



EU Response to the Pandemic

**Federation of European Academies of Medicine
and Federation of Veterinarians of Europe**

- COVID-19 and One Health: can we do better ?

8 July 2020

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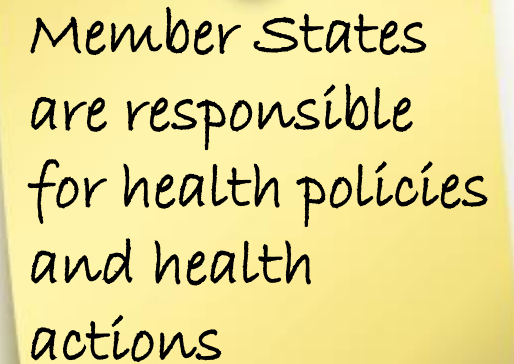
Preparedness



- Legal framework - Decision 1082/2013/EU on serious cross border health threats.
- Early Warning and Response System (EWRS): information exchange between the Commission and Member States, EEA countries, UK*, CH*, WHO
- European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) – surveillance, risk assessment, guidance
- Health Security Committee – Member States and Commission – coordination of response
- Pandemic Preparedness Plans and Exercises
- Joint Procurement Mechanism; EU Civil Protection Mechanism
- Joint actions: “Healthy Gateways”: guidance and training on points of entry; SHARP (strengthened international health regulations and preparedness in the EU): guidance on laboratory preparedness
- Epidemic Research preparation – GLOPID-R

The Health Security Committee

- coordinates public health preparedness and response to the outbreak – 12 meetings so far on COVID-19
- discusses: epidemiological situation, risk assessment, capacities (public health and health care, laboratories, medical countermeasures), response measures and recommendations
- New: sub-network on clinical management
- EU role is to complement and support and to assist with EU policies and actions e.g. joint procurement



Member States
are responsible
for health policies
and health
actions

Initial response – COVID-19



31 December: ECDC mentions a cluster of 27 cases of pneumonia of unknown origin in Wuhan China.

9 January: Early Warning and Response System (EWRS) activated

17 January: EU Health Security Committee – Member States review outbreak of novel coronavirus.

28 January : EU Civil Protection Mechanism Activated.

30 January : WHO declares a Public Health Emergency of International Concern

COORDINATION



- **European Council – Heads of Government**
- Council -2 video conferences per week of Ministers of Health since March.
- **Integrated Political Crisis Response mechanism (IPCR) – Commission and MSs.**
- EU Health Security Committee –weekly meetings – Commission and MSs representatives responsible for serious cross border health threats
- EU Agencies - European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control; European Medicines Agency; Frontex – weekly dialogue with MSs authorities.

Comprehensive response



- Health
- Economy
- Borders & mobility
- Research
- Fighting disinformation
- Coordinated exit strategy and recovery plan
- Tourism and transport



EU agencies



- European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)
 - Daily epidemiologic up-dates
 - Guidance to governments, health professionals and the public
 - Mission to Member States (e.g. Italy)
- European Medicines Agency (EMA)
 - development and approval of vaccines and treatments
- European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA)
 - advice for airlines and their crews
- European Food Safety Authority
- European Agency for Safety and Health at Work

ECDC – Guidance for MSs and Health Sector



- Infection prevention and control for COVID-19 in healthcare settings
- Novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) - Discharge criteria for confirmed COVID-19 cases
- Guidance for health system contingency planning during widespread transmission of SARS-CoV-2 with high impact on healthcare services
- Checklist for hospitals preparing for the reception and care of coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) patients
- Considerations relating to social distancing measures in response to the COVID-19 epidemic

models for use by MSs authorities

COVID-19

- Leaflet for pregnant women
- Leaflet for persons with chronic diseases
- Leaflet for persons with immunocompromising conditions
- Leaflet about self-isolation

<https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/covid-19/facts/infographics>

Health



1 PERSONAL PROTECTIVE MEASURES

Practice proper hand hygiene



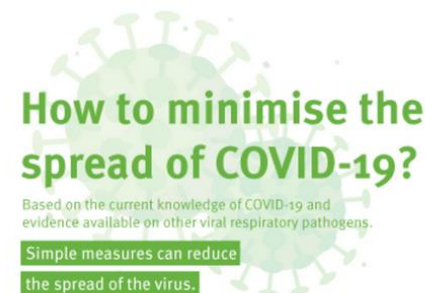
Cough and sneeze into your elbow or a tissue. Throw it into a bin and wash your hands



Healthy people **do not** need to wear masks



Masks should be reserved for healthcare workers and those who care for ill persons at home.



