# COVID-19: EU27 Response and Actions

## Last update: 25 March 2020 – 17:00

### Disclaimer

MedTech Europe continues to monitor the unfolding COVID-19 situation and national responses to it. This is a non-comprehensive list of measures and reactions. The information here below is accurate to the best of our knowledge at the time of publishing this table, but we do not accept any responsibility for any losses, direct or otherwise, accrued by relying on this information, as well as for any non-compliance with national regulations, including decrees or ordinances. Readers are encouraged to check with experts on each specific field to verify, analyze or clarify any information before taking any action.

### International

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Institution** |  |
| United Nations | * [UN to create global coronavirus fund to assist developing countries](https://www.euractiv.com/section/development-policy/news/un-to-create-global-coronavirus-fund-to-assist-developing-countries/) |

### European Union

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Institution** | [**OFFICIAL EU COVID-19 WEBSITE WITH ALL INFO (INCLUDING EU MEASURES)**](https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/health/coronavirus-response_en) |
| European Commission | * [Commission’s guidance on export requirements for personal protective equipment](https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2123) * [Commission Recommendation (EU) 2020/403 of 13 March 2020 on conformity assessment and market surveillance procedures within the context of the COVID-19 threat](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=uriserv:OJ.LI.2020.079.01.0001.01.ENG)\* * [EU Decision to ban PPE outside of EU](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_469) - [exemption for EFTA countries](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=uriserv:OJ.LI.2020.084.01.0001.01.ENG) * [Guidelines for border measures to protect health and keep goods and essential services available](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_468) * [Proposal for a Regulation on COVID-19 Response Investment Initiative](https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/proposal-regulation-covid-19-response-investment-initiative_en) * [COVID-19: Commission creates first ever rescEU stockpile of medical equipment](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_476) – [link to decision](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=uriserv:OJ.LI.2020.082.01.0001.01.ENG) * [Temporary Framework for State Aid measures to support the economy during the COVID-19 outbreak](https://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/what_is_new/sa_covid19_temporary-framework.pdf) * [European Commission makes standards for medical gear available](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_502?utm_source=POLITICO.EU&utm_campaign=7a5b9626b6-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_03_22_09_18&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_10959edeb5-7a5b9626b6-190517313) * [Communication on the on the activation of the general escape clause of the Stability and Growth Pact](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/economy-finance/2_en_act_part1_v3-adopted_text.pdf) |
| European Parliament | * [EP’s official News Page](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en) |
| Council of the European Union | * [COVID-19 - Council gives go-ahead to support from EU budget](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/03/18/covid-19-council-gives-go-ahead-to-support-from-eu-budget/?utm_source=dsms-auto&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=COVID-19+-+Council+gives+go-ahead+to+support+from+EU+budget) * [Statement on COVID-19 economic policy response](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/03/16/statement-on-covid-19-economic-policy-response/?utm_source=dsms-auto&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Statement+on+COVID-19+economic+policy+response) * [Latest Decision](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/03/12/continuation-of-decision-making-in-the-council-and-the-european-council/?utm_source=dsms-auto&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Continuation+of+decision-making+in+the+Council+and+the+European+Council) on continuation of decision-making in the Council and the European Council * [Decision on a temporary derogation from Rules of Procedure](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/43030/st06891-en20.pdf) |
| European Central Bank | * [European Central Bank announces €750B coronavirus stimulus](https://www.politico.eu/article/ecb-announces-e750b-coronavirus-stimulus/) |

\*Recommendation (EU) 2020/403:

* It recommends that Member States consider giving national derogations to needed medical devices
* It also recommends that Member States ‘enact’ the approach they had come up with 1 year ago for ‘Brexit’ non-compliances, i.e., if a device is not (yet) fully in compliance with the legislation, and if it does not pose ‘serious’ risks, they may authorize the circulation of the Union
* Finally, it ‘suggests’ that Member States consider purchasing of non-CE marked medical devices for the specific purpose of getting needed products to healthcare workers currently battling COVID-19

### Member States

Member States that have taken restrictive measures related to the medtech sector:

* Germany ([Restrictions have been lifted](https://twitter.com/ThierryBreton/status/1239159582821408770))
* France (Restrictions have [been](https://twitter.com/ThierryBreton/status/1239159582821408770) lifted)
* Bulgaria
* Romania
* Czech Republic
* Poland
* Italy

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Country** | **Responsible Authorities (e.g. MoH, national disease center)** | **Member State actions in relations to medical technology (e.g. testing measures, export bans, distribution of equipment, pricing policies)** | **Member State actions (other: e.g. event cancellation, school closing, airport)** | **Industry activities (e.g. surveys, public statement, engagement with government authorities)** |
| Austria | * Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health Care and Consumer Protection | * Austria launches 38 billion euros aid fund and installs border checks with Germany (fund also used to buy medical supplies) - [Euractiv](https://www.euractiv.com/section/health-consumers/short_news/austria-update-covid-19/) | * [Official Response and Actions](https://www.sozialministerium.at/Informationen-zum-Coronavirus/Neuartiges-Coronavirus-(2019-nCov).html) (in DE and ENG) * The Government is making it easier for businesses to switch employees over to ‘short-time’ (temporary part-time) work to prevent lay-offs. Instead of social payments kicking in from the fourth month, Austria will now cover social payments for short-time workers from the first month onwards. | AUSTROMED’s [Official statement](https://austromed.org/) on COVID-19  “*With regard to the current situation regarding COVID-19, AUSTROMED is available for the necessary measures and is in regular coordination with the official coordination offices*”. |
