



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Public health, country knowledge, crisis management
Crisis management and preparedness in health

Luxembourg, 10 July 2020

Health Security Committee

Audio meeting on the outbreak of COVID-19

Draft Summary Report

Chair: Wolfgang Philipp, SANTE C3

Audio participants: AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LU, LV, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SK, NO, CH, UK, AL, BiH, MK, RS, XK, DG SANTE, DG ECHO, DG JRC, ECDC, WHO

Key Conclusions

1. Control measures for people returning from high risk areas: Following a request from Belgium to discuss control measures for returning travellers from high risk countries, the HSC discussed measures implemented at national level. The ECDC presented the technical document: “Health Measures regarding travellers arriving from third countries in the EU/EEA” including points on quarantine and the importance of contact tracing. ECDC also reminded that the agency has been providing inputs to various guidance documents, including the operational guidelines produced in collaboration with the EASA, EMSA and ERA. BE reported that after being confronted with people returning from high risk areas, a political decision was taken to impose mandatory quarantine and testing for people returning from high risk areas. IT informed that, according to the Order of the Minister of Health 9 July 2020, international travellers from all countries have to fill in a declaration of health. In addition, entry and transit in Italy is forbidden to people that in the previous 14 days stayed or transited in a list of 14 countries and direct and indirect flights to and from 14 countries have been suspended. DE requires that any person entering DE should proceed to home or hotel isolation, dependent on federal states’ regulations, unless they are transiting or they can provide a medical certificate of no infection, not older than 48 hours before entering DE. BiH informed that while EU citizens need a certificate assessing negativity not earlier than 48 hours before departure.

Follow up:

- *HSC to continue to share any further developments on the topic of control measures for travellers coming from high-risk areas and on developments regarding discussions on legislative procedures in place at national level.*
2. Discussion on external borders and potential transit countries: FR updated the HSC on the measures implemented: FR requests PCR test not older than 3 days prior departure or certification of no symptoms. When passengers arrive in FR, they have to follow a 14 days quarantine and stay in contact with regional health authorities. FR is developing a new IT tool for passengers to record PCR tests and to follow quarantine. ES informed

restrictions are imposed for citizens returning from selected countries but otherwise they are complying with the rest of the list included in the “Recommendation on temporary restriction on non-essential travel into the EU”.

Follow up:

- *Countries to continue informing the HSC and EWRS on developments regarding external borders and potential transit countries.*

3. Update on ESI funded project: The Commission has adopted three actions to be financed by the Emergency Support Instrument (ESI):

- a mobility package for cargo transport of products (medical supplies and PPE), transport of patient and mobility of medical personnel and teams - this action is implemented by DG ECHO;
- a vaccine instrument to secure the production of vaccines against COVID-19 in the EU and ensure sufficient supplies for MS;
- a medical facility for the procurement of essential health related equipment, such as PPE and therapeutics for COVID-19, support for the necessary steps to generate clinical evidence to support an application for a marketing authorisation of medicines which may be repurposed to treat COVID-19 patients and support for the increased use of plasmapheresis based collection systems to increase availability of COVID-19 convalescent plasma.

The Commission presented the EU programme on convalescent plasma for COVID-19. Planned ESI support for the Covid-19 Convalescent Plasma include supporting Member States' efforts to collect CCP efficiently (including equipment for collection, testing and storage), organisation and training needs and for Blood Establishments collection or planning to collect CCP, with an authorisation of the National Competent Authorities. National competent authorities have been asked to inform blood establishments to express interest to sante-soho@ec.europa.eu.

Follow up:

- *Commission will continue to update on recent developments under the ESI funded projects.*

Comments from Denmark

- The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs identify high risk countries/areas based on surveillance data and guidance from Statens Serum Institut. Travels to countries/areas with high degree of virus spread are advised against.

- If you return from a high risk area, you are advised to stay at home for 14 days after return and be aware of any symptoms.

- Tourists and travelers can get tested in the airport and at select boarder crossing points as well as, after entering the country, in mobile testing units. If they have symptoms, they can get referred for testing by a doctor.

- All travelers are encouraged to follow the current advice from the Danish Health Authorities, information materials are produced in a number of languages and available at points-of-entry.