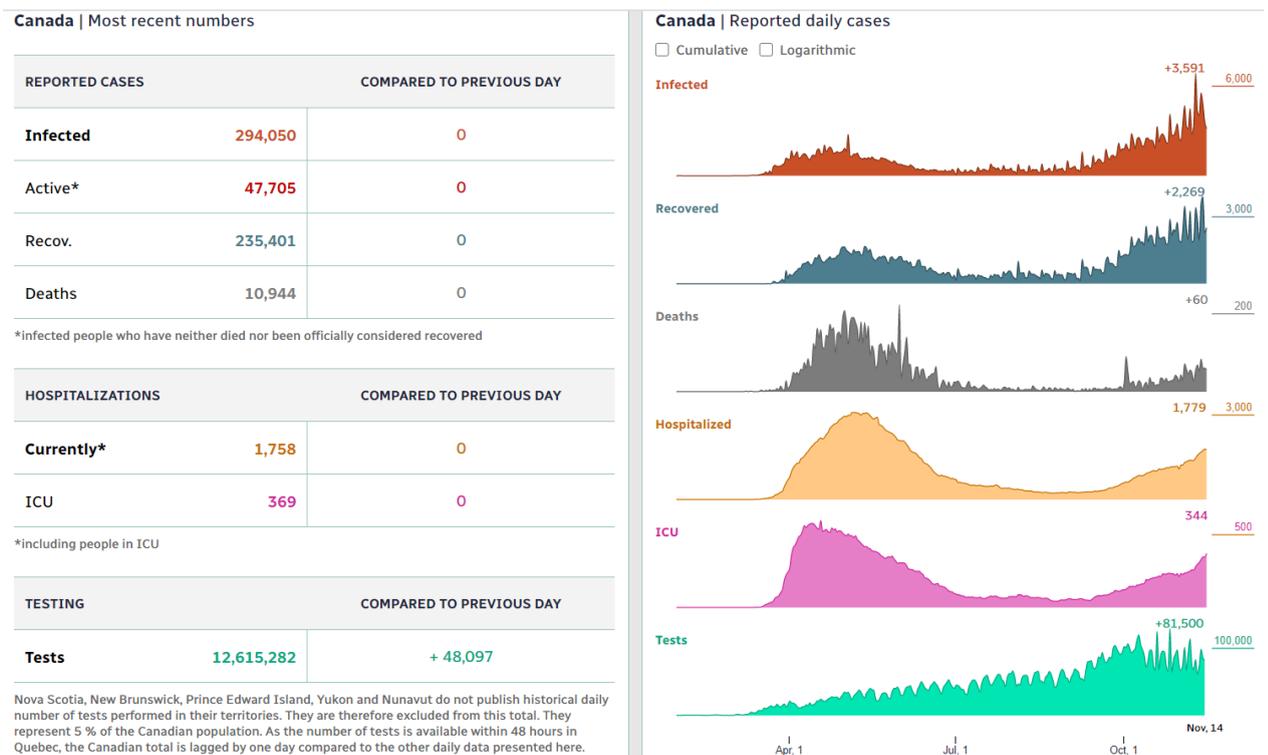
Data from Alberta Health shows the number of new daily cases has continued to rise among five- to nine-year-old and has shot up, especially, among 10- to 19-year-olds.

Canada's second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic is intensifying as you can see from the char

The increase is being driven largely by Quebec, which is adding 87 cases per million population. It is doubling its number of new cases every 10 days, compared to Ontario, which is doubling its new cases every 13 days.

The number of infected people reached and surpassed the level of infected people from the first wave. The number of deaths is now relatively low, but some experts say there is a two-week delay between the increase in the number of infected people and the increase in the number of death toll.

Now, after several weeks of increasing numbers of new cases, hospitalizations are growing in COVID-19 hotspots. Experts say it's only a matter of time before the death toll starts rising.



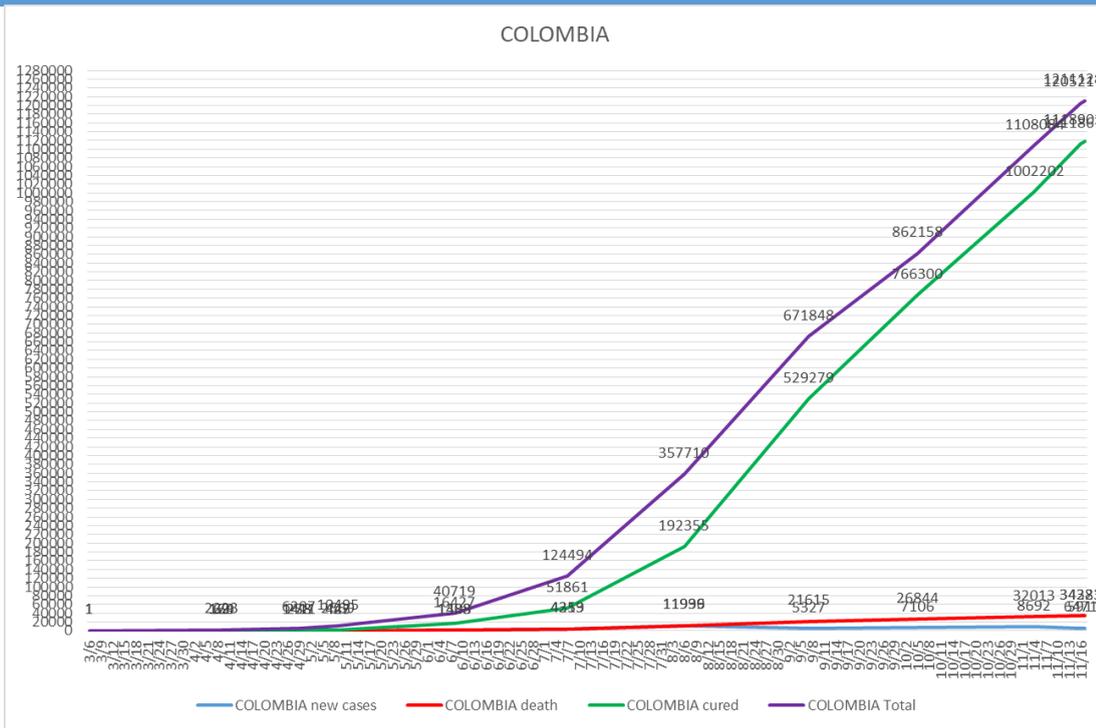
## 5. COLUMBIA

### 1. Defining Patient 0.

On 6 March, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection confirmed Colombia's first case of coronavirus, a 19-year-old female patient who recently travelled to Milan, Italy.

