136 is the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the country.

2 is the age of the youngest patient infected.

1 patient fully recovered and released from hospital.

2 is the number of deaths associated with an infection of COVID-19 in North Macedonia.

**KEY GOVERNMENT MEASURES AND RESPONSE**

**TRAVEL**

- All movement between 21:00 and 05:00hrs is prohibited across the entire territory of the country. This does not apply to people in need of emergency medical care. Elderly people (above 67 years of age) can move only from 05:00 until 11:00hrs, while the young (up until 18y) can move from 12:00 till 21:00hrs.

- Restaurants, bars, clubs and casinos are closed for business as part of the anti-coronavirus measures. Gathering of groups of people of above five individuals is also prohibited on public spaces such as parks and city squares.

- State of emergency has been declared across the whole territory of the country on 18 March for the period of 30 days. Debar and Centar Zhupa municipalities remain under quarantine, with all travel to these areas restricted and controlled by local authorities.

- Suspension of travel to high and medium risk countries is recommended [see the list as of 22 March 2020].

- Skopje International Airport is closed for passengers as of 18 March, except for state, military, medical and emergency flights.

- As of 16 March, only citizens of North Macedonia are allowed entry into country. The following categories of foreign citizens are exempt from this restriction: foreign citizens with permanent, long-term stay residence permits and their family members; freight vehicle personnel; diplomatic corps representatives; and others with special permission from the Ministry of Interior (MoI).

- Travelers on official travel transiting through North Macedonia should leave the territory within three hours.

- Border crossings of neighbouring countries are closed.

- Travelers returning from COVID-19 affected areas, regardless of their residence status, are subject to mandatory 14-day quarantine and should follow the standard procedure if symptoms occur.

**HEALTH**

- National response is led the steering committee formed within the national crisis management system, composed of MoI, Ministry of Health (MoH), Transport and Communications (MoTC), Defense (MoD) and Foreign Affairs (MoFA).

- Three expert committees further support the response:
  1. Infectious Diseases Commission, providing technical advice to MoH
  2. International health regulations (IHR) multisectoral commission
  3. Operational Committee — Task Force for COVID-19

- All medical and health staff and mechanical respirators from public and private health facilities have been mobilized as of 15 March 2020.

- The University Clinic for Infectious Diseases and Febrile States (Skopje) is designated as reference and referral clinic for care of COVID-19 patients.

- The following categories of foreign citizens are exempt from this restriction:
  - As of 16 March, only citizens of North Macedonia are allowed entry into country.
  - Skopje International Airport is closed for passengers as of 18 March, except for state, military, medical and emergency flights.
  - As of 16 March, only citizens of North Macedonia are allowed entry into country.
  - Gluten-free flour is introduced to the market.

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- The University Clinic for Infectious Diseases and Febrile States (Skopje) is designated as reference and referral clinic for care of COVID-19 patients.

- Infectious diseases wards of Shtip, Veles and Gostivar and the facility in Demir Kapja designated as additional institutions for quarantine.

- Children’s Hospital Koźle (Skopje) designated and prepared for child COVID-19 patients.

- General Hospital 8th September in Skopje treats suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients.

- Treatment algorithms for general practitioners are being distributed via “Moj Termin” with a short info-list for classification and management of suspected cases for COVID-19.

- MoH has initiated a systematic testing strategy and set 14 COVID-19 screening and testing points countrywide with the support of the private doctors’ association.

- MoH and Institute of Public health are implementing vigorous risk communication campaign on all available channels.

- The Government has, together with the assistance of the World Health Organization (WHO), developed the health segment of the Country Preparedness Plan (CPP) for immediate scale up of public health measures. The plan is currently revised to ensure adequate capacity for treatment, prevention and other health interventions across eight pillars.

For more information on the health response and epidemiological situation see WHO Flash Updates:

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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**ECONOMY**

The strongest economic shock is expected in Q2 2020; stabilization in Q3 and potential resumption of growth in Q4 (MoF).

