World Health Organization

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR **Europe**

Public health considerations for resuming international travel in the context of COVID-19

CAPSCA-EUR/08
12 November 2020

www.euro.who.int

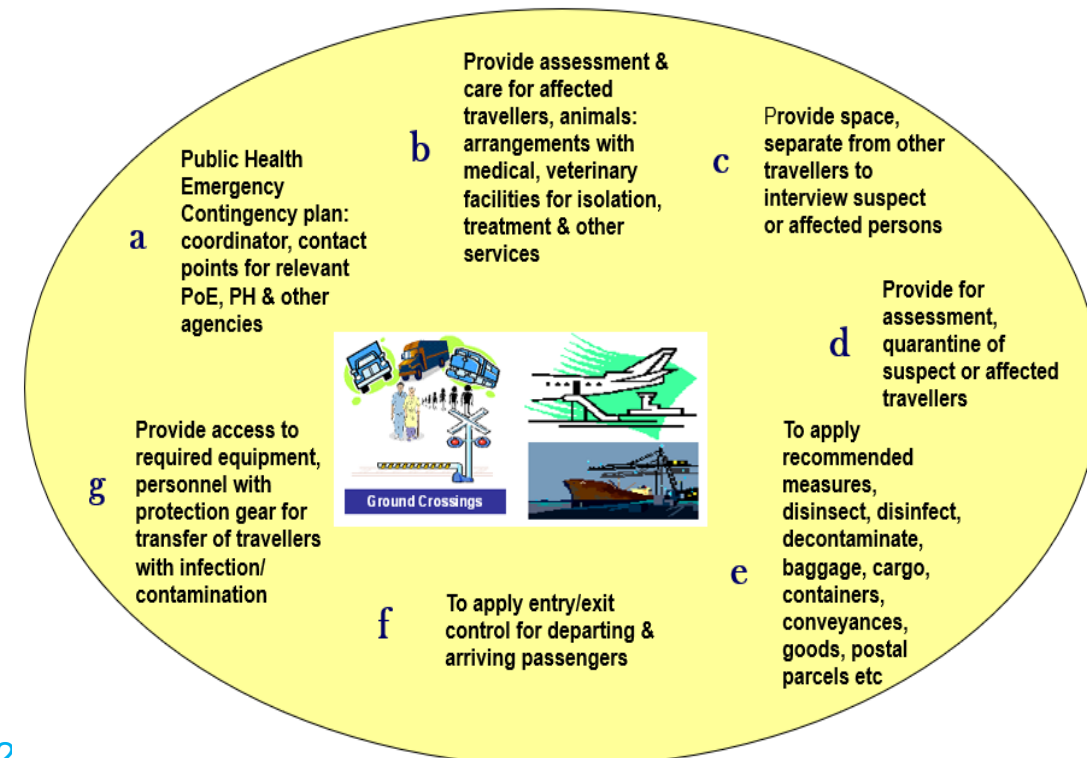# International Health Regulations (IHR 2005)

- The IHR (2005) are the **global governance mechanism for public health preparedness and response**.
- They entered into force on 15 June 2007 and are **legally binding** for all **196 States Parties**.
- The IHR (2005) enable countries to work together to **prevent**, **prepare** for, **respond**, and **recover from** the international spread of diseases, while **avoiding unnecessary interference with international traffic**.

Core capacities at Points of Entry for at all times and for responding to events that may **constitute a public health emergency of international concern**

Article 43 of the IHR (2005):

- ✓ States Parties implementing additional health measures that significantly interfere with international traffic shall **provide to WHO the public health rationale and relevant scientific information for it**.

- ✓ **WHO shall share this information with other States Parties** – weekly updated reports shared with National IHR Focal points via WHO restricted platform (*Event Information Site*).