### 2. The total number of infected, deaths, new cases and recoveries is as follows:

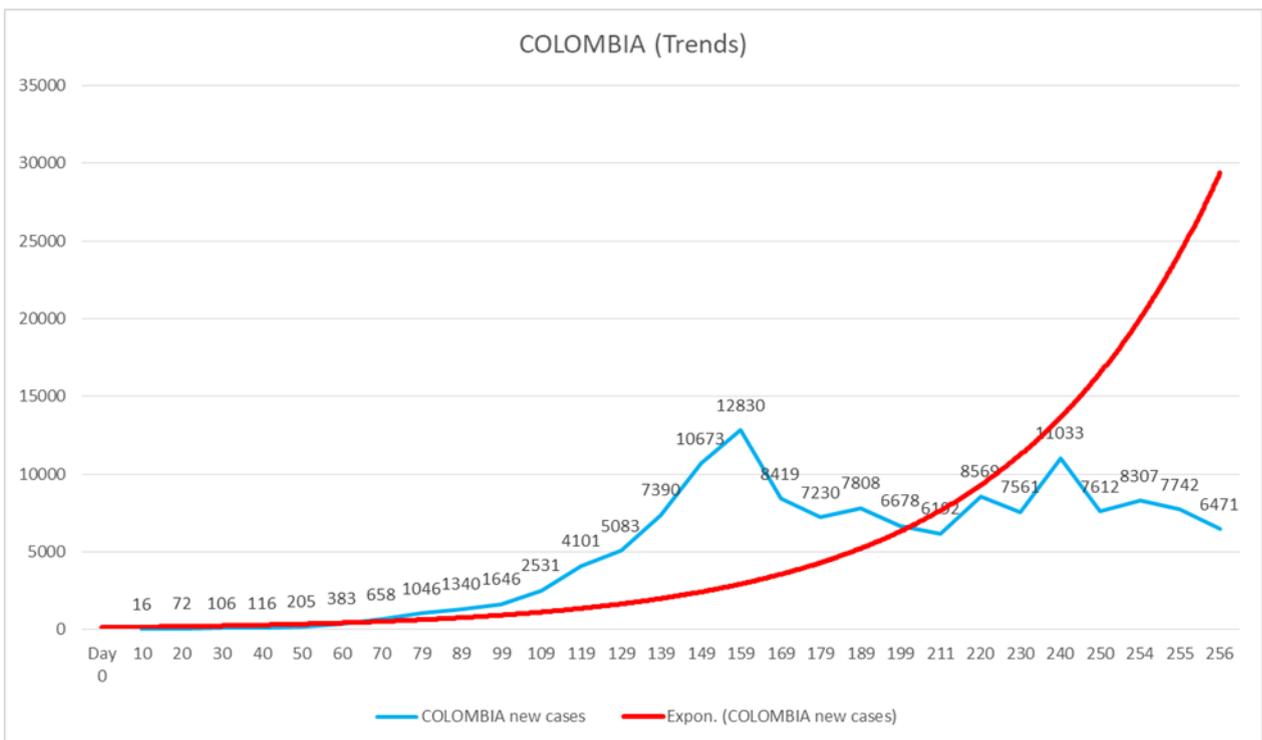
- Infected – 1 211 128 (tenth in the World);
- Coronavirus deaths – 34 381 (2.8 %);
- New cases for the last 24 hours as of 17.11.2020 – 5911;
- Recovered after illness – 1 118 902 (93 %);



• Cases per 1 M of the population – 23 706.

### 3. Trends.

The number of new cases is growing exponentially and uncontrollably at the moment.



It can be assumed that the peak of new cases of COVID - 19 was reached around 11.08.2020 - 12830 cases. Since then, there has been a relative downward trend in the number of new cases, although the number of cases continues to grow exponentially.

### 4. Measures taken.

No changes in already established measures.

The situation to date shows the ineffectiveness of the measures. The negative tendencies continue.

## 5. Measures that could be implemented effectively in Bulgaria.

Given the different approaches of the governments of Colombia and Bulgaria, in response to the developing pandemic, measures applicable in Bulgaria to deal with the spreading exponential contagion cannot be determined.

## 6. GREECE

As of 15 November, Greece has the 69st most coronavirus confirmed cases worldwide. As of the same date the total numbers are: More than 74,000 (74,205) confirmed cases, 1106 COVID-19-related deaths with a fatality rate of 1,49 % while approximately 10,000 people have recovered from their virus infection. To give a comparison, Belgium with a population size like Greece has reported 7 fold confirmed cases and 13 fold deaths with a 2 fold fatality rate.

While country's Covid-19 statistics are below average globally, epidemiologists are worried in terms of the recent increase in the number of people infected, especially in the regions of Thessaloniki and Attika and particularly in the capital Athens. Even though the numbers are increasing but relative still low, health authorities fear a possible spread in urban centers, especially. What is worrying epidemiologists, even more, is that on November 13, Greece reported a record number of new daily cases of 3316 and further more on November 15 a record number of new daily deaths of 71 people.

Starting from November 11 (6 a.m.), Greek borders will remain open, but anyone arriving from abroad by any way will have to present a negative COVID-19 PCR test performed at least 72 hours prior their arrival. The decision applies until 30 November. At the same time, all travelers must continue to complete the Passenger Locator Form (PLF) at least 24 hours before their departure or arrival respectively.

On 31 October the Greek government announced a month-long action plan, starting from November 02. According to this plan there will be only (2) new categories of regions, Level A and B. In total (47) areas are declared at Level A and the rest (27) at B, including Athens and Thessaloniki regions. This plan includes the use of masks in all indoor and outdoor spaces, night time curfews (from 12:00am until 5:00am), University classes will be remote, but schools will be open. Especially, for areas declared at Level B, all cafes, bars, restaurants, cinemas and gyms are to be closed and also all entertainment events banned.

Starting from November 03, a full lockdown will take place for Thessaloniki and Serres in northern Greece (as new "grey", Level C areas) for 14 days, including public curfew between 9p.m. and 5a.m. People will have to send a SMS to leave home only for work and health reasons. Also flights to and from Thessaloniki will be suspended.

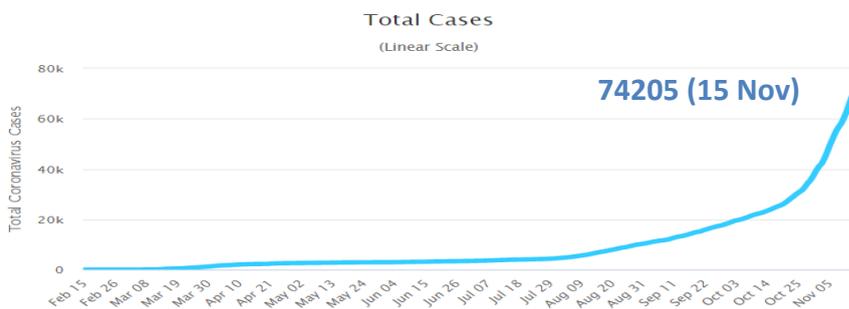
Starting from November 07 (6 a.m.), a full lockdown will take place for the whole country for three weeks, including public curfew between 9p.m. and 5a.m. People will have to send a SMS to leave home only for work and health reasons. The main difference compared to March is that kindergartens, primary schools (1-6 grade), as well as special education schools, at all levels, will remain open. (as of November 05 until November 30).

