

Rapid Exchange Forum – Special Edition

15th of February, 9.00-10.00 time – Webex (online)

Table of Contents

I. Attendees	1
II. Aim of the meeting – Nienke Schutte	1
III. Eurostat – Giampaolo Lanzieri	2
IV. OECD – Gaetan Lafortune	2
V. ECDC – Howard Needham	3
VI. European observatory on health systems and policies – Marina Karanikolos	5
VII. Slides of the presentations	6

I. Attendees

Anda Ioana Curta, Angela Fehr (RKI), Anina Chivela, Arshiya Merchant (ELIXIR Hub), Audrone Astrauskiene, Caroline Berchet (OECD), Claudia Habi (Gög), Cindy Schenk (RIVM), Dorita Buttigieg, Elena Petelos (UoC; EOPYY), Enkeleint Aggelos Mechili, Ester Angulo-Pueyo (IACS), Gaetan Lafortune (OECD), Giampaolo Lanzieri (EUROSTAT), Guillaume Dedet (OECD), Håkon Haaheim, Hanna Tolonen (THL), Howard Needham (ECDC), Ilze Burkevica (Eurostat), Isabella Röhring (Gög), Jakov Vukovic, Jan Kap, Jane Idavain, Julien Beaute (ECDC), Karolina Węgrzyn, Linda Abboud (InfAct), Lydia Fenz (Gög), Luigi Palmieri (ISS), Luís Lapão (UNL), Marie Delnord (Sciensano), Mariken Tijhuis (RIVM), Marília Silva Paulo (UNL), Marina Karanikolos (OBS), Matthias Wismar (OBS), Mátka Zaletel (NIJZ), Miriam Saso (PHIRI), Neville Calleja, Nienke Schutte (PHIRI), Peter Bezzegh (NHSC), Rebeca Ramis (ISCIII), Richard Pentz (GÖG, Austria), Robert Lang, Ronan Lyons (SU), Rosita Wigand, Šárka Daňková, Sharon Kappala, Tomasz Wiśniewski, Zuzana Nordeng.

II. Aim of the meeting – Nienke Schutte

To avoid duplication of work, we believe it is highly relevant to be aware of other international activities and expert groups already in place that exchange information on measures related to COVID-19 that require rapid actions. In this regard, we wish to organize once per trimester a Rapid Exchange Forum (REF) – Special Edition, where key guests of international organisations in the COVID-19 field can layout their main activities, boards/expert groups and map the different COVID-19 activities performed by their organisations. The guest speakers for the first Special Edition of REF are:

- Eurostat – Giampaolo Lanzieri
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) – Gaetan Lafortune
- European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) – Howard Needham
- European observatory on health systems and policies (OBS) – Marina Karanikolos

The goal of the Special Edition of REF is to shed some light on the international activities and expert groups that are already in place or that have been set up during the pandemic to exchange information on measures related to COVID-19 and that require rapid action.



III. Eurostat – Giampaolo Lanzieri

See presentation slides [here](#).

Leader of the Eurostat team dealing with demographic immigration statistics and population projections.

Since April 2020, Eurostat started the voluntary data collection of weekly deaths counts (all cause of deaths). There is no obligation from the countries to provide these data yet, they have all contributed as they understood the relevance of the topic. The time dimension of reference is the week according to ISO standard and the data is updated almost on a daily basis. The idea was to gather in a single repository, all useful information, to the benefit of the users, researchers and analysts dealing with COVID-19 issues. The data collected is not limited to the population health but it also includes the broader context, such as economic statistics and agricultural transports. At the end of April the first results were already published. Now the plan is to expand the coverage to improve the timeliness and the quality of the data collected.

In October 2020, the European Statistical System Committee (ESSC) decided to set up a Recovery dashboard. The Recovery dashboard is a set of main indicators in various domains used to monitor the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The indicator selected for the health domain was the monthly excess mortality (relative change of the death occurred in a selected month in 2020 as compared to the average of the deaths occurred in the years from 2016 to 2019). The indicator is computed based on weekly deaths on a methodology defined by the ESSC and it is updated once a month.

The Statistics explained articles are short articles published by Eurostat. One was specifically on weekly deaths and another one was specifically on excess mortality.

Questions:

Nienke Schutte: Are you planning on adding more indicators to the recovery dashboard in the health domain?

