

DATUM

May 19, 2020

REGION



SPECIAL REPORT CORONAVIRUS

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SPECIAL REPORT CORONAVIRUS

REGION

SERBIA

[89 new cases in Serbia, one person died](#)

Dnevnik

The new coronavirus was confirmed in 89 people in Serbia from Sunday, May 17, at 3 pm until Monday, May 18, at the same time, which increased the total number of patients to 10,699, it was published on the website of the Ministry of Health covid19.rs. Since the last review of the situation in Serbia, another person has died, so that the total number of deaths is now 231, and the mortality rate is 2.17 percent. As of yesterday, 4,113 samples have been tested, 16 people are on ventilators, while a total of 185,385 people have been tested. 805 patients have been hospitalized, and 4,799 people are recorded as completely cured of the virus.

[Vranje: 93 people in hospitals, the biggest number of patients comes from Dodić factory](#)

Tanjug

93 patients are hospitalized at the Covid hospital in Vranje, four of which are on oxygen, eight are diagnosed with mild pneumonia, while the other patients were asymptomatic, said the director of the Vranje Healthcare Center, Ljiljana Antić. As she specified, the largest number of patients are from the private company Dodić, 44 of them, and two people were hospitalized from the company Geox, where coronavirus also entered. She appealed to the people of Vranje to adhere to the recommended protection measures and in that sense stated that it was noticed that from May 1, especially after the lifting of the state of emergency, there was relaxation, that people did not respect personal protection measures, did not wear masks, moved in large groups, and celebrations were organized.

[Red Cross of Serbia helps 200,000 citizens](#)

Tanjug

Since the beginning of the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Serbian Red Cross has carried out 325,904 humanitarian aid actions, in the realization of which 2,823 volunteers and 685 professional associates participated. According to the statement, the Serbian Red Cross provided assistance to 200,000 people during the state of emergency and acted at the local and national level with 165 local teams in municipalities and cities during the state of emergency. The help was comprehensive and diverse - from enabling the work of soup kitchens necessary for the life of 33,000 users, recently equipped with the help of Coca Cola, then helping the elderly, providing psycho-social support to citizens with limited mobility, but also voluntary blood donation drives, stated the Serbian Red Cross.

[Prices of coronavirus tests differ](#)

Kurir

The Institute for Public Health in Pančevo announced that it will start taking samples for testing for coronavirus in people who do not meet the indications for testing, and that the service will cost RSD 8,225, while the citizens of Serbia in Vranje will pay RSD 6,000 for the same service. According to the website of the Pančevo Institute, they can test those who do not meet the indications for testing at the expense of the state, i.e. all passengers in international traffic who leave Serbia, citizens of Serbia who have entered the country and who want to shorten home isolation, as well as employees or other stakeholders.

SPECIAL REPORT CORONAVIRUS

[Vučić: If there are problems with the coronavirus, the elections will not be the main topic](#)

Beta

The President of Serbia, Aleksandar Vučić, said that "elections will not be the main topic" if there were problems with the coronavirus in the country and an increase in the number of infected people. "There will be no postponement of the elections if we take the control. But if there are problems with the growth of the number of infected people that we cannot control, health comes first for us. The state will respond readily and responsibly in order to protect people's lives," Vučić said.

[Brnabić: Border crossings to KiM to be opened as soon as possible](#)

Politika

The Prime Minister Ana Brnabić stated that the Crisis Staff will consider the issue of possible reopening of administrative crossings between central Serbia and Kosovo and Metohija today. "I will insist that it be resolved as soon as possible, that is in our greatest interest," the Prime Minister of Serbia told reporters. "We will try to liberalize the entry into Serbia as much as possible, as we will see that the statistics related to coronavirus in Serbia and Europe are under control. That is important for our economy, as well as for our tourism," said Ana Brnabić, while answering questions from journalists. She reminded that foreign citizens entering Serbia should have a negative PCR test and the approval of the government commission, and added that foreign citizens, if they are especially important for the Serbian economy, can enter without a negative PCR test. "Here we communicate with the Chamber of Commerce and all foreign Embassies and Chambers of Commerce. In that case, foreign citizens receive a special permit for limited movement, from the hotel to the workplace ", said Brnabić.