Starting from November 16, Greek government has decided to shut down elementary schools, kindergartens and day care centers, for a period of two weeks. Children will be schooled at home, as is already happening with high school and university students. (as of November 14 until November 27).

Starting from November 09 (6 a.m.) only essential travel, properly documented is allowed for passengers on all domestic flights, commercial and general/business aviation. Essential travel should include travel for health issues, business purposes, for imperative family reasons and return to their permanent residence.

The trend is that the measures imposed to avoid spreading the novel coronavirus are still dynamic, while the increasing numbers forced to a new repetition of a general lockdown in the country.

Greece took strict but necessary measures timely and countered the first wave of the pandemic very successfully. Even now, it has a relatively low incidence of cases. However, there are concerns regarding the running second wave. Thus vigilance is vital.



**Figure 1:** COVID-19 total confirmed cases in Greece (15/11/2020)

Daily New Cases

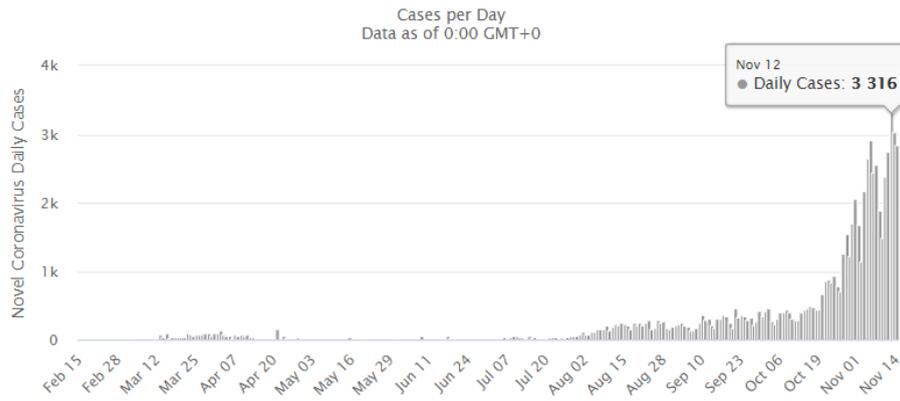


Figure 2: COVID-19 daily new cases in Greece (15/11/2020)

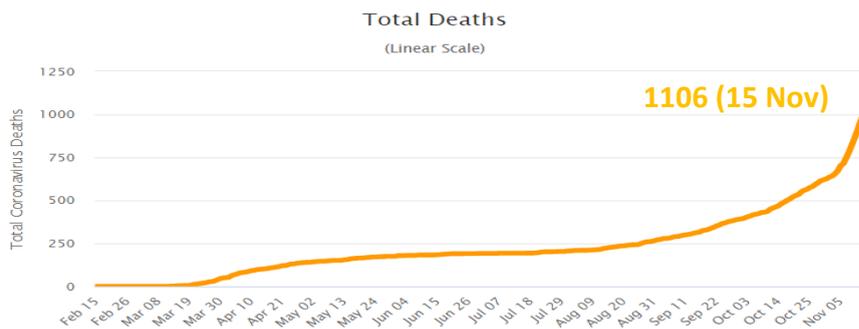
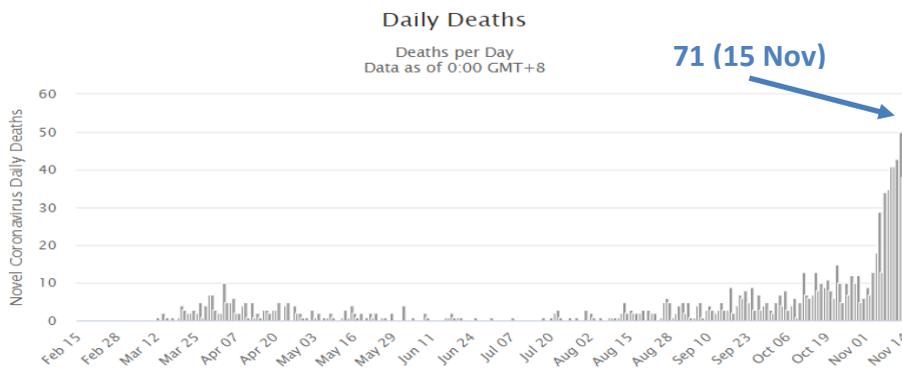


Figure 3: COVID-19 total deaths in Greece (15/11/2020)



## 7. ITALY

As of 16 NOV 2020, Italy moved significantly forward in the worldometer list being now 10th in the world in terms of number of total confirmed cases which has nearly surpassed the number of 1 000 000 since the beginning of the pandemic. In a week period there are about 250 000 new active cases, which makes nearly between 25000 and 40000 daily new cases. In addition, the deaths rate tends to scale up between 550 and 650 deaths per day during the last week. The trend is the number of people with the virus to increase for the sixteenth consecutive week.

On November 3, a new Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers was approved which establishes a series of limitations on the national territory which vary from Region to Region.

The Decree identifies three areas: the most restrictive measures are concentrated in the band reserved for regions at risk of maximum severity, the so-called red area; slightly less restrictive measures are envisaged in the band for high-risk Regions, the so-called orange area, while the remaining Regions fall into the third band, that for the whole national territory, the so-called yellow area. The most restrictive measures are concentrated in the red area including Regions at maximum risk: Calabria, Lombardy, and Piedmont, Valle d'Aosta. To these regions in the red area on 13 Nov were added also Campania and Tuscany. This is the area including Regions at high risk requiring type 4 scenario.

In the compatible with type 3 scenario (orange area), there will be slightly less restrictive measures. The orange area regions are Emilia Romagna, Friuli, Venetia, Giulia and Marche. The third area includes the rest of the national territory, therefore the remaining Regions (yellow area). The provisions contained in the Prime Ministerial Decree of November 3, 2020, unless modified, are valid until December 3, 2020.



On 7 October 2020, the Council of Ministers decided to extend the nationwide state of emergency until 31 January 2021.

