



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

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

Luxembourg, 20 May 2020

Health Security Committee

Audio meeting on the outbreak of COVID-19

Summary Report

Chair: Wolfgang Philipp, SANTE C3

Audio participants: AT, BE, BG, CZ, DE, DK, EE, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, LU, LV, MT, NL, PL, SE, SK, NO, CH, UK, ME, DG SANTE, DG ECHO, ECDC, CHAFEA, WHO

Key Conclusions

1. ECDC 30 days forecast: ECDC introduced the updated preliminary forecasts of COVID-19 in the EU/EEA and UK for the next 30 days. The report presents a dynamic compartmental model of COVID-19, which aims to provide a short-term 30-day forecast of the expected number of cases, deaths and hospitalised cases (including general hospital ward and intensive care unit) under a set of assumptions. Following previous discussions in the HSC, the ECDC has been working with national modellers and consulting the relevant networks of experts. Comments from 15 countries were taken into account; some of the remarks are being addressed in the next updates of the document. The model considers more parameters apart from the transmission rates, as well as questions on the effectiveness of measures. Source of the data from countries is important for the validity of the model; further parameters can be included in the next updates. The impact of measures is expected to be seen in 20-25 days. The HSC discussed the update, some countries asked that datasets are confirmed, and noted the uncertainty of different models in relation to the effectiveness of the measures. BG and FR noted the possibility of political level confirmation e.g., at upcoming health ministers meetings. ECDC will continue discussion with the different modelling groups at national levels; add more information to the report regarding modelling.

Follow up:

- *The HSC to send comments to the Commission on the data sources and modelling by 22 May, which will be transmitted to ECDC.*
- *ECDC will work on the updated forecast to be shared with the HSC.*

2. Exit strategies: Countries (NO, DK, IT, DE) provided an update on de-escalation measures, the opening of schools is being closely monitored without significant impact observed so far. The gradual reopening of other places is accompanied by measures for distancing and hygiene in place. Low infection rates among children were also noted by SE, where schools are kept open. DE observed several hot spots in the last week, mainly in smaller communities, and isolated clusters in different areas. Outbreaks in slaughterhouses are being addressed, recognised as complex problems related to working conditions and other factors.

Follow up:

- *The HSC continues to exchange information on de-escalation measures and the impacts of those measures in details.*
- *The HSC to share information on the used indicators and next steps planned for gradual reopening.*