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**From:** (10)(2e) @oecd.org  
**Sent:** Fri 7/10/2020 2:24:38 PM  
**Subject:** OECD Joint Network of Senior Budget and Health Officials - updated publication on budget and public management responses to COVID-19  
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[Initial Budget and Public Management Responses to the COVID-19 - FinalUpdate.pdf](#)

Dear Network Delegate,

We are pleased to share with you an updated publication of the budgetary and public management responses to coronavirus (COVID-19) by OECD countries. The attached publication is our final version of the responses in this format to networks with the OECD working party of senior budget officials. We are grateful for the assistance you and your colleagues have provided to us during the preparation of this document. The chair of this Joint Network, Mr. (10)(2e), "welcomes this latest publication for the OECD Joint Network, as it refers to the specific needs of the health sector and how those needs relate to budgetary responses."

In April 2020, we sent to you our first version of this publication. Attached is the latest version which includes the budgetary and public management responses that OECD countries have announced since April. The country notes refer to health financing in OECD countries in response to COVID-19 through supplementary budgets, the reallocation of funds, and extra-ordinary contributions to health insurance funds. Of note is the extent to which non-financial measures complemented the financial measures, for example, fast-tracking public procurement processes, extending the permissible hours of work by health professionals and changes to settings within the health system, such as the criteria for discharging patients to maximise the availability of hospital beds.

All OECD countries have implemented budgetary and public management responses to the outbreak of COVID-19. The responses have been swift, phased and large. Two thirds of OECD countries announced budgetary measures within one week of the WHO declaring a global pandemic, many OECD countries announced multiple support packages as more information on COVID-19 became available and the funding is significantly greater than any increase through an annual budget process.

Despite these measures, many challenges remain in health systems to bring health financing to sustainable levels for the health outcomes countries seek. In addition, the COVID-19 crisis has increased the scope of responsibilities performed by health ministries, for example large-scale testing and tracing operations, that require ongoing funding. The OECD has been working with countries on these challenges as budget processes adjust for the new realities from COVID-19. We look forward to continuing our work with you and our ongoing communication during the year.

Best regards,

(10)(2e)  
 On Behalf of the OECD Secretariat  
 Joint Network of Senior Budget and Health Officials



BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs

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