As of 30 March of 2020, 18:00 hours, there are 106 total cases of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19. One 82-year-old man has died. One patient has fully recovered.

At this stage of the COVID-19 outbreak which so far has been kept under control, the most important is to prevent a sharp increase of new infections. Therefore, the most urgent recommended preventive measures and messages to the population is to follow government instructions; stay-at-home, self-isolate, keep social/physical distance and frequent washing of hands.

The government took early preventive measures and closed schools on 12 March 2020. On 15 March it declared COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency. Updated measures undertaken, including new curfew schedule, by the government are:
- Curfew is in place from 17:00 to 06:00 hrs.
- Licensed pharmacies will operate after 17:00 hrs with a rotational on-duty shifts. The list of the pharmacies operating during curfew hours will be update daily on the link - https://bit.ly/3avP32k

These measures are complementary to the previous measures adopted by the government to prevent and contain the spread of the COVID-19. The initial government decision to close schools until 28 March was extended and further distance learning courses will be provided for the elementary and secondary school,
• classes 1-9 on RTK1 starting at 11:15 hrs in Albanian,
• classes 1-5 on RTK2 starting at 12:30 hrs in Turkish,
• classes 1-5 on RTK2 starting at 15:30 hrs in Bosnian.

For those who do not manage to catchup specific broadcasting, the lessons will be available on YouTube. Currently, only native language classes and math are taught over distance learning (TV and YouTube). A more complete curricula will be offered from next week by MEST over the same channel.
More than 1000 Kosovo passport holders have requested to return in Kosovo during March. According to the government decision of mandatory quarantine for each incoming traveler, they are put in the student dorms facilities which have a space for 100 more persons. Currently 430 persons that have returned mainly from Germany, Switzerland, Croatia and Scandinavia are quarantined in the student dorms. Most international air travel to Kosovo is suspended as of 16 March 2020. Military flights and airplanes carrying cabin crew allowed to land in Pristina Airport for outgoing passengers. There is an exception for incoming medical flights. Travel by land is restricted to all travelers except Kosovo passport holders, staff of diplomatic/consular missions, international organizations, foreigners with residence in Kosovo, and freight. Every person, irrespective of nationality entering Kosovo is placed under mandatory 14-day quarantine/isolation. Intercity transport is suspended as well as organized international transport of passengers. Pristina municipality has further limited the operation of the local bus transport. Public busses will operate from 06:00-16:30. Taxi Services are available only during 06:00 hrs to 17:00 hrs.

Confirmed COVID-19 cases in Kosovo per day and cumulative

Travel and Transport

Currently all emergency and other core government functions are fully functional. Approximately 300 volunteers are helping the health workers coordinated and instructed by the Ministry of Health Municipalities continue provide civil documentation, albeit with reduced capacities. The Ministry of Health has created a special website [https://www.kosova.health/en/](https://www.kosova.health/en/) with current official Kosovo statistics, and measures to be taken to prevent further transmission of the disease. Also, visitors at the website can do an interactive self-evaluation to verify for COVID-19 symptoms. There is also a possibility to register for volunteering at the same website. An emergency phone line is aspirational: 038 200 80 800 (0.02 cents per minute).

Municipality of Prishtine/Pristina in cooperation with volunteers disseminated today two thousand hygienic packs for families in need.
There are 2 reported cases COVID-19 cases in northern Kosovo. They are being treated in respective hospitals in Serbia. In the northern part, restrictions and measures are being followed as per government of Serbia instructions. The Government of Serbia is considering the assignment of temporary employment of doctors and nurses in majority Serb areas. A facility for examination of suspected patients and for future mass-testing is being set up in North Mitrovica as reported on 27 March. The city has access to 174 volunteers. On 29 March, curfew hours were extended on weekends to 15:00 to 05:00 hrs while weekday curfew remains 17:00 to 05:00 hrs.

Observations important to health & socio-economic impact of COVID-19 outbreak

The Ministry of Finance and Transfers has introduced an emergency package to address the socio-economic impact on a short term:
- Social assistance has increased for 30 EUR per recipient. The same measure will continue for the next two months.
- For the private sector – coverage of salaries up to 170 EUR and postponement of tax payments, continuing for two months.
- Subsidizing the rent for SME’s up to 50% of the total amount.
- Additional 10 million EUR for municipalities with COVID-19 cases will be distributed if the movement and other restrictions are prolonged.
- 300 EUR in addition to the base salary stimulus for the health workers, firemen and police officers for this and the next two months.
- 100 EUR in addition to their base salary for the employees of the markets, pharmacies and bakeries for this and the next two months.
- 130 EUR assistance for this and the next three months for each employee who have lost their jobs during the outbreak.
- 2 million EUR for the minority community targeting initiatives and projects for improvement of the conditions for those that have been touched by the COVID-19.

Posters in English/Albanian/Serbian, Romani, Turkish and Arabic are being disseminated and placed on locations visible to specific communities by UN agencies and Ministry of Health.

A number of Kosovo Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children, including voluntary returnees cannot follow the distant learning having no access to certain TV programmes, mainly due to the lack of the TV sets. So far, 55 returnee children from Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities have been identified not able to follow up Education learning distance platform. Respectively, there are 10 Egyptian returnee children in Ali Ibra/Kolonia, Gjakove/Djakovica Municipality; 15 Ashkali children in Ferizaj/Urosevac, 6 Roma in Plemetin/Plementina, Obiliq/Obilic Municipality; 14 Egyptian and Roma children in Peje/Pec and 10 in Klinac/Klinavac, Kline/Klina Municipality.