Capacity requirements for responding to potential PHEIC (emergency)

a - Public Health Emergency Contingency plan: coordinator, contact points for relevant PoE, PH & other agencies

b - Provide assessment & care for affected travellers, animals: arrangements with medical, veterinary facilities for isolation, treatment & other services

c - Provide space, separate from other travellers to interview suspect or affected persons

d - Provide for assessment, quarantine of suspect or affected travellers

e - To apply recommended measures, disinsect, disinfect, decontaminate, baggage, cargo, containers, conveyances, goods, postal parcels etc

f - To apply entry/exit control for departing & arriving passengers

g - Provide access to required equipment, personnel with protection gear for transfer of travellers with infection/contamination

Ground Crossings

International Health Regulations (2005): https://www.who.int/ihr/publications/97892
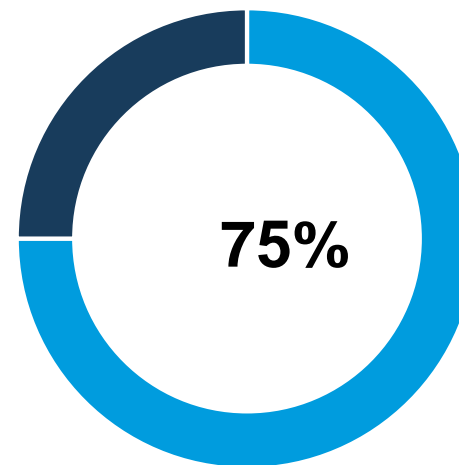
States Party Annual Reporting 2019 Overview

The SPAR (State Party Self-Assessment Annual Reporting) tool consists of 24 indicators for the 13 IHR capacities needed to detect, assess, notify, report and respond to public health risk and acute events of domestic and international concern.

95% of States Parties in the European Region reported in 2019

Main challenges of the EURO region

Challenge	Percentage
C.12 Chemical Events	68%
C.10 Risk Communication	66%
C.11 Points of Entry	60%
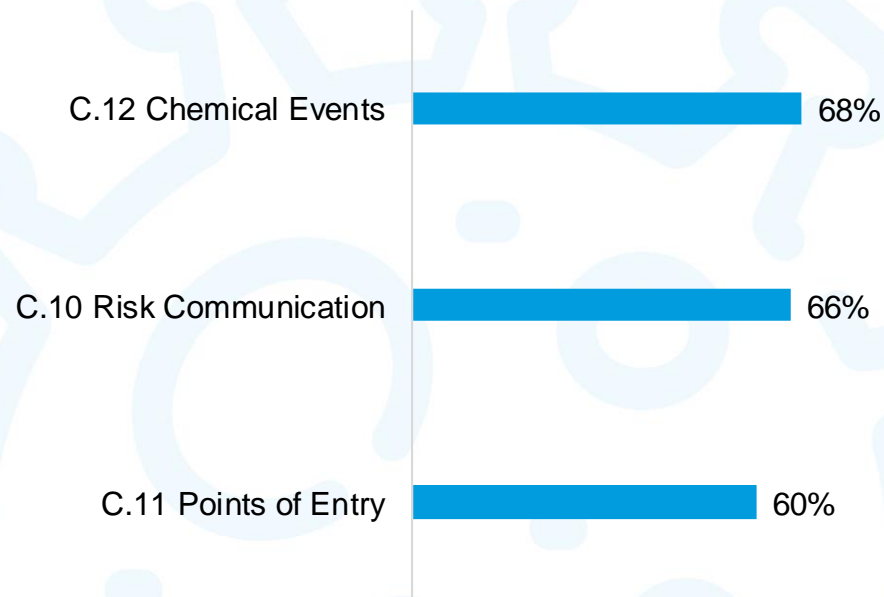
All capacities EURO average 2019

75%

C11.1. Core capacity requirements at all times for designated airports, ports and ground crossings

C11.2. Effective public health response at points of entry

Main challenge of the region.
- 6 States Parties reported level 0.
- 2 States Parties reported level 0 on one of the indicators.