Economic measures to curb the impact of COVID-19 adopted as of 23 March:

- Export ban of wheat and wheat flour to all countries for indefinite period.
- Assessing wheat and flour stock in the country and potential needs for emergency import of critical products.
- Tracking and reporting of export-import measures of other countries.
- Tracking and reporting of prices fluctuations, with an extraordinary control of warehouses and distribution centers to make sure there are no hidden stocks of basic products.
- Abolish all customs fees for critical products (wheat products, sunflower oil, sugar; sanitary products, masks, sanitary and medical uniforms etc.)
- Freeze prices of basic nutrition products, medicines and disinfection materials (not applicable to products imported at higher prices).
- Ensure €5.7M (MKD 355M) for loans to micro, small and medium companies through the Development Bank of North Macedonia with stand-by period of 6 months, repayment period of 2 years and 0% interest rate;
ECONOMIC MEASURES TO CURB THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ADOPTED AS OF 23 MARCH

- Mortarion on all cancellations of employment contracts due to economic, organizational, technological, structural or similar reasons by the employer for a period of 60 days;
- Undelayed and full payment of salaries without reduction; delay of payment of compulsory social security contributions (to within 6 months after the crisis);
- Delay in payments for loans and reprogramming for 6 months for all private sector workers, citizens and companies.

MEASURES ANNOUNCED BY THE NATIONAL BANK OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA, IN COOPERATION WITH THE BANKS’ ASSOCIATION, TO FACILITATE CREDIT ACTIVITY:

- Reduced key interest rate by 0.25% to 1.75%.
- Reduced mandatory reserves for new or reprogrammed loans to most affected companies.
- Regulatory easing in relation to liquidity assessments (credit risk management).
- Abolished fees for withdrawing and returning cash to the central vault.

TO ENSURE CONTINUOUS OPERATION OF CRITICAL PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES FOR THE PERIOD OF 3 MONTHS, THE FOLLOWING IMMEDIATE NEEDS AND AREAS OF CONCERN HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED:

- Adequate supply of personal protection equipment (PPE) for medical personnel, border and airport authorities;
- Case investigation supplies — lab consumable kits;
- Personal hygiene supplies to the poorest Roma communities maybe also included for outreach to the Roma communities on COVID-19 prevention. Provision of basic items.

The strongest economic shock is expected in Q2 2020; stabilization in Q3 and potential resumption of growth in Q4 (MoF).

The immediately observed economic consequences in North Macedonia include:

- Undelayed and full payment of salaries without reduction; delay of payment of compulsory social security contributions (to within 6 months after the crisis);
- Delay in payments for loans and reprogramming for 6 months for all private sector workers, citizens and companies.

The impact of COVID 19 is far-reaching, with the assessment of needs, required response and resources, particularly to assist the most vulnerable, ongoing.

The impact of COVID 19 on food and agriculture.

The impact will also be different for men and women, with the latter playing a disproportionate role in response to COVID-19 are more exposed to economic shock and violence in strained households.

United Nations in North Macedonia is has adjusted its ongoing activities to support response:

WHO has supported MoH with estimating the critical needs and required supplies for the next three months for the health sector and has coordinated with partners to identify other health needs. WHO continues to provide protective equipment in support of the national virology lab and clinics; and support the national virology lab with essential medical kits and reagents necessary to respond to the COVID 19 emergency. In order to keep the health system abreast with new developments, WHO online training on COVID19 for medical staff and ICP has been translated into Macedonian language (https://openwho.org/) and will be disseminated to all health workers via the e-health system “Moj Termin.”

To continue to maintain direct contact with refugees, asylum seekers, stateless persons and persons at risk of statelessness, taking into consideration the limitations of contact for its staff imposed by the COVID-19 epidemic, UN High
Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has introduced a hotline to be administered by professional UNHCR staff.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is partnering with the University Clinic of Psychiatry on prevention and addressing the secondary impact of the outbreak through provision of psychosocial support and counselling to children and caregivers impacted by COVID-19. The potential secondary impact of the outbreak includes psychosocial distress, neglect and lack of parental care, increased exposure to violence, and physical and emotional abuse.