Regarding travelling to/from Italy, each regional Governments may impose restrictions on travelers from certain foreign Countries or territories. Travelers intending to travel or return to Italy are advised to check whether any new provisions have been introduced by their region of destination, either by directly contacting the local authorities or checking out the respective websites.

An information form has been prepared for people travelling from/to Italy, based on the current legislation. The form has been designed for information purposes only. It has no legal value and does not guarantee the entry in Italy or other Country of destination. Specifically about Bulgaria, currently it is included in the so called List B countries where travel to/from those countries is allowed for any reason and without the obligation to self-isolate on return.

A nightly curfew is in place in all regions from 2200 to 0500. People cannot leave their place of residence during this time apart from for emergency, work or health reasons. People need to carry a self-declaration form explaining their reasons for travel.

There is a strong recommendation from the Italian Government that people do not travel by public or private transport except for work, study or health reasons, or for reasons of necessity.

Public transport is operating at 50% capacity and its use is discouraged except for essential purposes.

The use of masks is mandatory in all public spaces, whether outdoors or indoors.

Conclusions: The epidemic in Italy is further worsening, with a number of new cases reported almost doubled compared to the last week, still compatible overall with a type 3 scenario but evolving towards a type 4 scenario. It should be noted that in some Italian regions the transmission speed is already compatible with a scenario 4 with the risk of the health services being maintained in the short term. It is observed that it is increasingly difficult to find complete data due to the serious overload of local services. This could lead to underestimating the transmission speed in particular in some regions. Therefore, an overall critical situation on the national territory is confirmed with an important impact in numerous Italian Regions.

## **8. HUNGARY**

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, said Hungary has concluded talks on purchasing the vaccine with a Russian government delegation. The samples Hungary receives will undergo laboratory testing so that the authorities can make a safe decision about whether the vaccine can be put to use in the country.

Minister Szijjártó added that the talks had also touched on the possibility of manufacturing the

vaccine in Hungary. The Hungarian company designated to manufacture the vaccine has received all the necessary preparatory documentation from Russia, he said. Next week, the developer will be in a position to give a clear picture of the schedule for manufacturing the vaccine and the capacities it would need to devote to it.

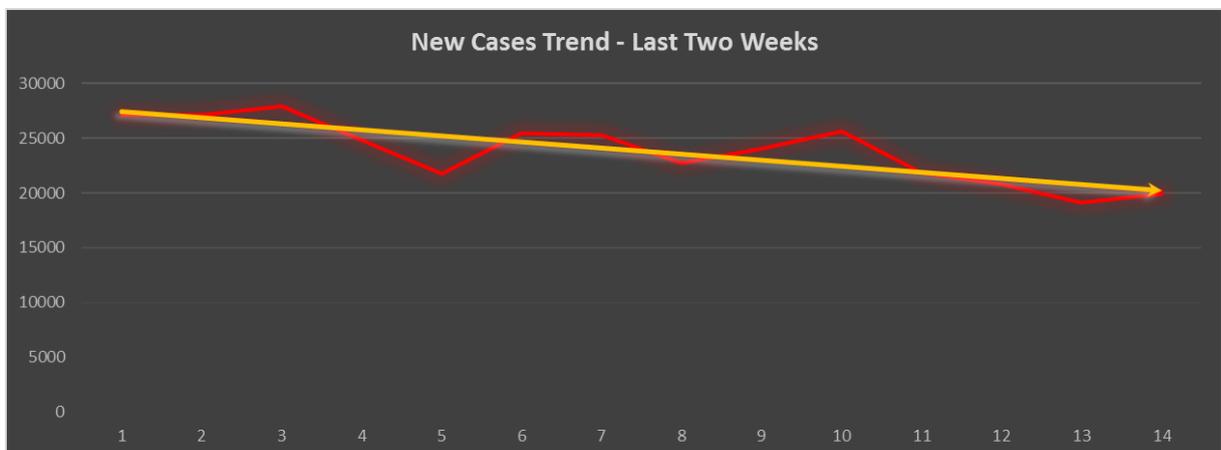
In a statement, Russia's ministry of industry and trade said Minister Denis Manturov confirmed that the samples would be sent to Hungary next week. It also confirmed that preparations were under way to produce the vaccine in Hungary, the first EU country involved in the production of the Russian vaccine.

Source:

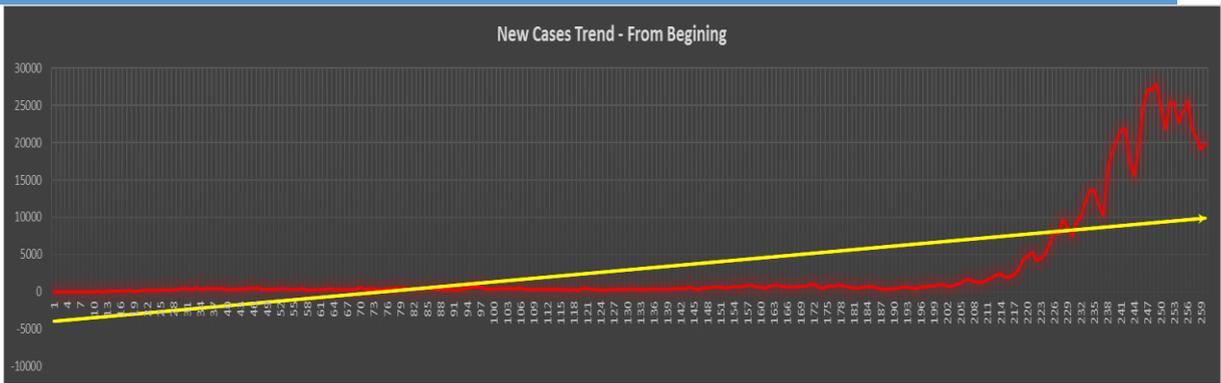
<http://abouthungary.hu/news-in-brief/hungary-one-of-the-first-to-receive-russian-vaccine-sample/>