60%
57%
56%

EURO Average
EURO Priority countries average
Global Average
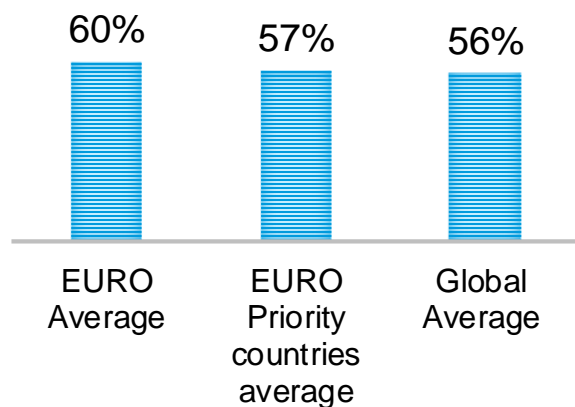
Number of Designated Points of Entry by type:

- Ports
- Airports
- Ground crossings

154
212
223
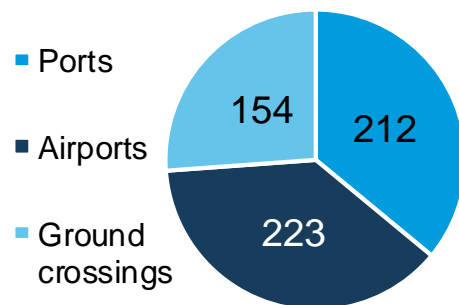
Number of States Parties per capacity level reported

■ No level ■ Level 1 ■ Level 2 ■ Level 3 ■ Level 4 ■ Level 5

C.11.1
- 11 (21%)
- 16 (31%)
- 9 (17%)
- 5 (10%)
- 4 (8%)
- 7 (13%)

C.11.2
- 10 (19%)
- 16 (31%)
- 6 (12%)
- 9 (17%)
- 4 (8%)
- 7 (13%)

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Monitoring of public health and social measures, and of international travel and trade restrictions that significantly interfere with international traffic (IHR article 43).

- **1624** travel and trade restrictions recorded and **shared with IHR National Focal Point**s through the **Event Information Site (**EIS)

- **Most common restrictions:**

  - Flight/land border/sea restrictions

  - Visa restrictions

  - Quarantine upon arrival

  - COVID-19 test before, upon arrival and as follow up test

.

No restrictions

Closed to some countries and/or requirement to self-isolate or test for some countries

Closed to majority of countries and/or requirement to self-isolate or test for all countries