MONTENEGRO

[No new coronavirus-infected persons, only four people ill](#)

pobjeda.me

No coronavirus-infected persons have been registered in Montenegro today, the Institute of Public Health (IJZCG) announced. - Since the last review, IJZCG laboratories have tested 93 samples, among which there were no new cases of infection. The total number of patients since the beginning is 324, 311 have recovered and currently there are 4 patients - it was said in the announcement.

[With the airport opening soon, NKT worries that gatherings jeopardise achieved results](#)

Pobjeda

The National Coordination Body for Infectious Diseases (NKT) has made a decision on the opening of the Montenegrin Airport for general aviation flights to and from Montenegro soon, the Government announced. - Appropriate instructions and orders will be issued today - it was announced on the Government's Twitter account. - At the same time, NKT expresses serious concern over epidemiologically high-risk public gatherings that endanger the achieved result and the necessary recovery of the Montenegrin economy - the Government said.

SPECIAL REPORT

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The ban on sports activities and gatherings in apartments is lifted

Mina

The National Coordination Body for Infectious Diseases (NKT) has agreed to amend the relevant orders by the Ministry of Health in order to abolish the application of temporary measures banning sports activities in public areas and gathering in residential buildings of persons who are not members of the family household. The regular weekly Report on Donations was also adopted. - Two months after the opening, more than EUR 8 million were paid into the account of NKT from the country and abroad. By May 18, at 9:00, EUR 7,999,630.21 and USD 75,971.72 had been paid - the NKT said.

BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA

Older male from Banja Luka dies, 2,304 infected

Avaz.ba

There are currently 2,304 people who tested positive for coronavirus in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Of them, 1,464 patients are cured, while 134 of them died. A confirmed coronavirus patient died at the University Clinical Center of the Republic of Srpska in the past 24 hours, an 87-year-old man from Banja Luka. The deceased had several chronic associated diseases, it was announced from that health institution.

Bosnia and Herzegovina to reopen borders on June 1

slobodnaevropa.org

The borders of Bosnia and Herzegovina will be open from June 1, it was confirmed by the cabinet of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of BiH, Zoran Tegeltija. Business people from abroad will be able to enter the country even before the official opening of the borders, with the obligatory respect of all measures defined by healthcare workers. The condition for business people to enter the country will be a negative test for coronavirus from an authorized laboratory, no older than 48 hours, as well as an invitation letter from the company they are going to.

Cvijanović: Conditions have been met for the abolition of the state of emergency and curfew

Srna

The President of the Republika Srpska, Željka Cvijanović, pointed out that the conditions for lifting the state of emergency had been met and that this meant ending the need for curfew. She added that after the lifting of the state of emergency, Srpska will function for some time in the conditions of the state of emergency, which was in force before the decision to declare a state of emergency was made. This means it is going to be a different mode of functioning when compared to normal, but there will be changes regarding today's situation.

A plane with medical equipment arrives from Qatar

RTRS

One of the largest civilian planes with very valuable and important medical and protective equipment is going to arrive at the Sarajevo International Airport today from Qatar, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Council of Ministers announced. Foreign Minister Bisera Turković emphasized that Qatar is the only Arab country that has sent an aid plane to Bosnia and Herzegovina so far, despite the fact that it is facing a much more difficult situation with the pandemic than BiH.

SPECIAL REPORT CORONAVIRUS

CROATIA

2,228 coronavirus-infected persons

koronavirus.hr

Currently, a total of 2,228 people is infected with the coronavirus, and 1,946 people have recovered. There were two newly infected in the last 24 hours. Ninety-five people have died, while ten people are currently on ventilators. A total of 54,820 people has been tested so far.