## 9. POLAND

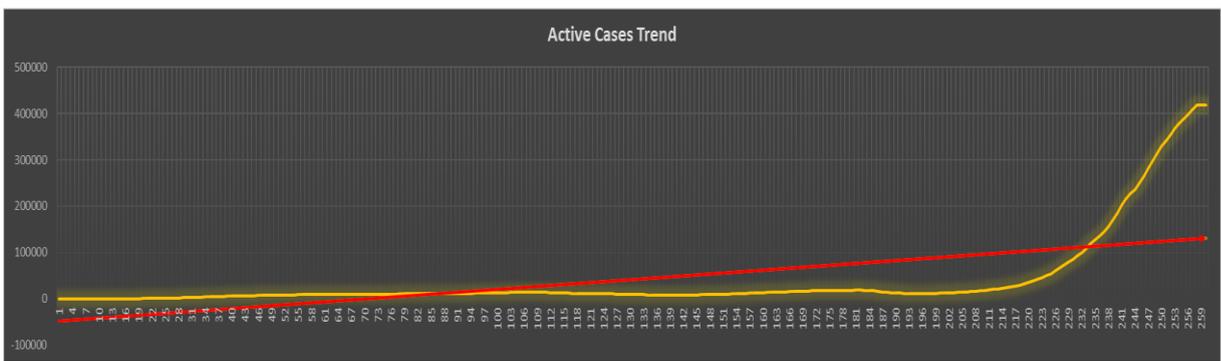
From the beginning of pandemic number of infected people has grown and reached **772 823** (+ 333 287 during last two weeks), disease trend rate showing decreasing tendency comparing to previous period, however still keeps high daily number of new cases. Currently average number of infected is **23 806** (recently 16 926) people a day during last two weeks, which placed Poland on 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Europe and 5<sup>th</sup> on the world. During last two weeks Poland reached next daily record of new cases, **27 875** on 7<sup>th</sup> of NOV 2020.



Now number of new cases is showing decreasing tendency but is still on high daily level around 20 000 per day.



Number of active cases trend line continue to grow, and now is close to 420 000 cases and is much above overall trendiness.



Number of tests done so far is 5 744 228 / +780 967 from last report. Reported number of people cured from coronavirus so far – 342 883 / +173 923 from last report which is almost doubled like during previous period. 11 451 (+4 976) people died so far, which is the highest number from the begging.

**Morbidity rate by district in Poland**

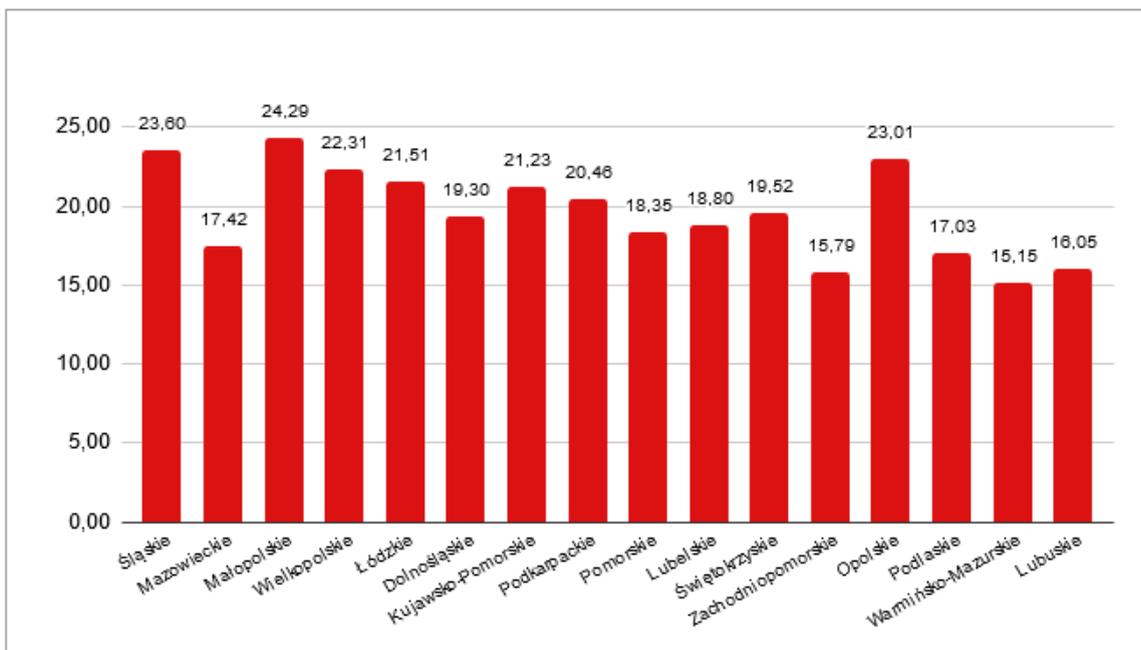
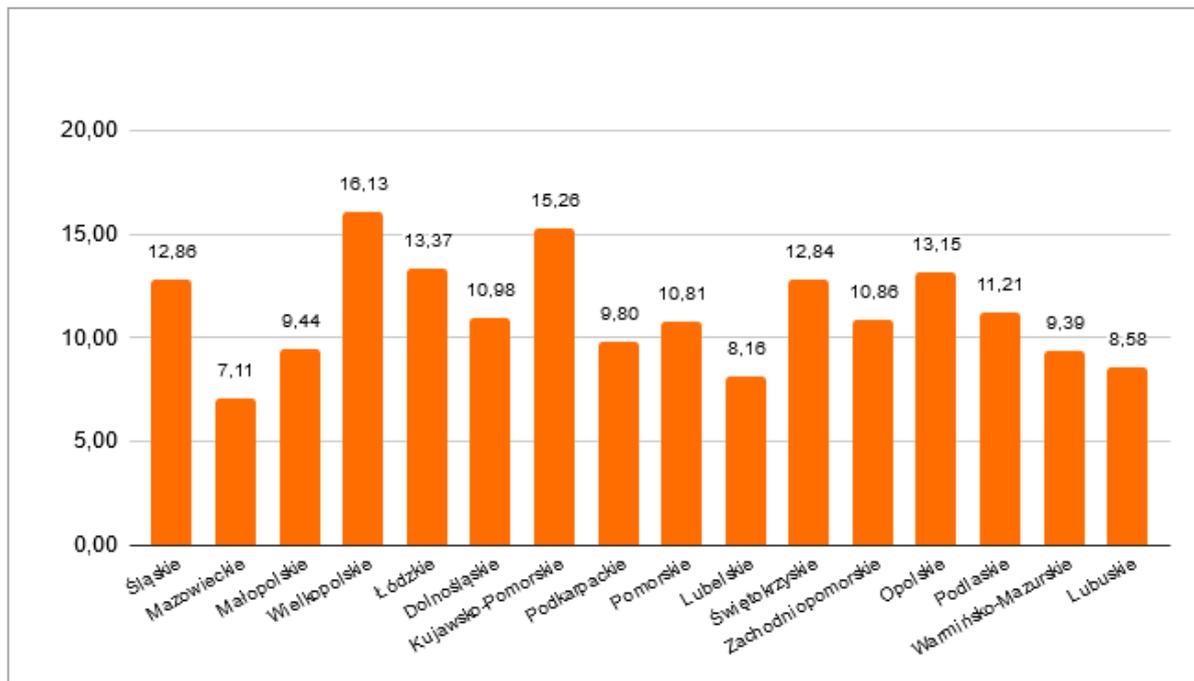


Chart above presents morbidity rate divided by district. This rate is much higher than previously and still leading district (Małopolskie) is close to 25, which means that there is 25 infected people per each 1 thousand of inhabitants.