| Belgium | * Federal Ministry of Social Affairs and Health | * The Federal Government has confirmed that a public procurement scheme has been awarded for the purchase of surgical masks and FFP2. A plan to distribute these masks between the different entities in the country is being developed by the Risk Management Group. | * [Official COVID-19 Website](https://www.info-coronavirus.be/fr/) * Belgium is in strict [*confinement*](https://www.euractiv.com/section/coronavirus/news/belgium-enters-lockdown-over-coronavirus-crisis-until-5-april/)from 18 Marchuntil 5 April. * Belgium has set aside €1bn to deal with COVID-19 and its consequences. It has not been decided what the money will be spent on. - [HLN](https://www.hln.be/nieuws/binnenland/1-miljard-euro-in-noodbegroting-voor-maatregelen-in-de-strijd-tegen-corona~a48b4b0f6/) * Brussels Airlines [suspends all its flights](https://press.brusselsairlines.com/brussels-airlines-suspends-all-its-flights-to-and-from-italy-between-12-march-and-3-april) to and from Italy between 12 March and 3 April. * Flemish Government aids companies affected by corona with 100 million plan (guarantees, compensation for closing doors) - [HLN](https://www.hln.be/nieuws/binnenland/minister-hilde-crevits-zaken-die-moeten-sluiten-krijgen-premie-van-4-000-euro~aed3492a/) |  |
| Bulgaria | * Ministry of Health * The Central Fire Brigade Department will be responsible for allocation of available PPEs to hospitals. | * **Export of medical technologies** (disposable overalls, filter masks, surgical masks, safety glasses, latex / nitrile gloves, medical Shoe Covers) **is banned**- [The law.](https://www.gov.bg/bg/prestsentar/zasedaniya-na-ms/dneven-red-na-zasedanieto-na-ministerskiya-savet-na-08-03-2020-g) * A scandal with several companies was reported which bought out all medical supplies from warehouses in order to export them and sell it with up to 800% overprice. The Minister of Health explained that MDD does not allow price regulation, unlike pharma products. * **Measures to cope with lack of medtech:** * Import from Turkey * Textile companies to produce those in emergency * Use supplies from the army * Unused money from EU operational funds will be redirected to medtech procurement * Funds for military modernization will also be redirected to medtech | * As of 17 March: * All flights from Italy, Spain, Iran & South Korea are banned * Ski resorts & hotels within are closing at least till end of March * As of 13 March: * No tax or interest “vacations” for suffering businesses (unlike Italy & Greece) * 60% of salaries of impacted business will be covered by government for 1 month * 5.00 euro per month for medical staff serving COVID-19 * 24 March: The Government sets up a new Medical Council to help deal with the coronavirus response – [BTA](http://www.bta.bg/en/c/DF/id/2174426) * 18 March: The Bulgarian government is proposing measures to help support employment and create buffers - * [TrendingTopics](https://www.trendingtopics.at/bulgaria/measures-to-support-the-bulgarian-businesses-in-times-of-coronavirus-60-salaries-subsidies-equity-buy-in-and-more/) |  |
| Croatia | * Ministry of Health |  | * [All Measures](https://vlada.gov.hr/koronavirus#mjere) taken by the Croatian Government * Economic support measures taken by the Croatian government (loan & loan payment, guarantees, extension of deadlines) - [Vecernji](https://www.vecernji.hr/biznis/ministar-horvat-predstavio-prvih-10-mjera-za-pomoc-gospodarstvu-1386331?fbclid=IwAR2xbKJUiWM_gMTBIddG3e8MV6-eA9-dWwyo7nt0rmNs8T6O17htjxftQZI) * [Croatia closes down schools for two weeks for coronavirus](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-croatia/croatia-closes-down-schools-for-two-weeks-for-coronavirus-pm-idUSKBN2101F0?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews) |  |
| Cyprus | * Ministry of Health | * Cyprus to receive medical supplies from China on 29 March - [CNA](http://www.cna.org.cy/WebNews-en.aspx?a=321a085b538a49429966816067774912) | * 24 March: New restrictions on retail businesses and movement of people - [CNA](http://www.cna.org.cy/WebNews-en.aspx?a=90da896bc2784d8a9815895c49f5d6a5) & [CNA](http://www.cna.org.cy/WebNews-en.aspx?a=6fc921ec93c547a18366cfd8f3015353) * 23 March: Cyprus to grant 2 billion euros in guarantees to banks - [CNA](http://www.cna.org.cy/WebNews-en.aspx?a=f3b71bf227e345f5b0e0f812fe4c8442) * The government of Cyprus has set up a [website](https://www.pio.gov.cy/coronavirus/index.html) focusing exclusively on the coronavirus. * One of the cases in the country is a healthcare professional working for the public sector. The Health Ministry has activated all the protocols. [Here](https://www.pio.gov.cy/coronavirus/press/09032020_1.pdf) are all the measures they took. * The Cypriot Government adopts 700 million euro support measures (VAT arrangements) – [Cyprus Mail](https://cyprus-mail.com/2020/03/15/coronavirus-emergency-economic-measures-will-have-serious-financial-implications/) |  |
| Czech Republic |  | * Carmaker Skoda is manufacturing respirators – [Czech Radio](https://www.radio.cz/en/section/news/skoda-auto-starts-3d-printing-of-high-grade-respirators-using-ctu-model--1) * 24 March: Czech state approved remdisivir trial on case-by-case basis – [Czech Radio](https://www.radio.cz/en/section/news/coronavirus-czech-in-critical-state-receiving-experimental-ebola-drug-remdesivir) * Government ban an on export of hand disinfectants. This does **not concern** manufacturers. * *…All persons, with the exception of manufacturers, are prohibited from the date of 6 March 2020 to export from the Czech Republic, except for a reasonable amount for personal use, all personal hand sanitizers - main group 1, product type 1.* * A ban has been imposed on the sale of any protective devices class FFP3 to anyone – only to the Czech state units. | * [COVID-19: where to find official information](https://www.labtestsonline.cz/novinky/koronavirus-sars-cov-2-kde-ziskat-relevantni-informace.html?fbclid=IwAR2HcWu1H80ENLkOlqDQvM_qx8kJZ9JsGunXqFf2WV5aXZde76MamiIfBwA) * 24 March: Czech government sets up central information system to compat epidemic – [Czech Radio](https://www.radio.cz/en/section/curraffrs/health-ministry-presents-central-information-system-as-brain-centre-to-combat-epidemicAbbot%20meeting%2017-feb) * 23 March: Czech government to extend restrictions on movement – [Czech Radio](https://www.radio.cz/en/section/news/government-to-extend-restrictions-on-movement-until-april-1st) * 17 March: The Czech Cabinet and Central Bank take measures to bolster economy (interest free loans) – [Czech Radio](https://www.radio.cz/en/section/business/coronavirus-czech-cabinet-central-bank-take-further-measures-to-bolster-economy) |  |
