

Communication – Short-term EU health preparedness for COVID-19 outbreaks
 Overview of Activities – Implementation status

Action area: Testing, contact tracing and public health surveillance			
	Timeline	Responsible entity (MS/DG/Agency & contact point)	Implementation status
➤ Run scenario-based national stress tests for contact tracing systems, testing capacities and testing deployment (Member States) <i>As localised outbreaks are being identified and are likely going forward, these stress tests should be performed at local levels, based on specific scenarios, such as superspreader events, outbreaks in targeted sectors such as slaughterhouses, educational settings and residential homes that could later be expanded to other areas of activity. Lessons learned and best practices to be shared post exercise.</i>	July to September	Member States	
Testing			
➤ Ensure availability of necessary testing capacity through demand planning and R&D (Member States & European Commission) <i>This will facilitate the ability to increase capacity, if required.</i>	Ongoing	Member States & EC	
➤ Via the HSC, EU level agreement for aligned testing strategies and methodologies (European Commission & Member States) <i>Agreement sought in the HSC via a written declaration.</i>	July to September	Member States & EC	
Contact Tracing			
➤ Complete the implementation of interoperable contact tracing apps (Member States, European Commission & ECDC) <i>Follow-up to Guidelines for Member States for interoperability and development of appropriate solutions for cross-border interoperability of apps; Continuous development of EWRS to facilitate information sharing.</i>	July to September	Member States & EC & ECDC	
Public health surveillance			

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➤ Sampling campaign in waste waters, assessment of results and connection to epidemiologic data (European Commission & Member States) <i>This aims to track the presence of the virus in urban wastewaters.¹</i>	Ongoing	Member States & EC	
➤ Reinforce the population-based sentinel primary care and hospital surveillance system (ECDC & Member States) <i>ECDC will work with Member States to advise on best practices to help reinforce existing systems that support surveillance at national level.</i>	July to September	Member States & ECDC	
➤ Technical assistance for the design, conduct and analysis of results from seroprevalence studies ² to promote comparability at EU level (ECDC, European Commission & Member States)	July to September	Member States & EC & ECDC	
➤ Ensure EU-wide sharing of clinical, epidemiological, virological data through the EU COVID-19 data sharing platform (European Commission, ECDC & Member States)	Ongoing	Member States & EC & ECDC	

Action area: supply of personal protective equipment, medicines and medical devices			
	Timeline	Responsible entity (MS/DG/Agency & contact point)	Implementation status
➤ Preserve free movement of goods, and in particular of essential medical supplies within the EU (Member States & European Commission) ³	Ongoing	Member States & EC	

¹ Several MS took the initiative to monitor the presence of COVID-19 residues in their wastewaters. The JRC together with DG ENV and with the involvement of DG SANTE took the initiative to launch a pan-European Umbrella Study connecting the leading national and regional reference study in a unique approach.

² Such studies aim to gather information on infection rates across populations.

³ The Commission will continue monitoring, national measures taken by Member States and assisting Member States in order to prevent any unnecessary obstacles to free movement of goods using available tools such as the Single Market Enforcement Task Force, the Single Market Transparency Directive (Directive 2015/1535 EU laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical relations).

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➤ Implementation of the EU vaccines strategy (ESI – European Commission & Member States) <i>The Commission will enter into agreements with individual vaccine producers on behalf of the Member States, with the right to buy vaccines ensured by Advance Purchase Agreements.</i>	Ongoing	Member States & EC	
➤ Establish overview on needs for medical supplies, national production capacities and stockpiles of essential equipment, map flexible production capacities/ conversion possibilities (Member States)	July to September	Member States	
➤ Support an EU coordinated approach for the planning and implementation of large-scale COVID-19 clinical trials in Europe (European Commission & Member States)	Ongoing	Member States & EC	
➤ Exchange between the Commission and Member States on national procurement processes and bottlenecks (Member States & European Commission)	Ongoing	Member States & EC	
➤ Support equitable access and deployment of needed medical countermeasures: - Ongoing contracts under joint procurements (PPE, ventilators, laboratory equipment, ICU medicines) (Member states)	Ongoing	Member States	
➤ Monitor access, availability and risks of shortages of medical countermeasures and their key ingredients and components (European Commission, European Medicines Agency & Member States) ➤ Increase capacity and speed up certification and conformity assessment of products to be placed on the market while ensuring safety, accuracy and conformity with EU standards (Member States)	Ongoing	Member States & EC & EMA	

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➤ Member States to make full use of existing instruments such as the Joint Procurement Agreement to purchase and stockpile essential medical equipment, and ensure coordinated national stockpiling initiatives (Member States)	July to September	Member States	
➤ Customs and market surveillance authorities to ensure that only compliant medical and personal protective equipment reach the EU market (joint actions with Member States)	Ongoing	Member States & EC	

<u>Action area:</u> healthcare surge capacity			
	Timeline	Responsible entity (MS/DG/Agency & contact point)	Implementation status
➤ Online European network of clinicians and development of training modules on COVID-19 for health professionals (including via a virtual academy) in partnership with European federations, such as the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine (Member States, ECDC, European Commission) <i>This includes practical trainings and information, such as the donning and doffing of personal protective equipment and may extend to intensive care training modules.</i>	Ongoing	Member States & EC & ECDC	

<u>Action area:</u> Non-pharmaceutical measures			
	Timeline	Responsible entity (MS/DG/Agency)	Implementation status

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		& contact point)	
➤ Timely exchange of Member States information on effectiveness of measures and any re-introductions to respond to secondary outbreaks <i>A data entry website and database will be hosted by JRC and will be populated by JRC and ECDC with contributions from the Member States and available for use in modelling, risk assessment, monitoring of the situation in Member States.</i>	July to September	Member States & EC & ECDC	
➤ Sharing of information and best practices related to internal and external border crossings for limiting the negative consequences for the freedom of movement of persons and goods (European Commission & Member States)	Ongoing	Member States & EC	

<u>Action area: Support to vulnerable groups</u>			
	Timeline	Responsible entity (MS/DG/Agency & contact point)	Implementation status
➤ Design and implement specific high density, low threshold testing strategies for vulnerable groups & settings (Member States and ECDC)	July to August	Member States & ECDC	
➤ Sharing of best practices and provision of mental health and psychosocial support to vulnerable prone to COVID-19 (European Commission and Member States)	July to September	Member States & EC	

<u>Action area: Mitigate seasonal influenza</u>			
	Timeline		

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➤ Increase influenza vaccination coverage: anticipated start for vaccination campaigns and broadening of target groups (Member States) <i>Member States should consider the anticipation of vaccination campaigns and broadening of target groups.</i>	July to September	Member States	
➤ Ensure additional national procurements for influenza vaccines (e.g. through excess supply production) (Member States)	July to September	Member States	
➤ Prepare adapted vaccination infrastructures for seasonal influenza in a COVID-19 outbreak setting (e.g. to cater to potentially larger seasonal influenza vaccination uptake) (Member States)	July to September	Member States	