**Active cases per 1k inhabitants**



On Tuesday, November 17, the Polish Government announced that it had the first good news for several weeks: after the introduction of restrictions, the increase in the number of new cases has been stabilized, the dynamics of the increase in the number of occupied respirators is also falling, and - as shown by data from mobile phones - social mobility. The latter data allows us to look to the future with moderate optimism - the less social contacts are, the more limited spread of the epidemic is.

For the first time in two weeks, the number of daily cases fell below 20,000. There is a reduction in the number of cases compared to the previous week and this is very positive news as it has clear consequences for the hospital infrastructure.

It's a fact that the number of new infections is not rising as fast as a week or two ago. However, we also do a lot less testing. Today, the Ministry of Health announced that 41,983 tests were performed in the last 24 hours, a week ago this number was 54,701.

Doctors may order tests for people who have symptoms that may indicate COVID-19, therefore we do not detect asymptomatic infected at all. But this could have other side of the coin - fewer tests can be a positive symptom: if doctors refer patients for testing less, it means that fewer symptomatic people come to them, so the number of infected people is no longer rising sharply.

## 10. RUSSIA

The coronavirus outbreak in Russia continued its shift from the epicenter of Moscow to Russia's regions, which are seeing around three-quarters of new infections and deaths during the country's record-setting second wave.

As on 17 November Russia reported a record high 442 new coronavirus-related deaths as the country's regions struggled to cope with overflowing morgues and medicine shortages.

While Europe has reintroduced new restrictions in response to a second wave of coronavirus infections sweeping across the world, Russia has refused to enforce a new nationwide lockdown.<sup>1</sup> Health authorities on 17 November recorded 22,410 new infections making Russia's virus caseload the fifth-highest in the world with some 1.95 million registered infections.

The total virus fatalities stood at 33,391.

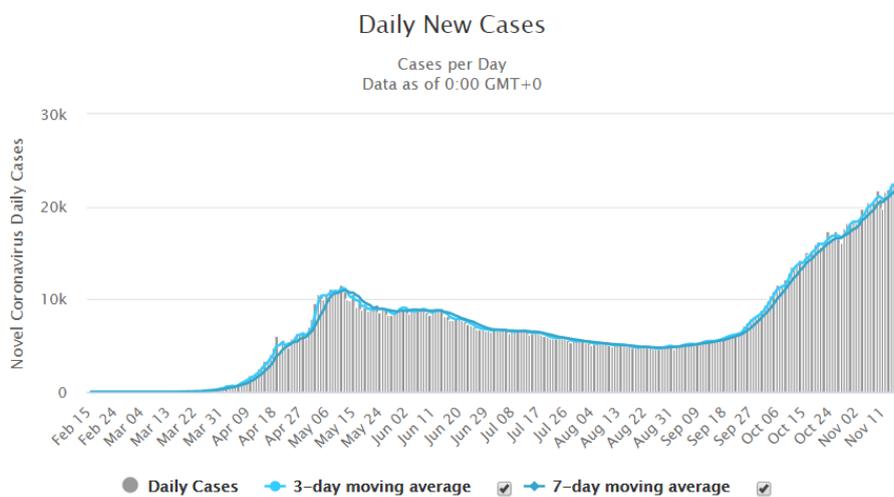


Figure 1 <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/country/russia/>

Russia has reported a much lower virus fatality rate compared to other badly hit countries and critics have accused the government of downplaying the severity of the health crisis.

Demographic data for March-September shows an excess of more than 117,000 deaths year-on-year, suggesting that the actual number of fatalities could be much higher.

In a number of regions, doctors and patients have reported extreme pressure on emergency services, medicine deficits and overflowing morgues.

On Monday, Buryatia in eastern Siberia became the first Russian region since the second wave began to shutter bars, restaurants, shopping malls and other non-essential businesses for two weeks.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2020/11/17/russia-sees-record-daily-virus-deaths-as-regions-struggle-a72071>

Russian Health Minister said on 16 November that 84% of the country's hospital beds allocated for coronavirus patients had been filled.

In the Ivanovo region northeast of Moscow, the regional health minister said that local morgues were overflowing with corpses.

Russian newspapers posted that in some regions pharmacies were running out of medicines, while ambulance brigades were so overwhelmed they were unable to reach all patients.

## 11. USA

The coronavirus pandemic raged across the **United States** last week as the country elected a new president, with the daily number of new infections hitting record highs for four straight days.

Coronavirus cases and hospitalizations in the United States are rising relentlessly and breaking records. Just one week after the U.S. crossed the grim threshold of more than 100,000 new coronavirus cases in a single day, it recorded another record-breaking 181,196 new cases on Friday (Nov. 13). On Nov 11, more than 65,000 people were hospitalized due to the virus nationwide, another record as the U.S. moves into winter months. Over the past week, there has been an average of 150,265 cases per day, an increase of 81 percent from the average two weeks earlier. Both cases and hospitalizations are rising rapidly and exponentially, shattering records set in the spring. The average number of deaths a day has increased by 36% and the average number of hospitalized has increased by 37% from two weeks ago.

As of Nov 16 morning, more than 11,112,800 people in the United States have been infected with the coronavirus and at least 246,000 have died. Case numbers are spiking across most of the United States, leading to warnings about full hospitals, exhausted health care workers and potential lockdowns.

As conditions worsened and winter approached, the mayors of Chicago and St. Louis imposed stricter limits on gatherings. In Oregon and New Mexico, governors ordered residents to stay at home. And in both rural counties and major cities, infections continued rising to fearsome new levels with no end in sight.

The upper Midwest continued to be a driver of new cases, with **Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa** and **Indiana** accounting for nearly one-third of all new cases in the country.

The governors of California, Oregon and Washington have issued a travel advisory asking people entering these states or returning from travel outside these states to quarantine for 14 days after their arrival. The governors also urged residents not to travel (except for essential reasons such as essential work), and to limit their interactions to those in their immediate household.

Officials in Chicago have issued a new stay-at-home order amid surging COVID-19 cases. The

advisory, which went into effect on Monday (Nov. 16), appears to be one of the first such orders in a major U.S. city since the beginning of the pandemic. According to the order, which was announced today by Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot, residents are advised to leave their homes only for essential activities, such as going to the grocery store or pharmacy, or for school or work. Residents are strongly advised to avoid having guests over and to cancel traditional Thanksgiving celebrations.

President-elect Joe Biden planned to convene a task force to tackle the pandemic and hailed progress on a vaccine that Pfizer Inc said was more than 90% effective.