Some students of secondary vocational schools are also returning to schools

hrt.hr

Due to the decline in the number of newly infected, restrictive measures continue to be eased. After the students of the lower grades of primary schools, a part of the students of secondary vocational schools will also return to schools. They must perform practical exercises that cannot be conducted remotely, and are important for the final exam. Both students and teachers at the school should respect the measures of keeping physical distance, regularly disinfect and ventilate classrooms and workshops, and check their body temperature every day. Upon entering the school, they will sign a statement that they have no signs of acute respiratory disease and that they are not prescribed a measure of self-isolation.

Visits to homes for the elderly and disabled are allowed again

dnevnik.hr

After two months, the measures in the nursing homes for the elderly and disabled have eased. You can enter the home only after disinfection, with a mask, body temperature checked and a statement that you do not suffer from coronavirus. Visits are limited, whenever possible in the outdoor area, and we can only have one visitor in the room. These homes are weak points all over the world, in Croatia out of 95 deceased with a Covid-19 diagnosis, 42 come from homes, most of them from Split and Koprivnica. As many as 18 residents died in Split nursing home, but they opened their doors nevertheless.

SLOVENIA

Number of infected 1466

mariborinfo.com

According to the latest available data, the number of new coronavirus cases in Slovenia is 1,466. The number of fatalities is 104, and the total of 69,842 individuals have been tested so far.

Government session

delo.si

At today's session, the government of Slovenia will discuss the draft of the third law on the fight against the coronavirus, which envisages a scheme for subsidizing part-time work and assistance to catering and tourism. The government intends to help with tourist vouchers in the amount of EUR 200, which will be distributed to all adult citizens. The work of employees should be subsidized, and subsidies would range from EUR 448.52 to EUR 112.13. The proposal follows the Austrian model, and the Minister of Labor, Janez Cigler Kralj, announced that the measure will be financed by European funds.

SPECIAL REPORT CORONAVIRUS

Slovenia projects 7% GDP drop

rtvslo.si

Prime Minister Janez Janša expects a significant economic downturn this year, but with the right measures, Slovenia could make up for lost money next year. Slovenia projects a 7% drop in gross domestic product for this year and a 6.7% increase for next year. According to Janez Janša, the Slovenian economy will suffer damage this year, but the European Commission acknowledges that Slovenia has taken the right measures to mitigate the effects of the epidemic and accelerate economic recovery.

Students return to schools

slovenskenovice.si

First-grade students and final-year students have returned to schools. Despite calling an end to epidemic, students and teachers are required to adhere to precautionary measures. Students of first three elementary grades are not required to wear face masks, since they are younger than 12.

NORTH MACEDONIA

Another 25 newly infected people

koronavirus.gov.mk

In the past 24 hours, 286 samples were tested, and 25 new cases of COVID-19 were registered in: Skopje - 16, Tetovo - four, Struga - one, Veles – two, and Ohrid - two, while eight people recovered, and two patients died. The total number of infected cases since the beginning of the epidemic is 1,817, the number of recovered patients is 1,301, the number of deaths is 104, and currently, the number of active cases in the country is 412. So far, a total of 21,722 samples have been tested for COVID-19.

Ministerial video conference on improving regional cooperation in combating the consequences of Covid-19

opservers.mk

At the initiative of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of North Macedonia and Greece, Nikola Dimitrov and Nikos Dendias, a ministerial video conference will be held today. The goal of the gathering is to coordinate and improve the cooperation between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Western Balkans and the EU members in the immediate vicinity of the region in the next phase of dealing with the socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. The participating ministers are expected to discuss ongoing and future co-operation to regulate cross-border travel, transport and tourism by meeting the necessary medical criteria, as well as mutual support for national economies.

What does weekend without VAT measure entail?

biznisvesti.mk

Encouraging the consumption of domestic products and domestic services is envisaged by the measure Weekend Without VAT, which can be implemented through a well-controlled system as additional income to the economy and assistance to citizens. The Minister of Finance, Nina Angelovska, said that this measure can be implemented through the already active app My VAT, which enables scanning of all invoices, and it has been downloaded by over 300 thousand users. The app allows you to set certain limits, limitation of the number of accounts, sectors in question, whether there will be a 100% return for certain products.