| Denmark | * Danish National Board of Health | * [Statement](https://laegemiddelstyrelsen.dk/en/news/themes/new-coronavirus-covid-19/) from the Danish Medicine Agency related to approval of a vaccine against COVID-19 and the supply of medicines and medical equipment in general. | * [Information on COVID-19 in Denmark](https://politi.dk/coronavirus-i-danmark) * 23 March: Danish government to extend lockdown until at least April 13 – [CPH Post](http://cphpost.dk/?p=112247) * A new emergency law came into effect on 17 March, giving the Health Minister Magnus Heunicke exceptional powers. The emergency law gives authorities the right to force people into quarantine if they are suspected of having the virus, and to coerce vaccination (when a vaccine is available). Infected people can also be banned from visiting public institutions, supermarkets and shops, public and private nursing homes and hospitals, and be restricted from using public transport. The Health Minister can then give the police power to ensure the implementation of the emergency law measures, only requiring consultation with the Minister of Justice. The Health Minister can also unilaterally decide to ban larger gatherings. * Denmark acts to protect its economy making an extra 200bn Danish kroner ($30bn) available for banks to lend to companies.– [the Local](https://www.thelocal.dk/20200313/denmark-moves-to-protect-economy-from-coronavirus-impact) * On 18 March Denmark proposed an additional economic aid package worth 5bn euros for SMEs to cover losses - [Reuters](https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-denmark/denmark-plans-6-billion-aid-package-for-small-businesses-idUSL4N2BB46H) |  |
| Estonia |  | * 24 March: Plane with two week supply of PPE to arrive next week - [ERR](https://news.err.ee/1067931/minister-plane-carrying-protective-equipment-to-arrive-later-this-week) | * 24 March: Estonian government announces new restrictions on movement and retail - [ERR](https://news.err.ee/1068391/government-coronavirus-restrictions-limit-public-gatherings-to-two-people) * 23 March: Estonian government issues 200 million euros of short term bonds as part of support package - [ERR](https://news.err.ee/1067640/estonia-issues-negative-interest-rate-short-term-bonds-worth-200-million) * 19 March: The Estonian government launches 2bn euro economic support package (tax deferral, suspension pension contributions) - [ERR](https://news.err.ee/1066056/government-launches-2-billion-economic-support-package) * Some large events have been postponed, but there is no ban yet. * The Minister of Economic Affairs and Communications Taavi Aas (Center) notes that the government has no intention of either reducing public sector wages or raising taxes, in the wake of the coronavirus epidemic. * The organizers of local events, which may still go ahead, should ensure the presence of health care personnel and that staff have protective equipment (protective mask, gloves, etc.). In addition, they need to ensure that there is a facility to measure the body temperature of people suspected of being infected. They also need to make rooms available to isolate the infected temporarily, within the locations of the events. |  |
| Finland | * Finnish Institute of Health and Welfare * [Latest updates](https://thl.fi/en/web/infectious-diseases/what-s-new/coronavirus-covid-19-latest-updates) | * All non-essential health care services are placed on hold to mobilise resources for COVID-19 patients. * On 16 March, the government announced the investment of 27 more million in its health care system. * Pharmacies are restricting the purchasing of medicines. | * 23 March: Finnish PM to impose new measures on movement - [YLE](https://yle.fi/uutiset/osasto/news/finance_minister_more_restrictions_on_movement_likely_possibly_monday_or_tuesday/11270623) * 16 March: Finnish Government declares state of emergency. More info, including official measures, [here](https://valtioneuvosto.fi/en/article/-/asset_publisher/10616/hallitus-totesi-suomen-olevan-poikkeusoloissa-koronavirustilanteen-vuoksi). * Finland doesn’t issue visas as of 19 March. * Airports and ports closed starting 18 March. * The police have been given the mandate to enforce the restriction of gatherings. * 16 March: Finland’s government has unveiled 5 billion euros worth of measures to help the economy (deferral tax payment, loan guarantees) - [Bloomberg](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-03-16/finland-invokes-emergency-powers-to-slow-coronavirus-spread). |  |
| France | * The French Government | * France has put in place several measures to face the economic impact of COVID-19. Notably the publication of a [decree](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/actualites/A13909) governing the sale prices of hydro-alcoholic gel. * French authorities will requisite all face mask stocks and production in the coming months and will distribute them to health professionals and to French people infected with the coronavirus. * [Requisition Decree](https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000041679951&categorieLien=id) * [Order with various measures](https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000041697131&categorieLien=id) * [Order with various measures 2](https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000041704203&categorieLien=id) * [Order with various measures 3](https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000041698000&categorieLien=id) * An economic continuity unit was activated on March 3 at the Ministry of the Economy. This unit will make it possible to obtain all the necessary information on the economic situation of the country in real time, to better manage the impact of this health crisis on our economy by taking daily decisions that may prove necessary. * France has set up a scientific committee to look into change of testing strategy - [POLITICO](https://www.politico.eu/pro/france-looking-into-changing-coronavirus-testing-strategy/) | * [Official information](https://www.gouvernement.fr/info-coronavirus) from the government. More can be found under the a specific section “**measures taken for the French economy**”. * 23 March: France tightens lockdown measures – [France24](https://www.france24.com/en/20200323-france-s-coronavirus-death-toll-rises-by-186-in-a-day-raising-total-to-860) * France [announced a 15-day lockdown for the country](https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/coronavirus-covid-19), ordering people to leave their homes only for essential purposes (to buy groceries, to go to work, to exercise or for medical care) beginning at noon on Tuesday (17 March). * The law can be [found here](https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do;jsessionid=2333E9F6D3F166700A6BB60BD83FD74C.tplgfr22s_2?