2 ENVIRONMENTAL MEASURES



Frequently clean used surfaces, clothes and objects



Minimise sharing objects



Ensure appropriate ventilation

3 SOCIAL DISTANCING MEASURES

Standing 1 metre away from a visibly symptomatic person



Self-isolation of individuals **with symptoms** of a respiratory infection is one of the most important measures for **reducing disease transmission** and limiting the spread of the virus in the community during an epidemic.

For travel advice or travel recommendations refer to official government advice.

Research



- €48.5 million for 18 projects by 140 research teams
 - Improving epidemiology and public health
 - Rapid point-of-care diagnostic tests
 - New treatment and vaccine development
- Innovative Medicines Initiative call - up to €45 million from EU HORIZON2020 – same amount from industry
- CureVac: up to €80 million European Investment Bank loan - launch clinical testing of a vaccine by June 2020
- 10 priority actions for coordinated research and innovation
- Portfolio of existing and previously funded EU research – eg COV Restrict – unravelling species barriers of cor
- Use of existing and previous EU funded research projects – eg COV RESTRIC – Unravelling species barriers of coronaviruses

EU-Projects -



- Joint Action “Healthy Gateways”:
- Advice for preparedness and response to cases of COVID-19 at points of entry in the European Union
 - Advice for **aircraft operators** for preparedness and response to the outbreak of COVID-19 acute respiratory disease
 - Advice for **ship operators** for preparedness and response to the outbreak of COVID-19
 - Advice for preparedness and response to cases of COVID-19 at **ground crossings** (buses and bus stations) in the European Union



Health measures

- coordination between Member States, e.g. on de-escalation and recovery
- Emergency EU funds to support health systems
- medical supplies, - EU funding, Joint Procurement, Stockpiling
- Expert advice and risk assessment