Giampaolo Lanzieri: There are a few indicators that Eurostat is currently exploring. Yet, they are more related to other Eurostat departments therefore, I am not aware of the details.

Marina Karanikolos: Are the mortality data reported in rates, or numbers only?

Giampaolo Lanzieri: Weekly deaths are in numbers. Excess mortality is in % change.

IV. OECD – Gaetan Lafortune

See presentation slides [here](#).

OECD has 37 members worldwide. Most of the countries are in Europe but some members are in North America (e.g. US and Canada), others in Latin America and there are four countries in the Asia Pacific region, Australia, New Zealand, Korea and Japan. Important to mention the country distribution because especially in the current pandemic, countries have a lot to learn from each other.

Main OECD activities on COVID-19:

- COVID-19 Hub focusing on: policy briefs on the impact or the responses to COVID-19 (more than 180 briefs).
- November 2020: release of the last edition of the Health at Glance Europe. The first chapter focus on the question how resilient the European health systems have been during the COVID-19 crisis. Afterwards, the analysis addresses mainly the first wave of the pandemic (spring 2020). The different types of policies implemented in the countries on containment and



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101018317

mitigation are examined. The analysis continues by focusing on the healthcare system and to what extent the countries had enough capacity to treat their COVID-19 patients.

- Policy brief on primary care and on how primary care can help health systems to adapt to pandemic like COVID-19.
- Coming next: two briefs on vaccines COVID-19 vaccines that are expected before the end of this month or in the next couple of weeks.
 - One issue will be on trust and acceptance of vaccines.
 - The second one will be focus on access to vaccines and availability of vaccines.
- Policy brief on the impact of the crisis on mental health. The focus will be on specific population groups like young people, people in unemployment and people with pre-existing mental health conditions. Connection with the use case of PHIRI (WP6).
- New data collection on health indicators.
- Joint questionnaire with Eurostat and WHO Europe.
- Country Health profiles: analysis of the health and health systems issues in each countries.

Questions:

Claudia Hahl: Are the mentioned policy briefs on vaccination already online? And regarding the mental health, there is also a use case on mental health in PHIRI WP 6 and a planned EU Joint Action on Mental Health.

Guillaume Dedet: Three briefs on vaccination are already online and the two mentioned in the OECD slides will be released at the end February.

Nienke Schutte: What kind of data sources are you using and/or do you have access to for the policy brief on mental health?

Gaetan Lafortune: Not part of the team that works on mental health at OECD but I can give you their contacts. We have been using information readily available like the survey you have carried out in Sciensano and other surveys that measure the mental health conditions before the crisis. The sources available in Belgium were actually the type of sources we could use the most. We are also using a network of experts on mental health to help us find the relevant information on what is going on in terms of the problem and what are the policy responses implemented by the different countries.

Neville Calleja: Is OECD preparing certificates for vaccinations? We have massive pressure due to some EU Member States going for bilateral agreements on mutual recognition of vaccination certificates. We have also been seeing some very positive findings from Israel on risk post vaccination.

Guillaume Dedet: It is a topic under discussion. Countries that rely a lot on tourism see it as a possible way to ensure that the next holidays will not be extremely impacted by the ongoing restrictions. So we have ongoing discussions, not only on certificates, but also on all the requirements in terms of testing.

V. ECDC – Howard Needham

See presentation slides [here](#).

Expert for scientific liaison at ECDC.

ECDC is legally mandated to collect health information on infectious diseases, to monitor and obtain information on COVID-19 surveillance over the lifetime of the pandemic.

- The core data set of ECDC is the European surveillance system, [TESSy](#) with more than 9.5 billion COVID-19 cases. A significant amount of the information is available for download in open data formats. The epidemiological data includes also genetic variants which has recently gained increased attention.
- EU level Health Security Committee is one of the important instruments.



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- EU level response mechanism is the integrated political crisis response and it is convened by the Council. It covers all aspects of member state activities.
- Contacts with MS in various areas, including laboratories to support and enhance the quality of data.
- Interaction with projects on population health to have access to emerging results (PHIRI).