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000041728476&dateTexte=&oldAction=rechJO&categorieLien=id&idJO=JORFCONT000041728468). * Below are the main points of Macron’s “[we are at war](https://www.ft.com/content/d6c96612-67c0-11ea-800d-da70cff6e4d3)”speech: unlimited state financial support for businesses, severe restrictions on freedom of movement, suspension of the Government’s planned reforms, delay of the second round of the mayoral elections. * France rolls out a 45bn euro package to help companies in addition to government loan guarantees (tax breaks, government loans) – [France24](https://www.france24.com/en/20200317-france-rolls-out-initial-%E2%82%AC45-billion-package-to-help-struggling-companies) * France announced an additional 5bn euro funding for research over the next 10 years - [Reuters](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-france-research/france-to-invest-an-extra-5-billion-euros-in-scientific-research-amid-coronavirus-idUSKBN216395) | * **Snitem** is in regular contact with the authorities and in particular with the Health cabinet, the administration (DGS) and the agency for health security and health products (ANSM) to take stock of the crisis: coordination with the authorities on the measures taken by the latter concerning the coronavirus. Reporting to the public authorities on the problems encountered by medtech companies in the management of the crisis (in particular how can businesses continue being able to benefit from stocks of masks for their production activity in the current context of requisition and volume evaluation). * Authorities are requesting that companies assess the risks of rupture and monitoring of the supply of medical devices is carried out with the ANSM. * **SIDIV** Private laboratory can since 10 March perform COVID-19 tests. The Clinical Biologists associations have sent a letter to the authorities to ask for masks to perform the tests. If masks are not available for them, they will not perform the tests for security reasons. * As CI-IVD tests are available there will be no derogation under IVDD by the French authority. |
| Germany | * Ministry of Health and Economy | * **LIFTED**: Export ban on medical protective equipment (masks, surgical gloves, suits, etc.) to discriminate 1) against non-German markets and 2) non-German companies. * Hospitals should postpone scheduled surgeries to be able to treat patients with severe lung infections. * Berlin is planning to set up a hospital for up to 1000 patients suffering from COVID-19. * Hospitals should make use of medical students and retired staff. | * [Official German Website on COVID-19](https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/en/coronavirus.html) * [Official website on government actions](https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis) * Germany’s borders are closed, and the country is in lockdown. * The German Robert Koch Institute (RKI) has changed its risk assessment for the coronavirus to ‘high’, citing increasingly sparse hospital capacities. They predict that the pandemic could potentially last for two years. * 24 March: The state of Hesse announces an 8.5 billion emergency package, Bavaria doubles package to 20 billion - [Reuters](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-germany-stimulus/germany-eyes-post-virus-stimulus-package-idUSKBN21B1EY) * 23 March: German federal government receives bigger mandate to act – [German Government](https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/1-quartal/gesetzespakete-corona-epidemie.html?utm_source=POLITICO.EU&utm_campaign=bc6566199e-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_03_23_03_28&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_10959edeb5-bc6566199e-190517313) * 23 March: Germany readying stimulus measures of 156 billionn euros in net borrowing and and additional debt authorization of up to 200 billion euros - [Reuters](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-germany-debt/germany-eyes-156-billion-euros-of-new-borrowing-200-bln-euros-in-debt-authorization-idUSKBN2180KV) * 22 March: Germany poses strict measures on daily life – [Business Insider](https://www.businessinsider.com/germany-ban-2-or-more-people-new-coronavirus-rules-2020-3?r=US&IR=T) * 19 March: Germany makes 40bn available to SMEs and self-employed (Grants & loans) – [Finance Yahoo](https://finance.yahoo.com/news/berlin-to-earmark-40-bn-to-help-selfemployed-and-minibusinesses-weather-coronavirus-impact-115317482.html) * 19 March: North Rhine Westphalia is freeing 25bn to help economy – [the Local](https://www.thelocal.de/20200319/coronavirus-germany-plans-40-billion-rescue-package-for-freelancers-and-small-businesses) * 19 March: Brandenburg will provide around 500m in loans for businesses, employees, and self-employed * 13 March: German government make unlimited financing available to help economy (loans, deferring tax payments) - [FT](https://www.ft.com/content/1b0f0324-6530-11ea-b3f3-fe4680ea68b5) | * BVmed press release on effect of export ban **"**[Exportverbot hat Auswirkungen auf internationale Lieferketten](https://www.bvmed.de/de/bvmed/presse/pressemeldungen/bvmed-exportverbot-hat-auswirkungen-auf-internationale-lieferketten)" * *Spectaris*: Ministry of Health reached out to specific companies (not via associations) last Friday to order 10000 ventilators. Germany does not seem to issue a public tender. * BvMed were handed a list of medical devices that the government wants to purchase directly. Although BvMed is officially involved, the Ministry is contacting companies directly (180 million euros). |
| Greece | * Ministry of Health | * No actions so far | * [Official website](https://www.moh.gov.gr/articles/ministry/grafeio-typoy/press-releases/6809-anakoinwsh-5-newn-kroysmatwn-sars-cov-2) * 23 March: Finance ministry is preparing new measures for 4 billion euros – [Ekathimerini](http://www.ekathimerini.com/250940/article/ekathimerini/business/finance-ministry-planning-new-package-of-measures-to-support-economy-businesses) * 22 March: Greece goes into lockdown - [POLITICO](https://www.politico.eu/article/greece-to-go-into-coronavirus-induced-lockdown/) * 19 March: The Greek government announced the suspension of the operation of debt collecting and debt management companies as long as the COVID-19 crisis lasts. * 17 March: The Greek Government will provide 2 billion euros to tackle the problems of the economy and labour market while it urged businesses not to lay off employees. It is expected that a similar public announcements by Mitsotakis will happen on a weekly basis from now on. - [Reuters](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-greece-pm/pm-says-greece-at-war-with-invisible-enemy-coronavirus-idUSKBN2142T5) * Greece closed its borders with Albania, North and has banned travel from Italy. The transportation of goods among these countries is permitted. All shops are closed, apart from pharmacies, supermarkets and gas stations. Crowd controls on supermarkets. Government shut  schools, [bars, cafes, shopping malls](https://greekcitytimes.com/2020/03/14/cafes-forced-closed-in-greece-at-coronavirus-hits-190/), libraries, [museums and archaeological sites](https://greekcitytimes.com/2020/03/13/coronavirus-closes-museums-and-archaeological-sites-in-greece/) till 3 April. Government is hiring medical staff for the public sector. Only patients with severe symptoms will be tested. Limited operation of public organizations. All people arriving in Greece from abroad are to be required to self-isolate for 14 days. | * [Interview of Gerasimos Leivaditis](https://webtv.ert.gr/promo/12mar2020-syndeseis/), president of SEIV, on national TV. He talked about code of ethics on medtech and the overprice of masks. |
