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Subject: RE: To the NFPs and OCPs for Action: new deadline for COVID-19 case-based and aggregated data

Good afternoon,

We fully understand the constraints for the ECDC in collecting and analyzing the data from each member state and how extremely tight the new deadline is for your teams. Unfortunately, we won't be able to meet this deadline to upload French aggregated data to TESSy. First and foremost, as several indicators, including the lab data which corresponds to the number of confirmed cases, take at least 3 days to consolidate, we never communicate final data for a given week before the Wednesday morning of the following week. Secondly, due to the validation and analysis of this epidemiological data for Wednesday mornings, Tuesdays are extremely busy for our teams. We would therefore be unable to prepare TESSy upload files on Tuesdays in addition to the existing demands.

Would you please let us know how the French data (and possibly other countries in the same situation?) will be dealt with in the weekly country-overview reports? This is of major concern for us, as the data published by ECDC is attracting substantial political attention in France and elsewhere, and there is no doubt that many questions will be raised if French data are no longer displayed in the ECDC country-overview reports in the future.

Many thanks in advance,

Best regards,

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Objet : To the NFPs and OCPs for Action: new deadline for COVID-19 case-based and aggregated data

Dear Operational Contact Points for Influenza and COVID-19,

Cc. National Focal Points for Influenza

Cc. National Coordinators

We would like to thank you for the regular COVID-19 data submissions to TESSy in the past weeks and months. ECDC has tried to reflect your data in a trustworthy way in the weekly country overview and weekly surveillance reports. As you are all aware, these reports are now used to inform high-level public health officials and to steer immediate public health action. A number of countries have asked ECDC to publish data by Wednesday evening in order to use the data for public health decisions. This tight timeline can be extremely challenging due to the time needed for extracting, validating, cleaning and analysing the data. The deadline for reporting is currently 12:00 on Wednesdays and it can take up to four hours for data to be available for download from TESSy. Further time is needed for analysis and interpretation.

We would therefore kindly like to ask you to submit the COVID-19 case-based and aggregated data of the previous epidemiological week (ending on the Sunday before the deadline) to TESSy by Tuesdays 23:59. In that way we can maintain the TESSy internal processes during the night and initiate the data analysis early Wednesday morning to have all outputs available by Thursday, including the datasets and the surveillance and country-overview reports.

We intend to implement this **change as of Tuesday 15 September**. This change will be reflected in an updated reporting protocol, which is under development. We understand this may put some additional strain on your workflows but hope that you will appreciate the benefits of more timely publication of the data. Please let us know if you think that it would be impossible for you to work with this new deadline.

Please do not hesitate to let us know should you have any questions.

Thank you!

Kind regards,
The ECDC COVID-19 team



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