Outputs: produced over 200 outputs around COVID-19 last year which are available on the ECDC website. Few examples:

- The vaccine rollout to understand to which extent countries are obtaining vaccines and administering those to subpopulations.
- In February, the online vaccine tracker was released. It gives almost a live view on progress of vaccines across all devices.
- Response measures database in collaboration with JRC. It summarizes all the non-pharmaceutical interventions that are taking place across Europe, organized by country.
- Infographics. Used to disseminate information to enhance understanding of some of the key aspects of the pandemic amongst the general population.
- Weekly Digest: usually published on Thursday, it gives an overview of all the publications that ECDC has produced in the previous week.
 - To subscribe to the Weekly Digest send an email to PHE.Support.Scientific-Evidence@ecdc.europa.eu with the subject "Subscribe to Covid-19 Weekly Digest".

Questions:

Neville Calleja: Are there any plans on data collections for the potential use of vaccines or certificates as a travel criterion?

Howard Needham: It is hard to discuss this topic now because we still do not know to which extent the vaccines prevent onward transmission of infection. We need more data before we can be confident about the underlying safety of the vaccines, if you want the people who have been vaccinated to travel.

Guillaume Dedet : It is an important discussion, also regarding the technicalities of the vaccine :f you are vaccinated with the Chinese vaccine or the Russian vaccine: would it be officially recognized if you enter the EU?. We hope that by the time we have solved these technical issues we will know more about how safe it is to make assumptions on the effectiveness of the vaccines themselves.

Gaetan Lafortune: Is there reasonable consistency between the data on the ECDC website and the data the on [ourworldindata](https://ourworldindata.org/) website?

Julien Beaute: I cannot tell you whether there are inconsistencies because we not we are not double checking the other data sources. Many of them actually use ECDC data. So I would assume that you will find the same especially for EU EEA countries. The main differences could be related to timestamps.

Neville Calleja: Ourworldindata was harvesting data from ECDC earlier on. Since ECDC moved to weekly reporting, they have shifted to John Hopkins. Nonetheless, I have found that ourworldindata is reliable as it tends to agree with ECDC and is all harvested from official data portals. They have the data sources listed on their website - which we check regularly. Statista is less reliable according to our experience. Their numbers rarely tally perfectly with official sources.

The difference between ourworldindata is that they tend to have data within 24 hours of reporting on a daily basis whilst ECDC typically reports with a week's delay, so real time monitoring of country situations is more possible with ourworldindata - which is in fact what we also use for our travel corridor monitoring.



VI. European observatory on health systems and policies – Marina Karanikolos

See presentation slides [here](#).

[The Health System Response Monitor \(HSRM\)](#) has been designed in response to the COVID-19 outbreak to collect and organize up-to-date information on how countries are responding to the crisis. It focuses primarily on the responses of health systems but also captures wider public health initiatives. This is a joint undertaking of the WHO Regional Office for Europe, the European Commission, and the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies.

Click [here](#) for policy recommendations and technical guidance from the WHO Regional Office for Europe on how to strengthen the health systems response to COVID-19 and click [here](#) for the EU coronavirus response in the area of public health

COVID-19 response webinars every Tuesday at 12. The webinar series is based to a large extent on the health systems response monitor. In the beginning, it was entirely focusing on the analysis coming from the health systems response monitor. Over time, the topics were complemented with other material coming from our own research or from networks we collaborate with. Open to suggestions for topics. Click [here](#) to subscribe to the OBS webinars.

All the webinars are available [here](#) on the OBS YouTube channel.



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VII. Slides of the presentations



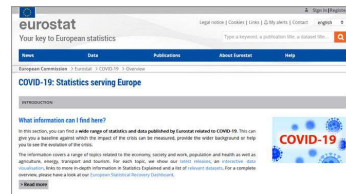
EuroWDC: the European data collection on weekly death counts

Eurostat
Giampaolo Lanzieri

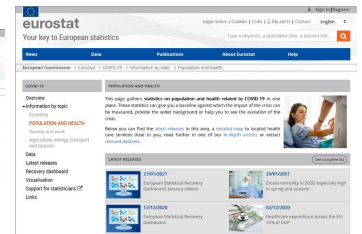
A single entry point on Covid-19

**Wide range of related
statistics**

**Focus on population
and health**



<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/covid-19/overview>



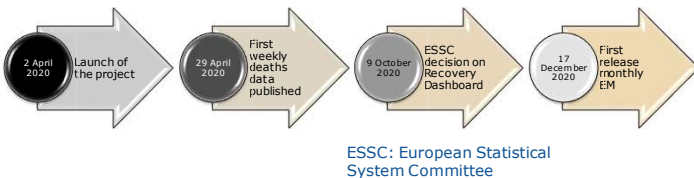
<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/covid-19/population-health>