UNICEF, in coordination with the relevant institutions, works on development of plan for technical support to child protection services, including frontline workers, professionals and local communities, to promote positive parenting and wellbeing, mitigate toxic stress and potential for violence against children, with focus on vulnerable groups at higher risk of secondary impacts.

UNICEF continues with social mobilization using digital communication channels focusing on families and children on risk communication, hand washing and providing tools to help parents support continued learning at home. UNICEF issued a statement on to alert the public on misinformation shared widely on social media incorrectly attributing UNICEF as the source.

UN Development Programme (UNDP) is putting together a package of activities for outreach to the Roma communities on COVID-19 prevention. Provision of basic personal hygiene supplies to the poorest Roma communities maybe also included in the package.

UNDP has also worked on the Concept for primary education of adults, and accordingly developed 17 programmes required for finalization of the primary education. Programmes have been presented on an e-platform that can be reached through www.npv.mk. E-platform’s opportunities as e-learning tool are essential for handling the current unpleasant situation face.

UN Women and partners are ensuring that gender dimension is integrated in COVID-19 response through gender analysis and disaggregation of data by sex; by advancing women’s voice and decision-making in all aspects of preparedness and response; providing expertise to support risk communication and community engagement to reach women, persons with disabilities and marginalized groups; and continuing to focus on programming that builds women’s economic resilience for this and future shocks.

Due to enhanced online exposure at a time of existential increased use of digital means, when so many are switched to a ‘digital office’, shopping online, joining online forums and webinars, there is a significantly increased risk for cyber-criminality and UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is supporting authorities globally on addressing Cyber-criminality.

As UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) specialty is in procurement, UNOPS Procurement have established a database of suppliers and a network that can be used of for the health items in high demand such as PPE (masks, gloves, aprons etc). UNOPS has also approved a blanket Emergency Procurement Procedure (EPP), which includes high demand items.

UN Population Fund (UNFPA) plans to procure equipment and sanitary items for the health facilities managing COVID-19 cases, focusing on the needs of women, girls and elderly. UNFPA also intends to support the inclusion of the WHO online training for health professionals into the national e-health system “Moj Termin” and continues to explore options to support the vulnerable groups with sanitary items.

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) published a specialized Q&A section on the impact of COVID-19 on food and agriculture.

The COVID-19 Partnership Platform – a global web platform to support coordination and transparency of national needs and international partners support for Covid-19 response has been developed. The North Macedonia Country Page within this platform is currently being populated with data and will soon be available for your inputs.

Government
https://vlada.mk/node/204881

Ministry of health
http://zdravstvo.gov.mk/korona-virus/
https://www.facebook.com/zdravstvo.mk

UNICEF
https://twitter.com/UNICEF
https://www.facebook.com/UNICEF

UNFPA
https://twitter.com/unfpa
https://www.facebook.com/unfpa

WHO North Macedonia
https://www.facebook.com/WHO.mk

MAIN LINKS

In case of symptoms and asymptomatic travelers
CPH Bitola 072 289 256 CPH Skopje 077 289 814
CPH Veles 072 239 276 CPH Strumica 072 235 563
CPH Gevgelija 076 545 444 CPH Tetovo 075 240 464
CPH Kocani 071 373 013 RU Gostivar 076 305 161
CPH Kumanovo 070 255 051 CPH Strumica 076 305 633
CPH Ohrid 070 723 029 IPH Skopje 076 387 744
CPH Prilep 070 472 747

Psychological support
Parents of (pre)school children 072 612 676
Self-isolated adults 072 859 900
Citizens of Debar and Center Zhupa 070 249 897

General information
“Alo Doctor” Call Center 02 15 123

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

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aleksandar.dimishkovski@un.org