Second US-developed vaccine produced by Moderna, in collaboration with the US government has been shown to be 94.5% effective at protecting people from COVID-19, according to interim results.

A coronavirus vaccine may be available to the US population until April 2021, said Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

**Daily reported cases**

United States

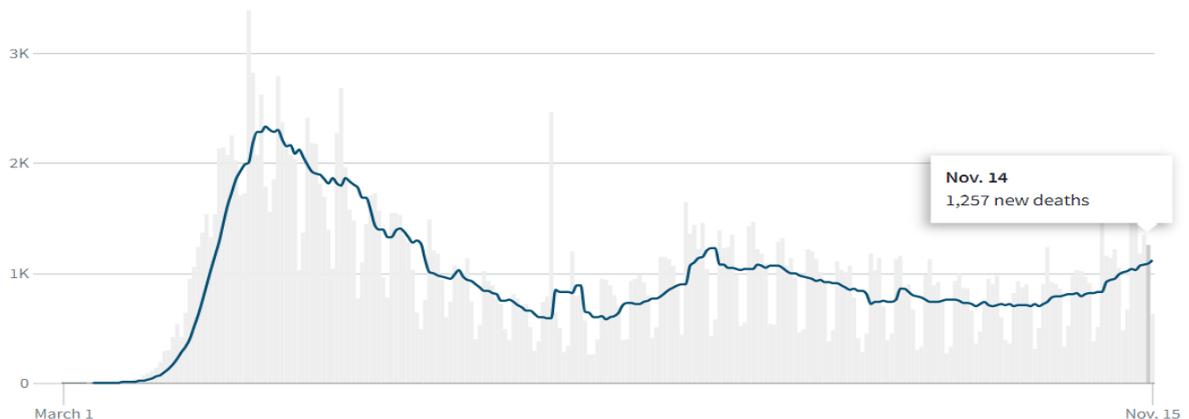
Daily new cases 7-day average



**Daily reported deaths**

United States

Daily new deaths 7-day average



USA | Most recent numbers

| REPORTED CASES | COMPARED TO PREVIOUS DAY |           |
|----------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| Infected       | 11,036,935               | + 133,045 |
| Active*        | 6,615,837                | + 105,989 |
| Recov.         | 4,174,884                | + 26,440  |
| Deaths         | 246,214                  | + 616     |

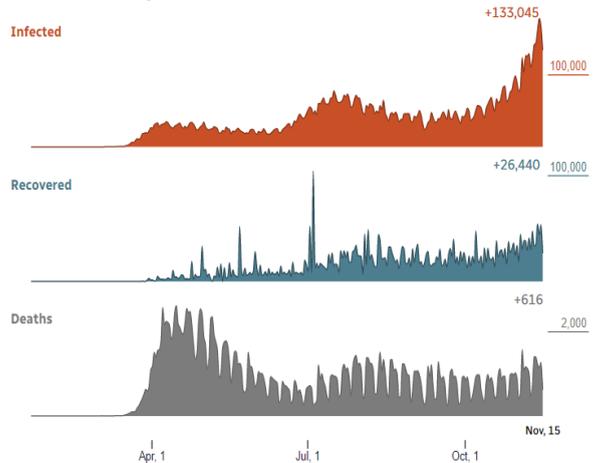
\*infected people who have neither died nor been officially considered recovered

TESTS

This province or territory does not publish historical daily number of tests performed in its jurisdiction.

USA | Reported daily cases

Cumulative  Logarithmic



As the virus continues to circulate widely within the United States and thousands of new cases are still being identified each day true normalcy remains a distant vision.

## 12. EU.

10 November 2020 - European Commission welcomes agreement on €1.8 trillion EU long-term budget and Next Generation EU to help build greener, more digital and more resilient Europe.

The European Parliament and EU Member States in the Council have agreed on the EU's long-term budget and Next Generation EU. Once adopted, the package of a total of €1.8 trillion will help Europe recover and build a more sustainable future. President von der Leyen said: "Our recovery plan will help us turn the challenge of the pandemic into an opportunity for a recovery led by the green and digital transition".

The Commission is putting forward a set of proposals to strengthen the EU's health security framework, and to reinforce the crisis preparedness and response role of key EU agencies. In order to step up the fight against the coronavirus pandemic and future health emergencies, more coordination at EU level is needed. Drawing lessons from the current crisis, today's proposals will ensure stronger preparedness and response during the current and future health crises. President von der Leyen said: "Today, we start building a European Health Union, to protect citizens with high quality care in a crisis, and equip the Union and its Member States to prevent and manage health emergencies that affect the whole of Europe."

### 13. ECDC

ECDC has developed epidemiological criteria to categorize the epidemiological situation in countries as being “**of concern**” or “**of serious concern**” (see Annex 1). Countries whose epidemiological situation does not meet the criteria for being either ‘of concern’ or ‘of serious concern’ are categorized as having a ‘stable’ situation.

#### **COUNTRIES WITH AN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION OF “SERIOUS CONCERN”.**

According to the latest data available to ECDC, the countries whose rates and/or trends cause them to be categorized as of “**serious concern**” include Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, France, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Germany is also included in this group of countries with an epidemiological situation of “**serious concern**”. The country also has increasing notification rates in the elderly.

Although there has been a general increase in the levels of testing across all countries, which has resulted in the identification of additional cases who are asymptomatic or have experienced a mild form of the disease, this increase in testing does not explain the full epidemiological picture in these countries. In fact, the concurrent increase in test positivity observed in many countries, which for some has been accompanied by an increase in hospital and ICU admissions, indicates an escalating epidemiological situation. Therefore, the overall probability of infection for the population in these countries is very high.

In many of these countries, the notification rates in some sub-national areas are very high, and rates in other areas have been increasing. A number of the countries have seen a recent escalation in the notification rates for the older groups. This is of particular concern as the elderly are at increased risk of severe disease. Hospital and ICU admissions and occupancy have been increasing and some sub-national areas have already signaled that there is significant pressure on their healthcare services. Treatment of individuals with severe infection remains largely supportive. While improved care and better detection of infections among younger people may partially explain the lower mortality than earlier in the year, countries are already experiencing, or may observe increasing death rates if transmission continues to rise. A detailed analysis of the comorbid status of hospitalized patients may shed light on the evolution of death rates.

All EU/EEA countries and the UK have implemented various non-pharmaceutical interventions, but these have not been fully successful in controlling transmission, and the epidemiological situation is now rapidly deteriorating. Implementing stricter non-pharmaceutical interventions, which proved to be effective in controlling the epidemic in all EU/EEA countries and the UK during spring 2020, appears to be the only available strategy that may have a moderate (as opposed to high) impact on the disease for individuals and healthcare provision. This results in an overall assessment of the general population being at high risk. For vulnerable individuals, having a very high probability

of infection and a very high impact of disease, the overall risk in these countries is assessed to be very high.