Closed to all countries, with exceptions for essential travel

November 9, 2020
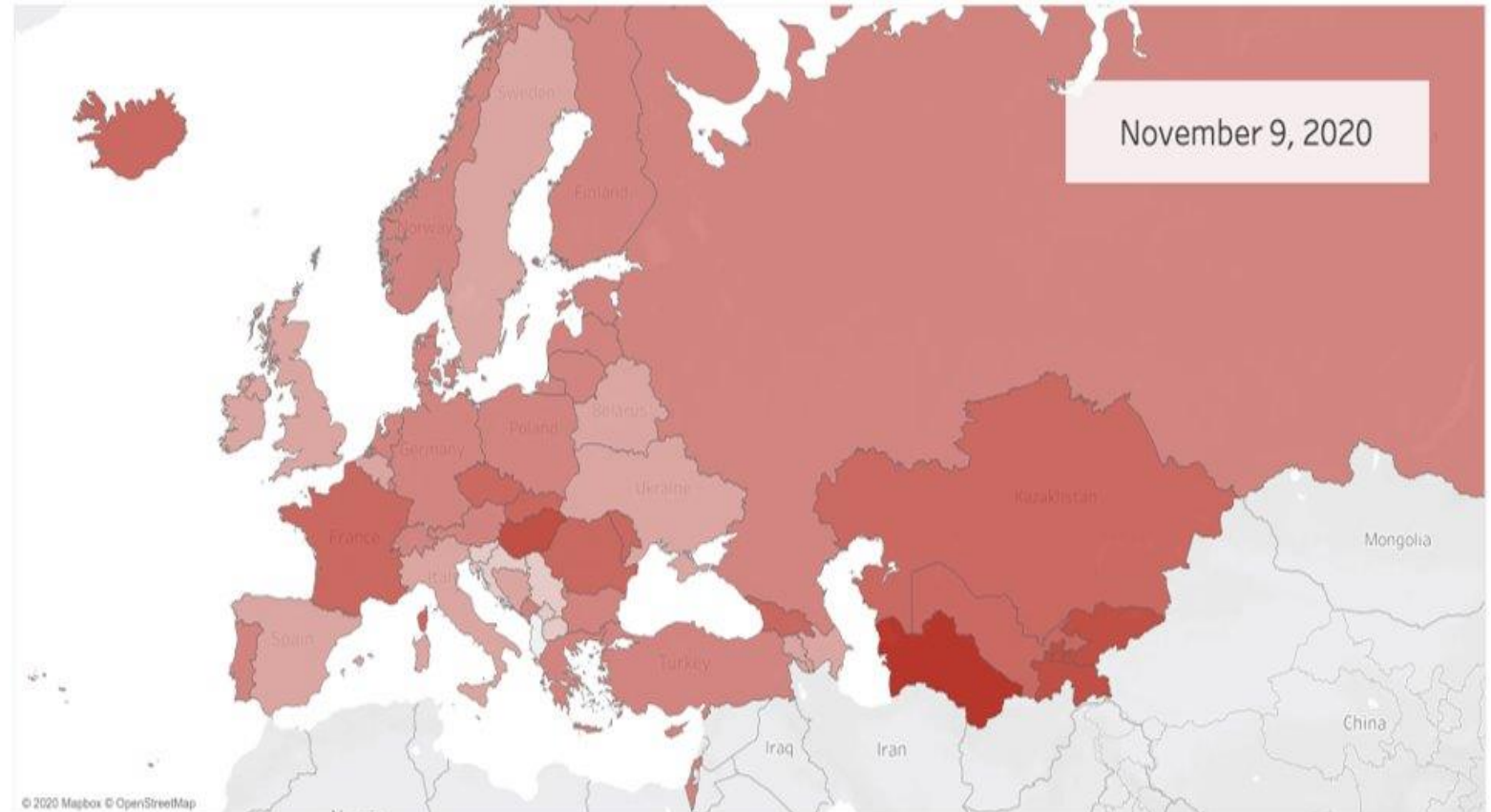
Travel restrictions and entry requirements in the European Region in the context of COVID-19

Ban Entry

- ■ Entry ban for travelers from SOME countries
- ■ Entry ban for travelers from ALL countries with exceptions for essential travel