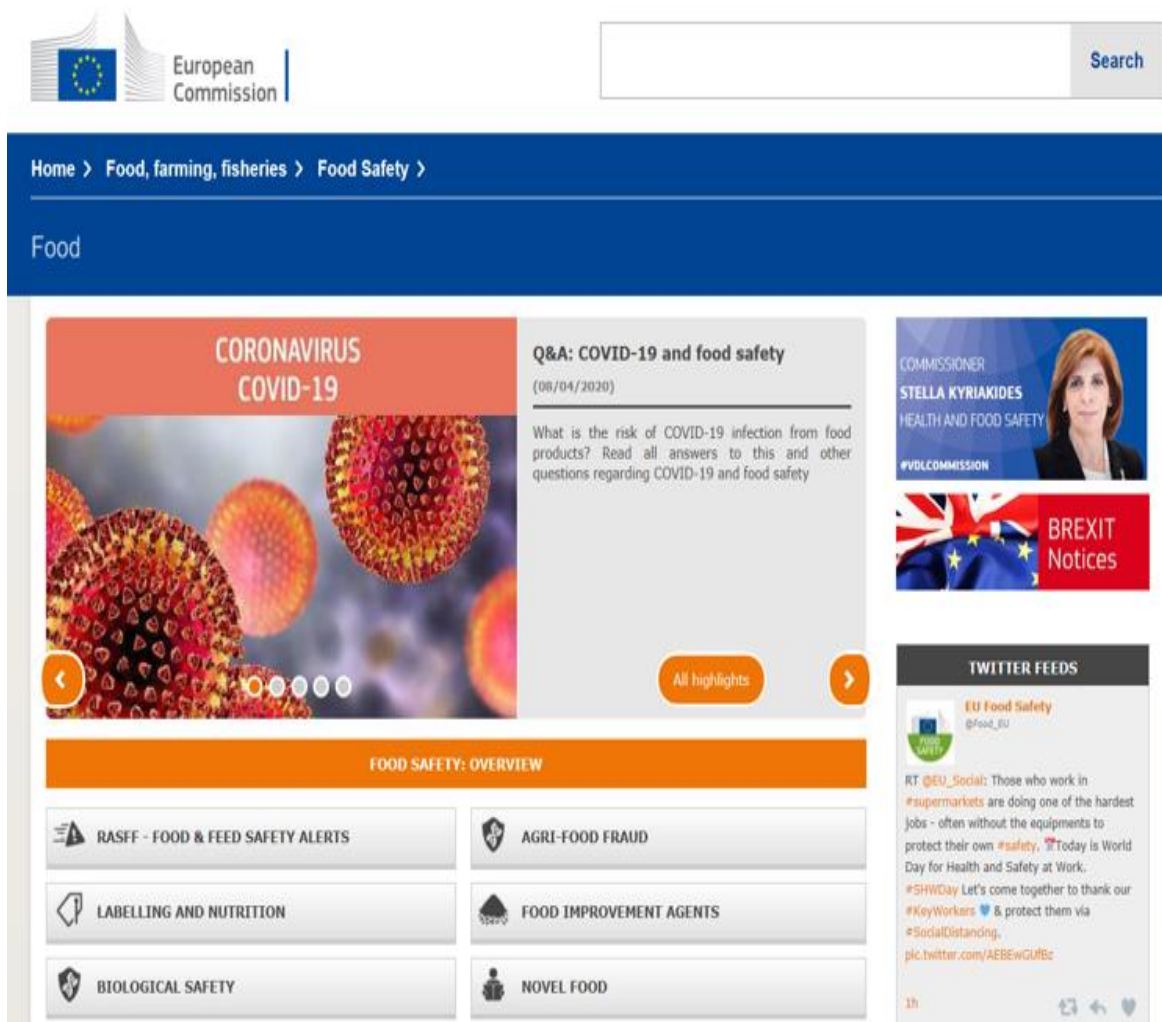


Examples

- 10 million masks purchased by EU to support EU healthcare workers
- First ever stockpile of medical equipment (ventilators, masks)
- Sending medical teams through the EU Medical Corps
- Member states have come to each other's aid through EU Civil Protection Mechanism.

Food safety

European
Commission



- Questions and answers produced and published in all EU languages
- Aimed at reassuring citizens as well as guiding small operators of the food chain
- Complementing national or international recommendations, which are cross-referred to
- Prepared in consultation with Member States and the AGFC
- https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/biosafety/crisis_preparedness_en