SPECIAL REPORT CORONAVIRUS

Eight new measures to help the agricultural sector

slobodnaevropa.mk

The third set of new sets of aid measures implies direct support to farmers for new incomes and includes several key measures to help agriculture, Prime Minister Oliver Spasovski announced. "Support to the agricultural sector in the amount of EUR 5 million through the Development Bank, payment card for subsidizing 50% of green oil for farmers, encouraging grape processors to produce new products, enabling public-private partnerships in the viticulture and tobacco sector," he said. "Measures also include assistance for long-term lease of pastures, for increasing agricultural land for greater competitiveness of Macedonian agriculture, a program for financing micro-agricultural enterprises and measures for modernization of agriculture," the prime minister said.

Procedures for dairy subsidies made easier

makfax.com.mk

Due to the crisis caused by COVID-19, the Government, at the suggestion of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, adopted a decree amending the decree on closer criteria for direct payments, beneficiaries, maximum amounts and direct payments for 2020. This decree changes the manner in which the application for a subsidy for additional measures for produced and delivered cow's, sheep's and goat's milk is submitted. According to the amendment, the submission of requests for subsidies will not be done by farmers who use the measure, but the Agency for Financial Support in Agriculture and Rural Development will take data directly from registered buyers of raw milk.

KOSOVO – media in Albanian language

Pristina: Three new cases of COVID-19

koha.net

Institute of Public Health of Kosovo announced that over last 24 hours, 200 individuals were tested, three of whom tested positive for coronavirus, while 18 patients were cured, bringing the total number of cured patients to 754. From February 8 until May 18, 11,987 individuals who met the case definition criteria were tested, of whom 988 were positive, and 29 individuals died from the consequences of coronavirus.

Pandemic causes million-worth losses to dairy industry in Kosovo

gazetascanner.com

Covid-19 has caused huge economic damage to Kosovo's dairy industry. Milazim Berisha, President of Kosovo Dairy Processors Association, said this sector did not have the necessary support from institutions since the outbreak of pandemic. Dairy processors say the government was ought to pass Regulation on subsidizing of dairy production, as countries of the region had done. The head of the Association of Dairy Products of Kosovo Gani Durmishaj says that sector of dairy production and dairy processing has been working with limited capacity since March. "The situation is even worse due to the competition of imported products. This problem exists in the entire region, but it is now highlighted because some countries in the region have subsidized their producers and they are entering the Kosovo market at much lower prices," Durmishaj says.

SPECIAL REPORT CORONAVIRUS

ALBANIA

Ministry of Health: 2 newly infected, a total of 948 ill persons

new.shendetesia.gov.al

In the last 24 hours, 168 people with COVID-19 symptoms were tested in Albania, only two of which were positive in the Durres region. 12 people are recovering. To date, over 12,500 tests have been performed and a total of 948 citizens across the country tested positive for the virus. About 77% of them are cured. There are currently 190 ill people from the virus in Albania, mostly in Tirana, Durres, Kruja, Shkodra. The situation in the hospitals has been stable for days, with 15 patients hospitalized, and only three people in intensive care. The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare appeals to citizens to be responsible, respect physical distance, maintain personal hygiene, avoid visiting relatives for any reason, while companies must adhere to strict protocols.

Manastirliu: Health system reopens to perform planned surgeries

ata.gov.al

Minister of Health and Social Protection, Ogerta Manastirliu, stated from the University Hospital 'Shefqet Ndroqi' that from today this hospital will return to normal after closing the ward for the treatment of COVID-19 patients. The Shefqet Ndroqi Hospital will return to its normal function, which is treating the patients with pathologies that this hospital covers, starting from the pulmonary diseases to surgery, hemodynamics and other services, Manastirliu said. The Minister of Health also announced the continuation of planned surgeries. Under the reopening strategy, the health system is gradually returning to normal. Speaking about the reopening phase, Manastirliu emphasized that the situation will be monitored and evaluated daily for the next 14 days.

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