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### **Croatian National Report - FEMS online GA 7 May 2021**

#### COVID-19 in Croatia

Croatia is facing the third wave of COVID-19 epidemic today. After the worst situation in October, November and December (when we had pick of 4.620 new cases in 24 hours) the number of newly infected decreased to 365 on February 17<sup>th</sup> 2021. From that date, the number of newly infected started increasing again, with pick on April 9<sup>th</sup>, when we had 2599 newly infected in 24 hours. The number of new infections in the last few days shows a trend of slow decline.

According to the official data of the Croatian Institute of Public Health on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021, there have been 1.396 new recorded COVID-19 cases in Croatia in the last 24 hours, so 11.033 cases of COVID-19 remain active. 2.169 people are still hospitalized, with 259 patients on ventilator.

Total of 336.918 people infected with coronavirus was recorded in Croatia since the beginning of the pandemic in Croatia (February 25<sup>th</sup> 2020).

So far 1.836.108 people have been tested , **318.621 people recovered** and 7.264 people passed away.

Official data is available at [www.koronavirus.hr](http://www.koronavirus.hr) and updated daily.

#### Restrictions

The National Civil Protection Headquarters has prescribed a Decision on Necessary Epidemiological Measures Restricting Assemblies and Recommendations to Prevent the Transmission of COVID-19 Diseases, which remain in force until 15 May 2021.

All persons in the territory of the Republic of Croatia are obliged to adhere to strict measures of physical distancing, all prescribed anti-epidemic measures, special recommendations and instructions of the Croatian Institute of Public Health and necessary epidemiological measures prescribed by this Decision.

A strict measure of physical distancing requires avoiding close personal contact at a distance of at least 2 meters indoors and 1.5 meters outdoors.

The necessary epidemiological measures required by this decision are:

- mandatory use of face masks or medical masks in the open when it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 1.5 meters;
- ban on holding all public events and gatherings attended by more than 25 people in one place (including funerals)
- a maximum of 10 people from a maximum of 2 different households may be present at private gatherings and ceremonies;
- public events and gatherings and ceremonies of all kinds can last up to 10:00 p.m.

- limitation of working hours for bakeries to 10:00 p.m.
- ban on the sale of alcoholic beverages in the period from 10:00 p.m. to 6.00 a.m.
- catering facilities can serve food and drinks only on open terraces, in strict compliance with the prescribed epidemiological measures, and working hours can be determined from 6.00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
- Food delivery to homes and drive in food sales is allowed
- suspension of wedding ceremonies
- suspension of fairs and other forms of economic and tourist events or events where products are sold, exhibited or displayed;
- ban on all indoor competitions and training except for top-level clubs and individual sports at the national level, spectators are not allowed
- a recommendation to religious ceremonies whenever possible to be broadcast through radio, TV programs or in another way, that will allow the faithful to attend religious services without visiting the religious sites
- Depending on the epidemiological situation in individual counties, local headquarters may adopt stricter or milder epidemiological measures.

#### Vaccination

By May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021, 716.861 (17.6%) people were vaccinated in the Republic of Croatia with one dose, and 205.000 (5%) inhabitants were fully vaccinated.

It is estimated that between 60% and 70% of doctors are fully vaccinated, while the interest of nurses in vaccination is low, so only about 30% of nurses have been vaccinated so far (we asked for the official data, but did not receive any answer).

In January 2021, the Croatian Medical Chamber and 8 other health chambers in Croatia launched a public health campaign "You have the knowledge - be an example" supported by HLS and many other medical associations. The campaign aims to further inform health professionals about the importance and all aspects of vaccination against the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

On March 1, 2021, the Ministry of Health launched an online platform ([cijepise.zdravlje.hr](http://cijepise.zdravlje.hr)), to which Croatian citizens, interested in vaccination, can apply.

The platform has shown many shortcomings in practice and is still being improved.

#### Earthquake and helping HLS members

As reported at our last online Meeting, some of HLS members from Sisak County suffered extensive damage to their homes after the earthquake, so they had to move out of their homes, and a few of them has completely demolished houses. HLS helped them financially immediately after the earthquake and we continue to help them as much as we can.

Shortly after our last online session, we received a letter from Ilan Rosenberg, FEMS 2nd vice president, who offered us help from our Italian colleagues. In the next few weeks, HLS received financial help from ANAAO ASSOMED, AAROI-EMAC and FASSID SNR.

Let me thank Ilan Rosenberg, Alessandra Spedicato, Alessandro Vergallo, Paolo Sartori. and all our Italian colleagues, for the solidarity, financial assistance and helping our colleagues !

Dear colleagues, thank you very much!

FEMS Meeting Dubrovnik , Croatia, September 23-25 2021

Preparations are in progress, registration form is submitted to the FEMS secretariat. Further information under item 6 of the Agenda.

President of HLS:  
Renata Čulinović-Čaić

Zagreb, 6 May 2021