Quarantine upon entry

Number of States Parties

- ■ Quarantine travelers from SOME countries
- ■ Quarantine travelers from ALL countries
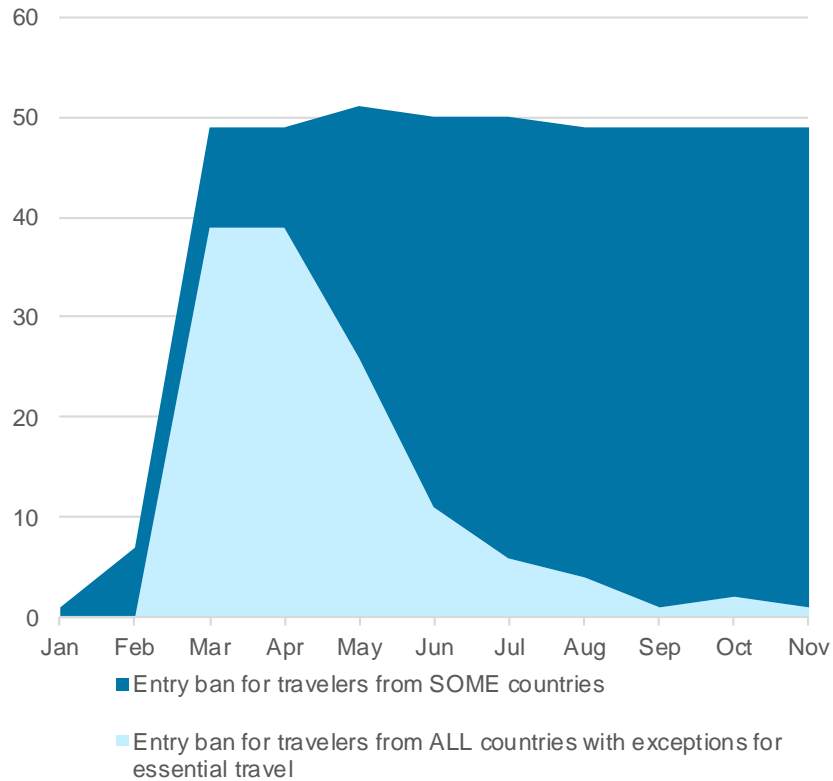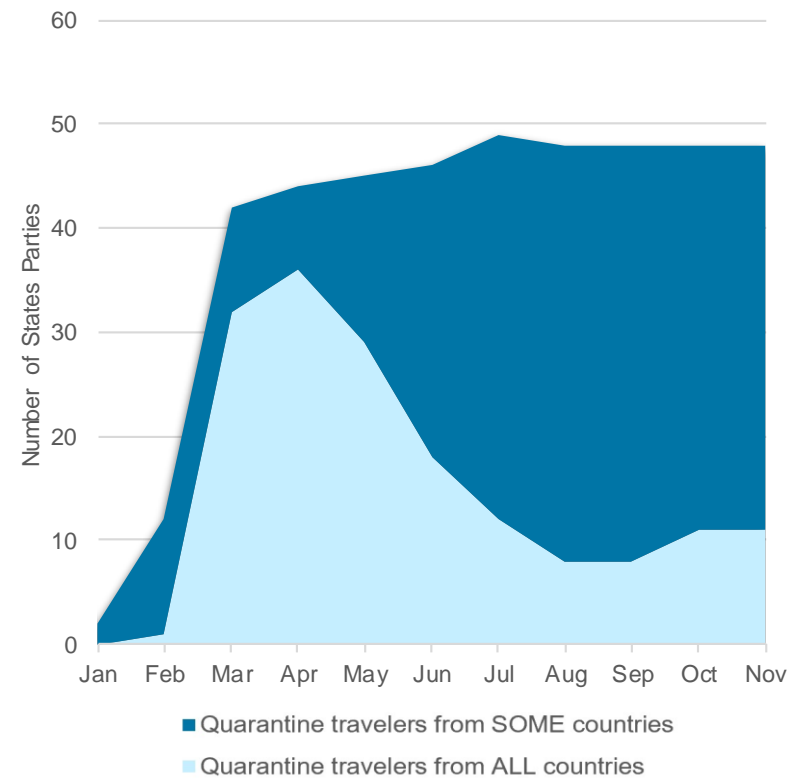
COVID-19 Testing Requirement