| Hungary | * Minister of Interior and Minister of Human Capacities | * 25 March: Hungarian government earmarks 43 million euros for purchase of extra medical equipment – [Hungary Today](https://hungarytoday.hu/coronavirus-hungary-medical-equipment/) * March 24: 3 Milllion face masks, 86 ventilators and tests arrive from China – [Hungary Today](https://hungarytoday.hu/coronavirus-face-masks-ventilators-tests-china-hungary/) * March 23: China Construction Bank donates 20,000 face masks – [Hungary Today](https://hungarytoday.hu/coronavirus-china-construction-bank-hungary-face-masks/) | * [Official HU Website](https://koronavirus.gov.hu/) (HU/ENG) * [Live updates from the government](http://abouthungary.hu/news-in-brief/coronavirus-heres-the-latest/) * [Hungary shuts borders](https://hirado.hu/belfold/kozelet/cikk/2020/03/16/ujabb-intezkedeseket-vezetett-be-magyarorszag-a-koronavirus-lassitasara) * 23 March: Hungarian Government exempts SMEs in more sectors from tax – [Hungary Today](https://hungarytoday.hu/coronavirus-orban-hungary-small-businesses-tax-exemption/) * 18 March: Hungarian Government announces measures to safeguard economy (repayment moratorium, tax deferral) - [BBJ](https://bbj.hu/coronavirus/orban-announces-measures-to-safeguard-economy-from-covid-19_179970) * Hungary is suspending flights from Iran, Italy, Korea, China and Israel. Entry to the Liszt Ferenc is restricted to Hungarian and EEA citizens. * Foreigners have been banned from entering the country. Only EEA citizens with a residency permit are exempt. * The Government is asking all those aged 70 or over to stay at home. * Hungary will close its borders and only Hungarian citizens will be allowed to enter * Schools are closed since 16 March. * Theatres, cinemas to close, Public events are banned. * Restaurants and cafes can be open until 3 pm. * There is no restriction on grocery stores or pharmacies. |  |
| Ireland | * [Department of Health](https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a02c5a-what-is-happening/) * National Public Health Emergency Team * [Irish Health Service Executive](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/coronavirus.html) | * A major recruitment campaign has been launched for the health services, which will include medical students and retired health professionals. | * **Delay Phase:** see measures [here](https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/96eb4c-statement-from-the-national-public-health-emergency-team/) * 24 March: Irish government announces a 3.7 billion wage subsidy scheme – [Merrion Street](https://merrionstreet.ie/en/News-Room/News/Govt_announces_National_Covid-19_Income_Support_Scheme.html) * 24 March: Irish government to announce new measures – [Irish Times](https://www.irishtimes.com/news/health/coronavirus-schools-closure-to-be-extended-as-new-restrictions-to-be-announced-1.4210785) * 10 March: The Government has, so far, made a €3 billion aid package available to combat the effects of COVID-19. This funding includes €2.4 billion to fund sick pay for workers affected by COVID-19 as well as €435 million contingency funding for the HSE, the national health service. This will be reviewed, and further fiscal measures will be deployed as needed.  – [Irish Times](https://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/coronavirus-irish-response-3bn-aid-package-st-patrick-s-day-events-cancelled-1.4197974) |  |
| Italy | * Ministry of Health (Speranza) | * [Export ban of PPE](http://www.quotidianosanita.it/allegati/allegato7592911.pdf?utm_source=POLITICO.EU&utm_campaign=8d0897c08a-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_03_12_11_39&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_10959edeb5-8d0897c08a-190517313) * 24 March: PPE, ventilators arrived from China - [ANSA](https://www.ansa.it/english/news/politics/2020/03/24/1.5-mn-masks-from-china-di-maio_48a10398-950d-414d-b331-6d43c771893b.html) * 24 March: Italy blocks ventilators meant for Greek hospitals – [L’Unione Sarda](https://www.unionesarda.it/articolo/news/italia/2020/03/24/dispositivi-per-la-ventilazione-meccanica-bloccato-un-carico-dire-137-1001106.html) * 23 March: European Commission approves 50 million support scheme for PPE supply - [EC](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_507) | * [**Nation-wide Lockdown**](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4186): * From Tuesday 10 March until further notice, Italians will only be allowed to leave their homes for urgent health and professional reasons, according to Conte. Schools and universities as well as public venues, including cinemas, theatres and gyms will remain shut. Professional sporting events, are also suspended. * The crisis has led healthcare professionals to question whether they should treat patients with higher chances of survival * 24 March: * 24 March: Petrol stations to close on Wednesday - [ANSA](https://www.ansa.it/english/news/business/2020/03/24/petrol-stations-to-start-closing-wed_f139beeb-9662-4b29-8535-c39586776ec1.html) * 22 March: All non-essential factories close down - [Guardian](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/22/italian-pm-warns-of-worst-crisis-since-ww2-as-coronavirus-deaths-leap-by-almost-800) * 10 March: Italian government announces 25 bn euro stimulus package (loans, moratoria) - [Bloomberg](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-03-10/conte-calls-on-ecb-to-do-whatever-it-takes-against-coronavirus) | * ConfindustriaDM’s [dedicated website](https://www.confindustriadm.it/emergenza-coronavirus/) on COVID-19 * [ConfindustriaDM](https://www.confindustriadm.it/comunicati-stampa/) * Statement on agreement among industries to keep production and prices of medical technologies to pre-COVID-19 levels. * [Interview of CDM’s CEO](https://www.quotidianosanita.it/scienza-e-farmaci/articolo.php?articolo_id=82393): “Medical Devices and pharmaceutical companies must be recognized as essential services. But in any case, a European response is needed” |