PHIRI Rapid Exchange Forum,
online meeting on 15.02.2021

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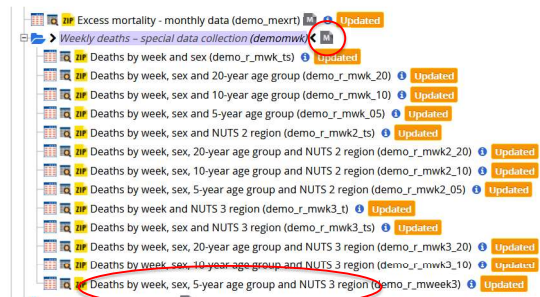
A voluntary data collection on all-causes weekly deaths in Europe

EuroWDC milestones



High granularity

https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/population-demography-migration-projections/data/database?node_code=demomwk



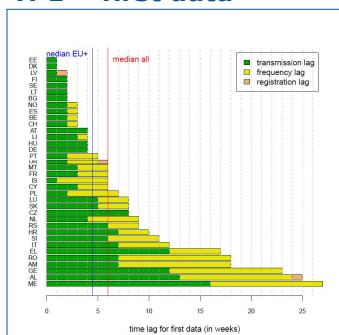
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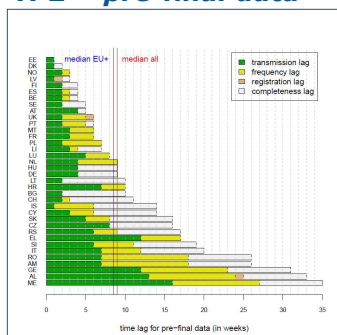
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Timeliness (at Eurostat public database as of 16 October 2020)

TP1 – first data



TP2 – pre-final data



NOTE: countries with no completeness lag
have not reported its estimate

5

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Selected indicators on recovery



<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/recovery-dashboard/>

6



Monthly excess mortality

- ESSC requirement:

$$EM = \left(\frac{\hat{D}_{2020}^M - \bar{D}^M}{\bar{D}^M} \right) \cdot 100$$

where:

$$D = \text{deaths}, M = \text{month}, \bar{D}^M = \frac{1}{4} \sum_{i=2016}^{2019} D_i^M$$

- Correction for (estimated) data completeness \hat{c} in country c and week w :

$$k_{c,w} = \frac{1}{\hat{c}_{c,w}}, \hat{c}_{c,w} \in [0, 1] \rightarrow \hat{D}_{c,w} = k_{c,w} \cdot D_{c,w}$$

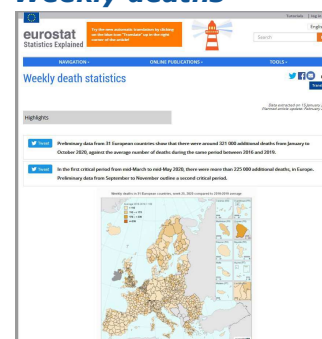
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Illustrating the developments

"Statistics Explained" articles

Weekly deaths



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Excess mortality



8

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Main features of the two datasets

Weekly deaths

- Voluntary data collection
- Time dimension: week (ISO)
- Updated on daily basis as data come in
- Breakdown by NUTS 3 region (NUTS-2021 classification), sex, 5-year age group (up to age 90+)
- Data from 2000 (depending on country), highest coverage 2015 onwards
- Associated "Statistics Explained" article updated monthly

Excess mortality

- Eurostat computation from weekly deaths based on ESSC requirements
- Time dimension: month
- Updated once a month around the middle
- Only national level, no disaggregation
- Data from 2020 only
- Associated "Statistics Explained" article updated monthly

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9

Ongoing work

- Continuous effort to improve quality (particularly timeliness, completeness and granularity)
- Review of the national statistical processes for the production of deaths statistics (publication planned)
- Cooperation with EUROMOMO
- UK: until agreement on statistical cooperation is established, Eurostat will no longer disseminate new data for the UK, neither through its database nor in other dissemination products

10



THANK YOU FOR THE ATTENTION

For further information:
giampaolo.lanzieri@ec.europa.eu

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online meeting on 15.02.2021

11



OVERVIEW OF OECD WORK ON COVID-19

Gaetan Lafortune, OECD Health Division
PHIRI Rapid Exchange Forum, 15 February 2021