Number of States Parties

- ■ Testing requirements for travelers from SOME countries
- ■ Testing requirements for travelers from ALL countries
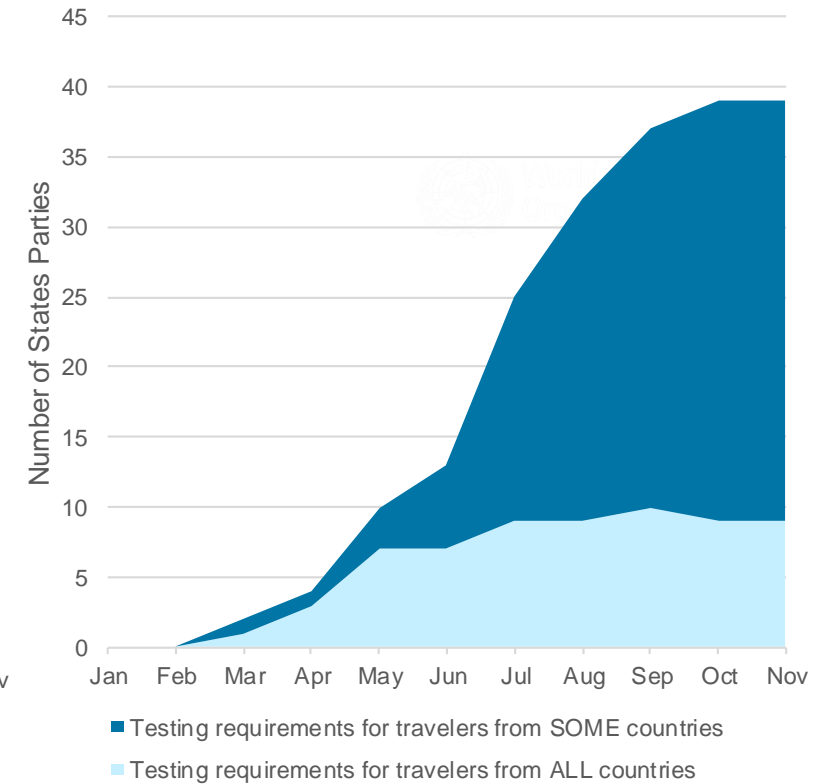
Countries have moved from fully to partially implementing entry bans. This adjustment has been implemented with **requirements for quarantine and testing requirement for specific groups of incoming travelers**. An **increasing use of testing as a requirement for entry** has been recorded across the European Region since the summer months.

Source: https://who.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/ead3c6475654481ca51c248d52ab9c61