United Nations Family in Kosovo

UN remains operational. All UN agencies have activated their Business Continuity Plans (BCP) with non-critical staff working and operational from home. Coordination mechanisms are established with partners and support intensified not only to authorities to respond effectively to the COVID-19 outbreak but also directly to vulnerable groups and families.
WHO is the lead agency for health related coordination with Ministry of Health. Overall coordination is led by the UN RC/DC. WHO remains in daily contact with Ministry of Health and Institute of Public Health in supporting an effective response. WHO and a few other UNKT agencies are members of the inter-institutional crisis management group.

WHO now hosts trainings on 6 different topics to support the coronavirus response, for a total of 38 COVID-19 courses in a variety of UN and national languages.

- COVID-19 Operational Planning Guidelines and COVID-19 Partners Platform to support country preparedness and response (available in English-https://bit.ly/2yjnaMR and coming soon in additional languages); and

UNOPS today signed a 5 million EUR contract with the EU Office in Pristina, for procurement of emergency supplies in close coordination with UN DC Office, WHO and Ministry of Health to strengthen the COVID-19 response.

Continuing to support institutions in the fight against COVID 19, UNDP provided 12,000 pieces of rubber gloves and 500 pieces of alcohol-based hand sanitizers to the Regional Emergency Operations Centers and the Fire and Rescue Professional Units of the Emergency Management Agency (EMA).

UN Women is in daily contact with domestic violence shelters around Kosovo in coordinating the response to ensure that their needs are met. As a result of a joint UNKT effort, the shelters in Gjakova/Dakovica, Gjilan-Gnjilane, Mitrovicë/a have been provided with hygienic kits by UNICEF. Similarly, UNICEF also delivered today 50 hygienic kits each to both Prishtinë/Pristina and Prizren shelters. UN Women is also monitoring the situation of shelters in the North, to meet the needs of domestic violence survivors there.

In addition to the shelters, UNICEF distributed 400 family hygiene kits in Klinë/a and 450 family hygienic kits in Prizren to socially vulnerable families.

UNHCR and IOM works with their government counterparts and NGO partners to make sure information and essential support such food and non-food items are available to migrants, asylum seekers and refugees and advocates for including the needs of these groups in overall response.

In total 192 asylum-seekers are currently present in Kosovo. UNHCR has supported the asylum centers, as per request by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Public Administration (MIAPA), with protective materials by providing 1000 masks, 2000 gloves and 400 disinfection liquid of 500 mg. The provided items will be used by asylum-seekers and the asylum center staff.

Migrants continue to arrive in territory of Kosovo. On the 27th of March the border Police reported 13 new migrant arrivals all of them sent to the Immigration Detention Center in Vranidoll/Vranidol for a 14 days quarantine. The center is now managed by the Ministry of Health jointly with the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The center lacks essential protective materials for personnel and migrants.

As a result of UNHCR and its partners advocacy, 24 returnees were assisted with food items. The Head of Klina Serb Municipal Administration informed that as of 13 March, 69 Kosovo Serb returnee families have been assisted with food, hygienic and medicaments.
Last weekend, IOM, through the EU-RRK V project, assisted 22 vulnerable families in the municipalities of Gjakova/Djakovica, Prizren, Shtrpce/Strpce, Novoberde/Novo Berdo and Kamenice/a. More than 70 returnees received food and nonfood items as well as WHO instructions on COVID 19 prevention measures. Additional 130 returnees will be assisted during the first week of April. This additional support was approved by the EU Office in Kosovo in the context of emergency assistance to help families in need in response to the coronavirus outbreak.

Global support to fighting COVID19, and support for Kosovo

The US government through USAID has committed a first tranche of aid in the amount of 1.1 million dollars aimed primarily at immediate needs to increase national capacities to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak.

EU’s has announced a support package for Kosovo (5 million for immediate needs; 50 million to ease socio-economic impact, and up to 13 million in budget support). The allocation for the immediate needs will be implemented through UNOPS, as announced in the signatory ceremony above.

The UN launched last week a $2 billion global humanitarian response plan to fund the fight against COVID-19 in the world’s poorest countries. Coordinated by the UN’s Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, this interagency plan brings together existing appeals from WHO and other UN partners. Properly funded, it will save lives and arm humanitarian agencies and NGOs with laboratory supplies for testing, and with medical equipment to treat the sick while protecting health care workers. Already 100 M USD have been committed by UN member states.

GIS representation of confirmed COVID19 cases in Kosovo

Developed by UNMIK JARU
WHO, UNICEF and UNDP partnered with WhatsApp with the aim is to get real time health information to billions around the world on COVID-19: The WhatsApp Corona-virus Information Hub provides simple, actionable guidance for health workers, educators, community leaders, nonprofits, local governments and local businesses and offers general tips and resources to reduce the spread of rumors and connect with accurate health information: https://www.whatsapp.com/coronavirus

Or join WHO's Health Alert on WhatsApp:
For Arabic send "ابحرم" to +41 22 501 70 23 on WhatsApp wa.me/41225017023?text=ابحرم
For French send "salut" to +41 22 501 72 98 on WhatsApp wa.me/41225017298?text=salut
For Spanish send "hola" to +41 22 501 76 90 on WhatsApp wa.me/41225017690?text=hola
For English send "hi" to   +41 79 893 18 92 on WhatsApp wa.me/41798931892?text=hi

To stay up to date with the latest information, please visit:

World Health Organization: https://tinyurl.com/yx6vexyp
WHO guidance for countries: https://tinyurl.com/sz5zrl9
Coronavirus (COVID-19) Situation: https://tinyurl.com/tpr4rzc