| Latvia | Ministry of Health |  | 12 March: Latvia declares state of emergency until 14 April.  [Official website](http://www.vm.gov.lv/lv/aktualitates/koronavirusa_izraisita_slimiba_covid19/) (LV & ENG)  25 March: Government provides 102 million in benefits to temporary unemployed - [LSM](https://eng.lsm.lv/article/economy/economy/102m-in-benefits-to-be-paid-out-to-employees-whove-stopped-work.a353212/)  24 March: Government announced further restrictions to contain virusspread - [LSM](https://eng.lsm.lv/article/economy/business/sports-centers-shopping-malls-to-close-at-weekends-in-latvia.a353097/)  24 March: Latvia will only test at-risk group with symptoms for corona from today – [LSM](https://eng.lsm.lv/article/society/health/coronavirus-tests-to-focus-on-at-risk-groups-from-now-on.a353039/)  Latvian government announces 1bn support package (tax breaks, import/export guarantees) - [LSM](https://eng.lsm.lv/article/economy/business/latvian-government-announces-billion-euro-support-for-businesses-hit-by-coronavirus.a351627/) |  |
| Lithuania | Ministry of Health | 20 March: Lithuania buys 2 million respirators, 6 million masks from China – [The Baltic Times](https://www.baltictimes.com/lithuania_buying_2_mln_respirators__6_mln_masks_from_china/) | [Official government website](https://sam.lrv.lt/lt/naujienos/koronavirusas) (LT & ENG)  [COVID-19 official website](http://lrv.lt/lt/aktuali-informacija/informacija-del-naujojo-koronaviruso/svarbiausia-informacija) (LT and ENG)  Lithuanian government announced stimulus measures of at least 1bn euro (tax breaks, loans, interest compensation) - [LRT](https://www.lrt.lt/en/news-in-english/19/1151563/lithuanian-government-pledges-tax-breaks-and-economic-stimulus-package-in-wake-of-coronavirus-quarantine) | 23 March: Thermo Fisher Scentific Baltics to supply test kits to Lithuania - [DELFI](https://en.delfi.lt/business/thermo-fisher-scientific-baltics-to-supply-lithuania-with-coronavirus-test-kits.d?id=83854239) |
| Luxemburg | Ministry of Health  Ministry of Economy | Mandatory registration for healthcare workers in case of need – [RTL](https://today.rtl.lu/news/luxembourg/a/1488633.html) | [Official website](https://msan.gouvernement.lu/en/dossiers/2020/corona-virus.html) and Health care measures  [Official website](https://meco.gouvernement.lu/en/dossiers/2020/coronoavirus-entreprises.html) and Economic measures  14 March: New stimulus measures for businesses in Luxembourg (bank guarantees) - [LS](https://www.siliconluxembourg.lu/covid-19-stimulus-package-for-business-in-luxembourg/) |  |
| Malta | Deputy Prime Minister - Health | 18 March: 35 million euros for health authorities to fight COVID-19 | [Official Information on COVID-19](https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/health-promotion/Pages/Novel-coronavirus.aspx)  25 March: Government makes U-turn on nurse’s financial ‘hazard compensation’ - [ToM](https://timesofmalta.com/articles/view/covid-19-nurses-union-slams-government-u-turn-on-hazard-money.780830)  24 March: Health workers to volunteer for in corona fight - [ToM](https://timesofmalta.com/articles/view/authorities-call-for-medical-staff-to-assist-with-covid-19-related.780617)  23 March: Government to discuss further financial aid measures - [ToM](https://timesofmalta.com/articles/view/emergency-cabinet-meeting-to-discuss-new-financial-aid-measures.780308)  Malta is taking various actions:  Banning of all travel to and from France, Germany, Switzerland, Spain and Italy.  Thermal screening of all passengers arriving at Malta International Airport, Cruise liner and Catamaran Terminals.  The Superintendence of Public Health has created a team for national response  Malta has enhanced its surveillance to detect suspected cases early.  Malta has enhanced its communication with media, advice to clinicians and traveller’s advice.  Preparedness plans at Mater Dei Hospital and Primary Care have been set up to isolate, diagnose and treat any suspected and confirmed cases.  The Maltese government unveils 1.8bn stimulus package (tax deferrals, loan guarantees, econ. Injections) - [ToM](https://timesofmalta.com/articles/view/watch-live-government-to-announce-coronavirus-financial-aid-package.779219) |  |
| Netherlands | Ministry of Health | Redistribution of medical devices to healthcare institutions (Masks, gloves, and aprons)  Suppliers are encouraged to prioritize healthcare customers | [Official Website (NL and ENG)](https://www.government.nl/topics/coronavirus-covid-19)  23 March: New measures posed by the Dutch government - [NOS](https://nos.nl/artikel/2328101-dit-zijn-de-nieuwe-maatregelen-van-het-kabinet.html)  Dutch Minister of Health, Bruins, resigns after collapsing after a speech in Parliament.  Minister for Health, Bruno Bruins, stated that while it is likely that the Netherlands will eventually have to put in place extra measures, they want to wait as long as possible.  This falls in line with the trend that we’ve previously mentioned. The Netherlands is taking an incremental and minimalist approach to COVID-19. Prime Minister Rutte affirmed this herd immunity view in a press conference yesterday.  Schools and non-essential services (restaurants, cafes etc.) are closed until April 3rd.  Quarantine of symptomatic cases and self-quarantined of asymptomatic cases. Elderly to limit contact with people.  Government advice workers to work from home.  Events with more than 100 people are not allowed.  The Dutch government outlines stimulus package to harness economy (tax breaks, temporary leave/unemployment compensation, guarantees) - [Rijksoverheid](https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/actueel/nieuws/2020/03/17/coronavirus-kabinet-neemt-pakket-nieuwe-maatregelen-voor-banen-en-economie)  Dutch banks give SMEs half a year extra time for paying back loans - [NU](https://www.nu.nl/economie/6038704/banken-geven-kleinere-bedrijven-half-jaar-uitstel-van-aflossingen.html) |  |
| Norway\* |  | 24 March: A million face masks have reached Norway – [Norway Today](https://norwaytoday.info/news/norway-has-received-new-infection-control-equipment/) | 13 March: Norwegian government presents 6.5bn financial stimulus package (Tax deferral, salary compensation) – [The Local](https://www.thelocal.no/20200313/norway-acts-to-protect-economy-from-coronavirus-impact)  19 March: Norway to reduce payroll taxes and direct more money to regions - [Reuters](https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-norway-economy/update-1-norway-parliaments-finance-committee-sets-second-coronavirus-fiscal-package-idUSL8N2BC388) |  |
| Poland | Ministry of Health | Export ban on the following devices:   * Medical caps * Surgical gowns * Non-woven aprons * Surgical masks * Masks for oxygen administration * Medical shoe covers * Operational clothing * Surgical gloves * Treatment gloves * Electronic thermometers * And multiple blood glucose test strips | Poland introduces “[epidemic threat status](https://www.gov.pl/web/zdrowie/od-dzis-wprowadzimy-stan-zagrozenia-epidemicznego2)” (in Polish).  The Office of Competition and Consumer Protection (OCCP) is creating a special unit for monitoring the prices of food and hygienic products, to check whether stores are unfairly inflating prices due to Covid-19 panic. If it proves to be true, OCCP will undertake further measures to limit such practices.  24 March: Poland brings in new restrictions: Grouping together with more than 2 is prohibited – [Radio Poland](https://www.polskieradio.pl/395/7789/Artykul/2479811,UPDATE-Poland-brings-in-new-restrictions-in-battle-against-coronavirus)  18 March: The Polish government announces a 52bn stimulus package (loan guarantees, debt repayments, social contributions) - [Bloomberg](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-03-18/poland-pledges-52-billion-stimulus-injection-to-fight-virus) |  |