Country and Regional analysis of public health and social measures
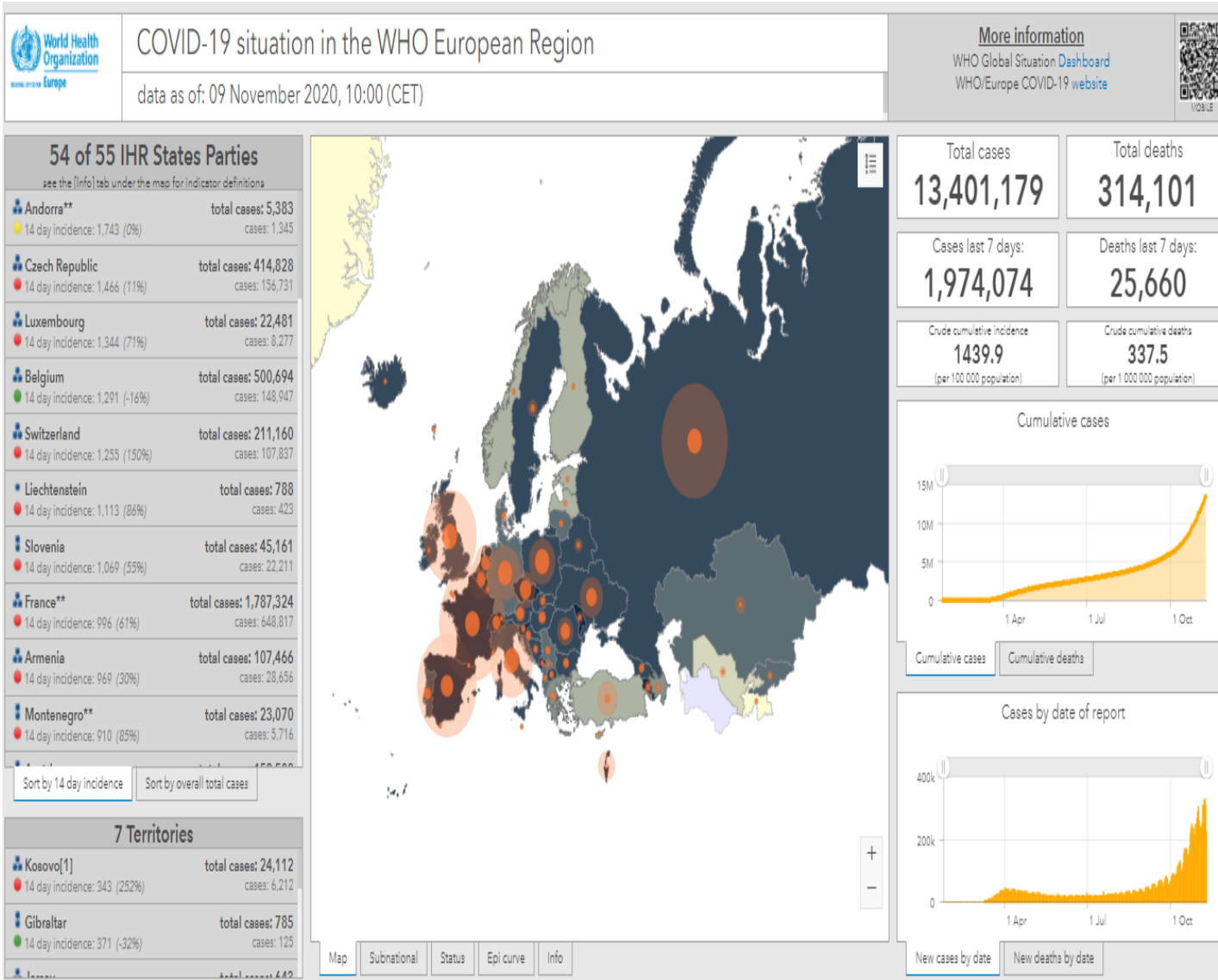
Further information:
https://who.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/ead3c6475654481ca51c248d52ab9c61
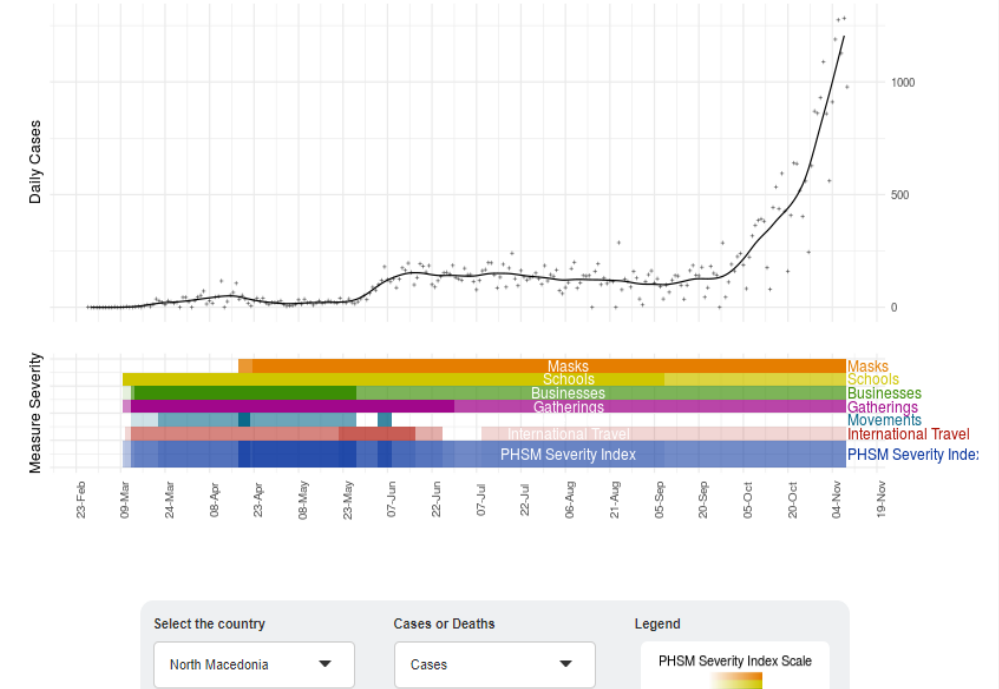
WHO key guidance documents on PoE in the context of COVID-19