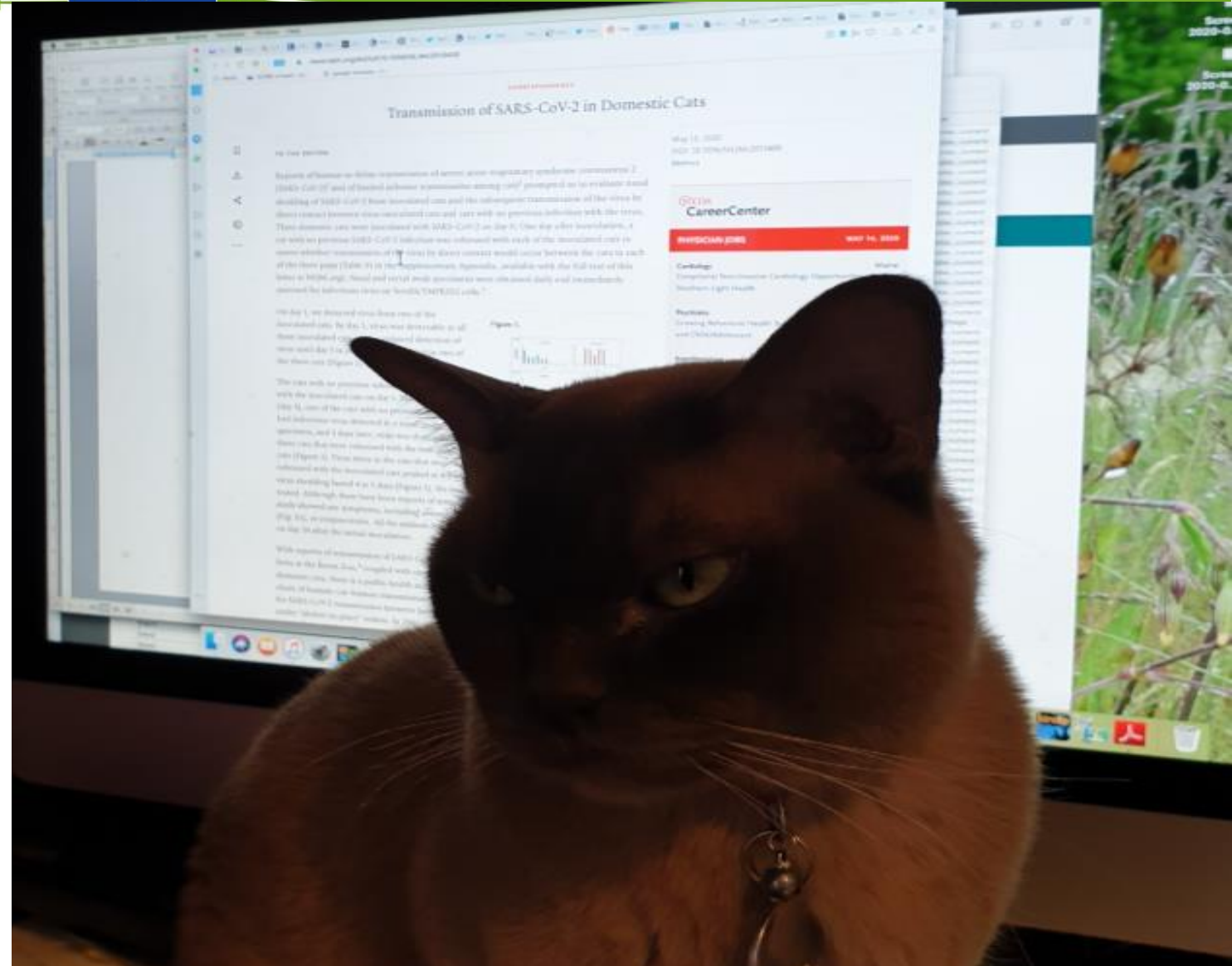
Health and
Food Safety

Animals



COVID-19 and farmed and domestic animals Questions and Answers

https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/ah_covid-19_qandas.pdf





Economic

- Keeping goods and components flowing for supermarket and factories
- Saving jobs and helping SMEs
- Cheap loans to help Member States pay workers
- Investing in the real economy
- Adapting EU funding for responding to health and economic crisis



Borders & Mobility

- Helping EU residents return home from abroad
- Green lanes for continuous flow of goods across the EU
- Temporary restriction on non-essential travel to the EU
- Support to airlines



Examples

- 500,000+ citizens brought home from outside the EU in joint actions with MS
- 50,000+ citizens brought home from outside the EU thanks to the EU civil protection mechanism
- Essential goods keep moving across the EU

A hand wearing a blue nitrile glove holds a white and red COVID-19 test tube. The background features a world map with a grid overlay. The text 'CORONAVIRUS GLOBAL RESPONSE' is written in large, bold, white capital letters in the lower-left corner.

CORONAVIRUS GLOBAL RESPONSE



Global response

- May 4 Pledging event: €7.4bn in pledges from donors worldwide.
- This includes a pledge of €1.4 billion from the Commission



Fighting disinformation

- Working with social media platforms
- Expose disinformation narratives
- Provide materials for myth-busting and fact checking



Tourism and transport:

Guidelines for safe return to services

- Health criteria for restoring tourism activities safely and gradually
- Safely restoring freedom of movement and lifting internal border controls
- Making vouchers a more attractive option for consumers



Exit strategy

Guidance for Member States

- Accompanying measures to phase-out confinement
- A European approach based on common principles and criteria

**STRONGER
TOGETHER**

Recovery Plan and budget 2021-27

- Increased financial support for investment and reforms in Member States and cohesion
- European Green Deal, digital transition and increased strategic autonomy
- Investments in crisis response tools
- Support to our neighbourhood and partners

Keep in touch



ec.europa.eu/coronavirusresponse



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