OECD membership

37 countries in Europe and outside Europe

- 22 EU countries
- 3 EFTA countries and UK
- Israel, Turkey
- USA, Canada
- 3 Latin American countries (Chile, Colombia, Mexico)
- 4 Asia/Pacific countries (Australia, NZ, Korea, Japan)



2



OECD COVID-19 HUB

Tackling coronavirus (COVID-19)
Contributing to a global effort

POLICY RESPONSES TO COVID-19 COVERING ALL PUBLIC POLICY AREAS (OVER 180 BRIEFS):

- **Health:** Testing for COVID-19: How to best use the various tests?; COVID-19 vaccines for developing countries: An equal shot at recovery; Excess mortality: Measuring the direct and indirect impact of COVID-19; Beyond containment: Health systems responses to COVID-19; ...
- **Economy:** Walking the tightrope: Avoiding a lockdown while containing the virus; COVID-19 and the aviation industry; E-commerce in the time of COVID-19; ...
- **Employment:** Job retention schemes during the COVID-19 lockdown and beyond; Paid sick leave to protect income, health and jobs through the COVID-19 crisis; ...
- **Education and children:** Securing the recovery and resilience for the well-being of children in the post-COVID-19 decade; The impact of COVID-19 on student equity and inclusion: Supporting vulnerable students during school closures and school re-openings; ...
- **S&T and innovation:** Privacy and data protection aspects of digital tracking and tracing tools; Providing scientific advice to policy makers during COVID-19; ...
- **Environment:** Building a coherent response for a sustainable post-COVID-19 recovery; ...
- **Tourism:** Rebuilding tourism for the future: COVID-19 policy responses and recovery; ...

Visit the dedicated OECD COVID-19 hub at <http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/>

4



New Policy Brief: How primary care helps health systems adapt during the COVID-19 pandemic

- Released 10 February 2021
- Assessing impacts of COVID-19 on patients with chronic diseases:
 - To what extent COVID-19 disrupted routine care and resulted in delayed diagnoses or foregone care?
 - How primary care systems can play a central role to adapt and recover to health shocks such as COVID-19?
- Pointing towards key policies to expand primary care to make health systems more resilient during health crises
- Data sources: National administrative data, patient federations, professional associations

6



OECD mandate

- Provide a forum where governments can compare and exchange experiences in all policy areas, and identify good practices

OECD  **Better policies for better lives** 

3



Health at a Glance: Europe 2020



- **Chapter 1:** How resilient have European health systems been to the COVID-19 crisis?
 - To what extent containment and mitigation policies slowed the spread of COVID-19 during the first wave?
 - Did European health systems have sufficient capacity to treat COVID-19 patients during the first wave?
 - What has been done to protect older people from COVID-19?
 - How did European countries try to maintain access to care for non-COVID patients during the first wave?
- **Data sources:** OECD COVID-19 Hub, European Observatory COVID-19 Health System Response Monitor, ECDC, Eurostat

5



Two new policy briefs on COVID-19 vaccines

- **Enhancing public trust to improve Covid-19 vaccination acceptance** (expected end February 2021)
 - Reviews possible government policies to increase COVID-19 vaccine acceptance (along with continued acceptance of containment measures);
 - Builds on OECD Trust Framework.
- **Access to COVID-19 vaccines** (provisional title, expected end February 2021)
 - Describes current state of play in vaccine development and availability;
 - Discusses current supply chain challenges and early lessons from immunisation campaigns;
 - Emphasizes need to increase access in LMICs to accelerate global economic and health recovery.
- Sources: national data sources, scientific literature.

7

New policy brief: COVID-19 impact on mental health

- Examines impacts of COVID-19 crisis on population mental health, including key population groups (e.g. young people, unemployed, people with existing mental health conditions)
- Points towards key policies to support mental health from the health, employment and education sectors
- Based on national data sources (e.g. longitudinal studies across 2020)
- Expected release: April 2021

8

New data collections on COVID-related indicators

- **OECD 2021 data collections** (jointly with Eurostat and WHO-Europe) will provide one of the first opportunities to gather regular statistics on health system resources (human, physical, financial) and activities in 2020
- Supplemented by additional COVID-related collections (also jointly with Eurostat and WHO-Europe):
 - ICU resources (beds and staff) and use (occupancy rates)
 - Telemedicine (number/share of consultations)
- **OECD Health Statistics 2021** to be released end June 2021