| Portugal | Institutional Line  Ministry of Health  Directorate General of Health  Health Authority Line  National Health Authority | An exception scheme for hiring health professionals is being prepared  [The public service broadcasting organisation of Portugal](https://www.rtp.pt/noticias/mundo/covid-19-a-situacao-ao-minuto-do-novo-coronavirus-no-pais-e-no-mundo_e1209295) reports the re-enforcing of the stock of national health service by 20%. Direct tender, meaning the NHS will buy directly from companies. Some numbers (30M masks, 42 M gloves, 8M needles, etc.) | Emergency decree allowing the National Health Service to ignore age limits and re-hire retired doctors while the coronavirus pandemic lasts; overtime limits are also being suspended until further notice.  Events with more than 5,000 people in open spaces and with more than 1,000 in closed spaces should be cancelled or postponed.  Two public schools in the Algarve are now closed; the region’s university has put a moratorium on the acceptance of foreign exchange students; libraries, swimming pools, sports pavilions event and exhibition centres have shut till March 20,  Visits to hospitals and homes in the Northern region are temporarily suspended.  The Portuguese government presents 2.3 billion euros package (tax deferral, soft loans) - [Reuters](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-portugal/portugal-to-help-firms-through-coronavirus-tough-measures-in-place-idUSKBN2102GD)  Portugal has entered a state of emergency for 15 days. | APORMED’s recommendations [on COVID-19](https://www.apormed.pt/index.php/medias/noticias-apormed/259-covid-19-recomendacoes-apormed)  APIFARMA’s [recommendations on COVID-19](https://www.apifarma.pt/salaimprensa/noticias/Paginas/COVID-19--APIFARMA-Ordem-Medicos.aspx) |
| Romania | [Ministry of health](http://www.ms.ro/coronavirus-covid-19/) | 24 March: Romanian President urges to do whatever to provide PPE to hospital staff – [Romania Journal](https://www.romaniajournal.ro/society-people/president-urges-hospital-managers-to-provide-protection-for-the-medical-staff-to-prioritise-their-testing-for-covid-19/)  18 March: [Romania stops thousands of masks on the way to Italy](http://www.ms.ro/2020/03/18/buletin-informativ-18-03-2020-ora-1000/?utm_source=POLITICO.EU&utm_campaign=c22fe6bf66-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_03_18_12_41&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_10959edeb5-c22fe6bf66-190517313)  In spite of the EU Commission trying to coordinate against such actions, Romania has introduced an export ban on medicine for 6 months. | [Romania enters state of emergency](https://medtecheurope.sharepoint.com/sites/COVID-19MedTech/Shared%20Documents/General/IVD%20-%20Members%20Responses)  24 March: Romania falls short 40,000 in medical staff to handle epidemic – [Romania Journal](https://www.romaniajournal.ro/society-people/romania-is-fighting-the-coronavirus-epidemic-with-a-shortage-of-doctors-mounting-to-40000/)  24 March: Romanian PM announces total quarantine as of 25 March – [Romania Journal](https://www.romaniajournal.ro/society-people/president-iohannis-announces-total-quarantine-in-romania-as-of-march-25/)  Prohibition of events/gatherings involving more than 1000 people.  The Romanian government presents 1bn euro package to stimulate the economy (loan guarantees, technical unemployment coverage) – [Romania Insider](https://www.romania-insider.com/coronavirus-romania-government-economic-measures) |  |
| Slovakia | Public Health Authority |  | [Measures taken](http://www.uvzsr.sk/en/index.php/documents/34-public-order-announcing-issuance-of-decision-on-direction-of-the-measure-on-prevention-of-origination-and-spread-of-communicable-disease-covid-19) on 10 March 2020  24 March: Schools to remain closed until further notice - [Spectator](https://spectator.sme.sk/c/22367308/schools-will-remain-shut-until-further-notice.html)  24 March: The Slovak Government adds new restrictions to the existing measures – [Slovak Spectator](https://spectator.sme.sk/c/22366501/masks-will-be-obligatory-new-measures-mainly-aimed-at-the-elderly.html)  16 March: The Slovak Government presents measures to support businesses (tax deferrals, loan payment deferrals) - [Bloomberg](https://news.bloombergtax.com/daily-tax-report-international/slovakia-outlines-tax-and-loan-measures-to-combat-coronavirus) |  |
| Slovenia |  |  | [General Measures regarding corona in Slovenia](https://www.gov.si/en/topics/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/koronavirus-preparedness-and-measures-in-slovenia/)  24 March: Government announces 2 billion euro stimulus package (loan guarantees, basic income and allowances) – [Slovenia Times](http://www.sloveniatimes.com/govt-announces-eur-2bn-stimulus-package-for-economy)  18 March: The Slovenian government helps borrowers (loan payment deferral) – [GOV.si](https://www.gov.si/en/news/2020-03-18-the-government-proposes-to-defer-payment-of-borrowers-liabilities-due-to-epidemic/) |  |
| Spain | Ministry of Health (Mr Illa) | [Order SND / 233/2020](https://www.boe.es/diario_boe/txt.php?id=BOE-A-2020-3701), of March 15 declaring the state of alarm for the management of the health crisis situation caused by COVID-19 (ES). It asks to *any entity that has* ***stocks*** *and* ***production capabilities*** *of listed products* to notify the ministry of health immediately. Deadline is Wednesday, 18 March 2020. Non-compliance brings huge fines, up to 600k EUR and five years in prison.  18 March: The Spanish government will set up a commission to assess “with rigor” the state of the public health system and put forward recommendations for its improvement.  Private healthcare providers in Spain have been effectively nationalised and taken under the control of the Health Ministry for the duration of the crisis.  The [Government is planning](https://www.mscbs.gob.es/gabinete/notasPrensa.do?id=4806) to:  **Centralized purchase by the Ministry of Health (INGESA) of prevention products:** A centralized acquisition of masks for the entire National Health System through Ingesa is being prepared by the Ministry of Health. Fenin is in contact with INGESA to collaborate in this project.  **Identification of suppliers of PPE:** In order to collaborate with the Health Administrations that ask us for help, Fenin will now identify the supplier companies that have protection products (masks, gowns, gloves, ...) as well as those that have technologies for the diagnosis of Coronavirus (equipment, reagents, ...). Fenin sent an email to their members to ask them to notify Fenin and provide a contact person.  