### **COUNTRIES WITH AN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION “OF CONCERN”.**

Based on the latest available data to ECDC, there are currently **NO** countries categorized as having an epidemiological situation “**of concern**”.

### **COUNTRIES WITH A “STABLE” EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION.**

According to the latest data available to ECDC, only six countries have a stable epidemiological situation: Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Liechtenstein and Norway. The probability of infection for the population in these countries is generally low but the impact of infection still varies depending on the individuals affected. For the general population, the impact is assessed as low, and therefore, there is a low overall risk of COVID-19 in these countries. However, for vulnerable individuals, including the elderly and people with underlying medical conditions, the impact is assessed as very high, resulting in a moderate overall risk.

Among these six countries, there is still ongoing transmission and the situation must be closely monitored. All countries should have comprehensive and timely data on COVID-19 cases, testing rates and testing positivity, and they should collect data on key healthcare indicators, such as ICU admissions.

Annex 1. Criteria for epidemiological assessment.

#### **EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION IS ‘OF CONCERN’**

A country with at least two of the following:

1. High ( $\geq 60/100\ 000$ ) or sustained increase<sup>1</sup> ( $\geq 1$  week) in 14-day case notification rates
2. High ( $\geq 3\%$ ) or sustained increase ( $\geq 1$  week) in test positivity
3. High ( $\geq 60/100\ 000$ ) or sustained increase ( $\geq 1$  week) in 14-day case notification rates in the older age groups (65-79yr AND/OR 80+yr)
4. High ( $\geq 10/1\ 000\ 000$ ) or sustained increase ( $\geq 1$  week) in 14-day death notification rates.

#### **EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION IS ‘OF SERIOUS CONCERN’**

A country whose epidemiological situation is ‘of concern’ and in which at least one of criteria 3–4 are met.

Countries whose epidemiological situation does not meet the criteria for being either ‘**of concern**’ or ‘**of serious concern**’ are categorized as having a ‘**stable**’ situation.

## CONCLUSIONS

1. The second COVID19 wave is now ongoing across Europe and around the World.
2. The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases across the planet has raised to 57 million, more than 1.3 million deaths and more than 15 million active cases.
3. 39 million people recovered from the disease.
4. Worldwide, deaths toll keeps stable numbers in recent weeks to about 5,100 a day.
5. So far, in the new surges, deaths have not increased at the same pace as infections.
6. In the most affected countries the spreading of the virus is due to the community transmission.
7. To a significant number of people, COVID-19 poses a range of serious long-term effects, and post COVID19 symptoms and complications have been reported in both non-hospitalized and hospitalized patients.
8. The new measures have being taken all over the world in stopping COVID-19 from overwhelming its hospitals. Those include new requirements on mask-wearing, closing schools, closing restaurants and bars, implementing a curfew and having targeted lockdowns in some parts of the world.
9. Cases of the disease are continuing to surge in many countries. Some that had apparent success in suppressing initial outbreaks have seen infections rise again.
10. Americas Region as a whole reported a 16% rise in cases compared with last week.
11. USA, India, Brazil, Russia, and France remain in the top 5 countries with the highest number of new cases per day.
12. Several vaccines are now in final phase three trials.
13. Since the start of the pandemic, an increase in the proportion of confirmed cases in younger population groups has been observed over time. Most notably, the proportion of cases among adolescents and young adults aged 15-24 years increased from 4% at the beginning of the epidemic (week 9-10) to 16% during week 47, and those aged 25-64 increased from 50% to 65% over the same period.
14. The global COVID-19 outbreak led to an acute shortage of essential supplies. At the request of the United Nations Secretary-General and WHO Director-General and in support of the UN Crisis Management Team, a Supply Chain Task Force was convened to oversee the establishment of the COVID-19 Supply Chain System.

## **RECOMMENDATION (for improvement of emergency situation SOPs)**

According to the latest decision of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers and Ministry of Health order 626, on 27 October 2020 new anti-epidemic measures were introduced:

- All persons must cover their mouth and nose with a covering in all indoor public spaces (including hospitals, pharmacies, administrative institutions, shops, malls, churches, museums, and all public transportation including railway, bus and metro stations, and airports, etc.) as well as in open public spaces where there is a crowd of people and impossibility to observe a physical distance of 1.5 m.
- Attendance in classes for secondary school students is suspended.
- The present educational process in the universities is terminated.
- Conducting congress-conference events, seminars, exhibitions and other public events are allowed with the participation of no more than 30 people, observing a distance of 1.5 m. And mandatory wearing of protective face masks.
- Cultural and entertainment events (theaters, cinemas, concerts, creative and musical arts) can be organized and carried out if the seats are occupied up to 30% of their total indoor capacity in compliance with physical distance of 1.5 m. and mandatory wearing of protective face masks.
- All collective and individual sports events indoors and outdoors are held without audience.
- Visits to discos, piano bar, and night bar, night clubs are suspended.
- Restaurants, fast food restaurants service, cafes and bars must provide a physical distance of 1.5 m between the backrests of the nearest location chairs from two adjacent tables, not allowing more than 6 people at one table.

During the regular COVID19 research and analysis of the CMDR COE, experts from the center noticed that the way in which the Bulgarian health system is reacting to possible new COVID19 cases remains the same, as it would react to any other illness experienced by Bulgarian citizens. The Bulgarian citizens or country's guests who want to be tested for coronavirus, because of various reasons (work, travel, COVID19 symptoms, etc.) have few different options:

- Go to certified laboratory and pay for the test;

- Get a referral for free medical examination from the Regional Health Inspectorates (RHI) (given that certain conditions are met);
- As of today, the Bulgarian citizens also can get a referral for free medical examination from their personal General Practitioner (GP) (if the doctor believes that they may be infected, given the patient's symptoms).

CMDR COE is offering the following recommendation to be considered by the respective decision makers:

If somebody is experiencing medical conditions, which can lead to the conclusion that one is infected with coronavirus (based on the well-known COVID19 symptoms, GP's advice can be sought via phone) he/she should be handled in a similar way as the patients requiring emergency healthcare assistance. Namely, the patient should stay at home (not exposing others, his GP included, to risk), should call 112, explain his symptoms and wait for a specialized, adequately equipped and trained team of experienced medics to arrive and check his condition and do the COVID19 test (as necessary) on the spot. If additional medical tests, that require hospitalization, are necessary, the patient still can be safely transported to a suitable healthcare facility without endangering the health of the other unaware and improperly protected people. In this way, the unnecessary personal contacts will be avoided or at least reduced and the RHIs will have better visibility on the spread of the pandemic.