9

New EU Country Health Profiles (as part of the State of Health in the EU cycle)



Contents

1. HIGHLIGHTS
2. HEALTH
3. RISK FACTORS
4. THE HEALTH SYSTEM
5. PERFORMANCE OF THE HEALTH SYSTEM
 - 5.1. Effectiveness
 - 5.2. Accessibility
 - 5.3. Resilience
6. KEY FINDINGS

- Section 5.3 will focus on assessing resilience to COVID-19
- Other sections will assess impact of COVID-19 on health and access and quality of care for non-COVID patients

➤ To be released end November 2021

10



European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

PHIRI Rapid Exchange Forum—Special ECDC Activities

Howard Needham, Expert-Scientific Liaison, 15 February 2021

ECDC's COVID activities: Overview



- ECDC legally mandated to collect health information on infectious diseases collected by EU/EEA MSs (27MS +3EEA).
- ECDC produces several COVID-19 surveillance outputs (e.g. weekly COVID-19 surveillance report/country overview). **Much of the data is downloadable in open data formats on ECDC's website.**
- Core datasets:
 - **TESSy**: Over 9.5M COVID-19 cases in database (11 Feb 2021)
 - Supplemented by web scraping of public health websites etc.
- Epidemiological data include:
 - Case numbers (COVID-19 cases, deaths, setting of infection).
 - Severity (Hospital and ICU admission, risk factors etc.).
 - Genomic data (WGF): genetic variants.
- Public health response:
 - Testing.
 - Country response measures.
- Data used as a basis of many ECDC outputs: risk assessments/technical guidance/modelling etc.



COVID information exchange: who?



- Member States
 - Health Security Committee (Cross border health threats)
 - Integrated Political Crisis Response (IPCR) (EC/MS/others)
 - MS National Focal Points (+ COVID-specific Lab and Epi contacts)
- European Commission
 - DG SANTE
 - Other Directorates
- European Parliament
- WHO/CDCs & other international stakeholders
- EU Research projects
 - PHIRI

COVID information exchange: what?



- Daily updates, maps and tables
- Risk assessments with options for response
- Briefings for stakeholders
- Guidance and materials for EU Member States
- Support in preparedness actions
 - Laboratory capacity
 - Hospital preparedness
- Template leaflets, infographics, videos for national authorities to translate and customise

4

Scientific advice: ECDC guidance documents on COVID-19, examples



- Options for the use of rapid antigen tests
- Contact tracing guidance
- IPC guidance in various settings
- Strategies for the surveillance of COVID-19
- Monitoring and evaluation framework for COVID-19 response activities
- Objectives for COVID-19 testing in school settings
- Population-wide testing of SARS-CoV-2
- Settings-specific guidance
- Projected baselines of COVID-19 in the EU/EEA and the UK (30- or, most recently 45-day modelling – until 25 December)
- Conducting in-action and after-action reviews of the public health response to COVID-19
- Travel-related advice
- ...and many more

<https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/covid-19-pandemic>



5



ECDC Output highlights (1): Vaccine Tracker (Feb)



6

ECDC Output highlights(2): Response Measures Database (Feb 7th)






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ECML Covid
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 Login










Countries List

- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece

Austria

Filter  #Rec: 23

export 

Level 1	Coverage	Level 2	Level 3	Start Date	End Date	Targets	Notes	View
	 National	Closure of educational institutions	Secondary School	08 Feb 2021		Students/Teachers	From 08/02 from FULL to PARTIAL: person to person lesion take place again, but in 2-day shifts, no s...	
	 National	Closure of educational institutions	Primary School	26 Dec 2020		Students/Teachers	Distance learning. Schools remain open for those who need pedagogical support and supervision. It is...	
	 National	Closure of public	Non essential shops	26 Dec 2020		General population	Closure of all non-essential shops. Orders can be placed at shops and...	