The Government has announced that it will transfer €210m to all regional administrations in order to fund health services. – [El Pais](file:///C:\Users\g.Dallenogare\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\U433T8I6\The%20Government%20has%20announced%20that%20it%20will%20transfer%20€210m%20to%20all%20regional%20administrations%20in%20order%20to%20fund%20health%20services) | [Spain goes in Lockdown](https://www.boe.es/buscar/act.php?id=BOE-A-2020-3692) for 15 days  The Spanish Government instructs people to stay at home for two weeks, and closes bars, restaurants, cafes and cinemas  23 March: Spanish airports and ports closed to slow spread of virus – [El País](https://english.elpais.com/spanish_news/2020-03-23/spanish-airports-and-ports-also-closed-in-bid-to-slow-spread-of-coronavirus.html)  23 March: Spanish PM calls EU to come up with Corona ‘Marshall Plan’ – [El País](https://english.elpais.com/politics/2020-03-23/spanish-pm-calls-on-european-union-for-a-marshall-plan-and-coronabonds.html)  18 March: Spain unveils a 200bn economic support package (credit guarantees, loans) - [Euractiv](https://www.euractiv.com/section/economy-jobs/news/spain-unveils-unprecedented-e200-billion-coronavirus-package/)  **Medical visits:** some Autonomous Communities (Basque Country, Asturias, ...) are limiting medical visits. | FENIN’s latest [Press Release](https://www.fenin.es/resources/notas-de-prensa/650) (19 March)  Cancellations and postponements of different medical conferences and conferences:   * Postponement of Expodental to July 2,3,4, 2020 * Cancellation of the XIII Annual Conference of Biomedical Research Platforms * Deferral of Infarma * WomeDD (Women Medical Device Design) postponement |
| Sweden | Ministry of Health |  | [Government Response to COVID-19](https://www.government.se/government-policy/the-governments-work-in-response-to-the-virus-responsible-for-covid-19/)  [Official Information about COVID-19](https://www.krisinformation.se/en/hazards-and-risks/disasters-and-incidents/2020/official-information-on-the-new-coronavirus)  Swedish government launches 26bn euro of economic measures (paying sick leave, VAT relief) - [Reuters](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-sweden-budget/sweden-launches-coronavirus-crisis-package-worth-more-than-30-billion-idUSKBN21311G)  Parliament voted to give government mandate to close schools, effective of 23 March | Swedish MedTech’s [communication to members about impact of COVID-19](https://www.swedishmedtech.se/sidor/covid-19.aspx) |
| Switzerland\* | Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH) | 25 March: Medical goods from the EU remain blocked - [SwissInfo](https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/coronavirus_medical-goods-from-the-eu-remain-blocked/45642340) | [COVID-19 Official Website](https://www.bag.admin.ch/bag/en/home/krankheiten/ausbrueche-epidemien-pandemien/aktuelle-ausbrueche-epidemien/novel-cov.html) (FR, DE, IT, EN)  25 March: Switzerland extends border controls to all Schengen states - [SwissInfo](https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/coronavirus_switzerland-extends-border-controls-to-all-schengen-states/45642706)  The Swiss government announced 10bn euros for economic relief measures (covering partial unemployment) – [the Local](https://www.thelocal.ch/20200313/switzerland-closes-schools-and-offers-in-aid-to-businesses-over-virus) | [Swiss Medtech latest info on COVID-19 and EU export ban](https://www.eng.swiss-medtech.ch/) |
| United Kingdom\* | Secretary of Health | All non-urgent NHS elective operations are being postponed for at least three months.  20 March: Britain to produce thousands of ventilators achieving results as top companies produced a prototype to be ready for use in hospitals by the end of next week - [Reuters](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-britain-ventilator/uk-hopes-newly-made-ventilators-will-be-ready-for-coronavirus-fight-next-week-idUSKBN2170VD)  [**2020 Budget**](https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/budget-2020)**:**  £10 million for boosting levels of COVID19 diagnostic testing, via PHE.  Confirming £200 million for hospitals to replace old diagnostics equipment.  Increasing the research & development budget to £22 billion a year - 0.8% of GDP.  A specific £200 million pot for life sciences research was also announced via the British Business Bank.  £400 million for university-based research intended primarily for locations outside London and the South East.  £30 million more for COVID19 research via NIHR.  SMEs: The Government willpick up the bill for statutory sick pay if they are to fall ill with the virus. | [UK Government Official Response](https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response)  [COVID-19: guidance for employees, employers and businesses](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19)  [The Health Protection (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2020/129/contents/made)  24 March: UK Government outlines strict new measures to tackle the spread of the coronavirus - [BBC](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-52014472)  23 March: House of Commons to discuss Coronavirus bill on Monday - [BBC](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-52004116)  19 March: The Government published the [Coronavirus bill](https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-01/0122/20122.pdf), aimed at supporting provisions of public services and food supply, restricting movement.  17 March: UK government presents 330bn pound stimulus package (tax cuts, grants, mortgage breaks) - [Telegraph](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2020/03/17/markets-live-news-coronavirus-pound-euro-ftse-shares-flights/) | ABHI’s [Statement on Ventilator Challenge](https://mcusercontent.com/5ba48c3608f8624b9d9697c0f/files/c8bdd6a5-fb66-4b5c-9b59-95314546118c/Ventilator_Statement.pdf)  ABHI’s [Update to Members on COVID-19](https://www.abhi.org.uk/resource-hub/file/9623)  [General info](https://www.bivda.org.uk/) from BIVDA  Statement by BIVDA, “[New DFID funding announced for Coronavirus testing](https://www.bivda.org.uk/News-Events/News-Policy-Media/ArticleID/256/New-DFID-funding-announced-for-Coronavirus-testing)”  ABHI: UK issued a ventilator challenge, involving companies that do not operate specifically in the medtech sector |
| International |  | * Will USA use Defense Protection Act to claim US made medical equipment? (Dutch) - [NOS](https://nos.nl/artikel/2328143-zorgen-bij-philips-neemt-de-vs-europese-beademingsapparatuur-in-beslag.html) | * 25 March: US senate agrees 1.8 trillion dollars - [BBC](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-52033863) * 25 March: India enters total lockdown - [BBC](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-52024239) |  |