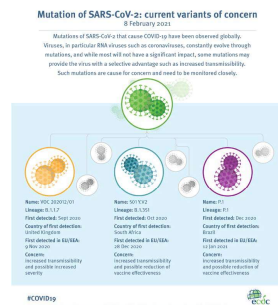
ECDC/JRC joint output. Archive of non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs), by 30 countries in the European Union and European Economic Area in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The RMD is reviewed and updated every two weeks. <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/news-events/launch-joint-response-measures-database> (ECDC) data collection. JRC data base/web platform

7

ECDC Output highlights(3): Infographic: Mutation of SARS-CoV-2 - current variants of concern (Feb 8)



Infographics communicated to public and health authorities



Infographic on the three current variants of concern detected in the UK, South Africa, Brazil and Japan: <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/files/default/files/images/Infographic-PRA-variants-2.png>

8

ECDC Outputs in the pipeline



- Rapid risk assessment: SARS-CoV-2 and increased circulation of variants of concern in the EU/EEA and vaccine rollout, 14th update.**
Planned publication: 15th Feb
- Detection and characterisation capability and capacity for SARS-CoV-2 variants within the EU/EEA**
Planned publication: Week beginning 15th Feb
- Updated guidance for the use of face masks in the community.**
Planned publication: 15th Feb

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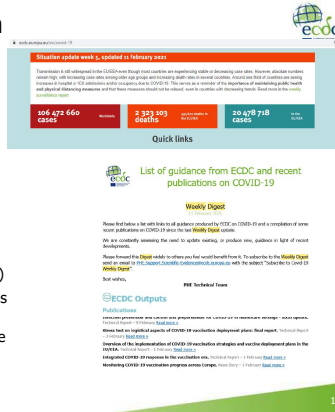
ECDC sources of information

ECDC website: updated daily

ECDC weekly digest

- ECDC publications
- ECDC epidemiological summary and situation update
- ECDC Infographics, videos, webinars
- Other ECDC COVID outputs (e.g. living reviews on key topics (diagnostics, infection, testing, NPIs, immunity etc.))
- Selected Peer-review publications (weekly "highlights")
- COVID-19 information pages of EU/EEA Member States

To subscribe to the Weekly Digest send an email to PHI.Support.Scientific.Evidence@ecdc.europa.eu with the subject "Subscribe to Covid-19 Weekly Digest".



Thank you for your attention



Tracking Health Systems Response to COVID-19

Marina Karanikolos, PhD MPH
European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies

PHIRI Rapid Exchange Forum
15th February 2021



European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies



European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies

- OBS supports and promotes evidence-based health policy-making through comprehensive and rigorous analysis of the dynamics of health care systems in Europe.
- OBS engages directly with policy-makers and experts, and works in partnership with research centres, governments and international organizations to analyse health systems and policy trends.
- Partnership hosted by the WHO/Europe



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COVID-19 Health Systems Response Monitor (HSRM)

www.covid19healthsystem.org



- HSRM platform is a publicly available online resource that collects and organises information on how health systems are responding to COVID-19
- It is structured and updated to help policy makers review what is happening country by country and issue by issue
- Country-specific responses across Europe + USA and Canada reported by country experts from OBS Health Systems and Policies Monitor Network
- Information is collected systematically and regularly (starting April 2020) based on the standard template

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3



Country information collection and template

POLICY RESPONSES
1. Preventing Transmission
1.1 Health communication
1.2 Physical distancing
1.3 Isolation and quarantine
1.4 Monitoring and surveillance
1.5 Testing
2. Ensuring sufficient physical infrastructure and workforce capacity
2.1 Physical infrastructure
2.2 Workforce
3. Providing health services effectively
3.1 Planning services
3.2 Managing cases
3.3 Managing essential services
4. Paying for services
4.1 Health financing
4.2 Entitlement and coverage
5. Governance
6. Measures in other sectors

Regular revisions of the standard template to reflect the pandemic response development, e.g.:

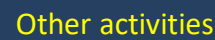
- Transitioning in and out of lockdowns;
- Vaccination planning, distribution and access;
- Expansion of testing strategy, genetic sequencing;
- Counteracting dis- and mis- information, vaccine hesitancy;
- Financing health services in 2021;
- Role of GPs and primary care;
- Supporting health workforce;
- Maintaining access to essential services.

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4

5

- HSRM's "policy snapshots" contain analysis that builds on country comparisons to generate policy relevant insights
- Policy snapshots are developed in response to policy makers' questions from countries, WHO and the EC, and topical issues
- The cross-country analysis tool responds to decision-makers and new snapshots are developed as policy and practice in countries evolves.



- Eurohealth (November 2020)
 - Webinars (Tuesdays 12 noon CET)
 - Rapid responses
- Watch this space!**
- Health Policy Special Issue on COVID-19 response
 - Strengthening Health Systems Resilience for COVID-19 (policy brief)
 - SoHEU country profiles with OECD



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