Guideline documents:

Consideration of quarantine of contacts of COVID-19 cases

WHO public health considerations while resuming international travels

WHO guide to hygiene and sanitation in aviation

Travel advise and recommendations during the COVID-19 outbreak

Assessment tool for core capacity requirements at designated airports, ports and ground crossing

Operational considerations for managing COVID-19 cases or outbreak in aviation

WHO online courses on:

Operational consideration for management of COVID-19 cases or outbreaks in aviation in the context of COVID-19

Management of ill travelers at points of entry-international airports, seaports and ground crossings-in the context of COVID-19

Simulation exercises:

Tabel-top exercises for airports in the context of COVID-19

Table-top exercise for **ground crossings** in the context of COVID-19

Operational considerations for managing COVID-19 cases or outbreak in aviation
Interim guidance
18 March 2020

Operational Considerations for Managing COVID-19 Cases and Outbreaks in Aviation

International Health Regulations (2005)

Assessment tool for core capacity requirements at designated airports, ports and ground crossings

October 2009

Operational Considerations for Managing COVID-19 Cases and Outbreaks in Aviation
(ADVANCED VERSION 1.01 - 16th April 2020)

WHO training material and checklist on aviation

Trainings courses for Member States on PoE in the context of COVID-19:

- Introduction to IHR on PoE

- Public health and social measures at PoE

- COVID-19 response on Points of Entry- COVID-19 response at airports:

  - Awareness of airport staff
  - Management of suspected cases
  - Reporting of an outbreak in an aircraft
  - Disembarkation of suspected cases
  - Identification and management of contacts
  - Cleaning and disinfection

Self-assessment checklist for airports *(not yet published)*

- General considerations
- Travelers before travelling
- Before boarding
- Training of crew and airport staff
- At the terminal
- On bord of the aircraft
- Upon arrival
- Disinfection measures
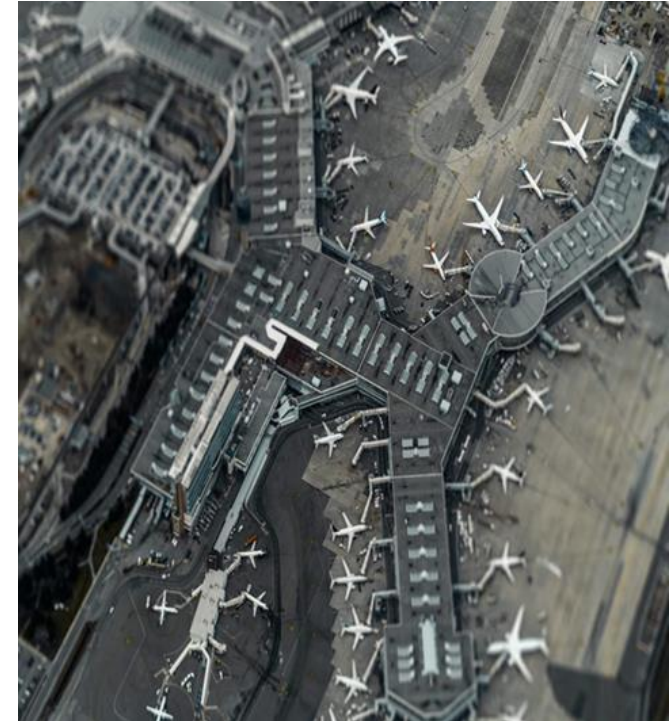
WHO face-to-face trainings on PoE in 2020

4 face-to–face trainings:
Uzbekistan, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Republic of Moldova under implementation of strict public health and social measures

2 virtual trainings:
Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan

4 Table-Top Simulation Exercises: 2 for COVID-19 cases in aviation and 2 for COVID-19 cases at ground crossings.

Measures implemented to safely resume travel across the European Region in the context of COVID-19
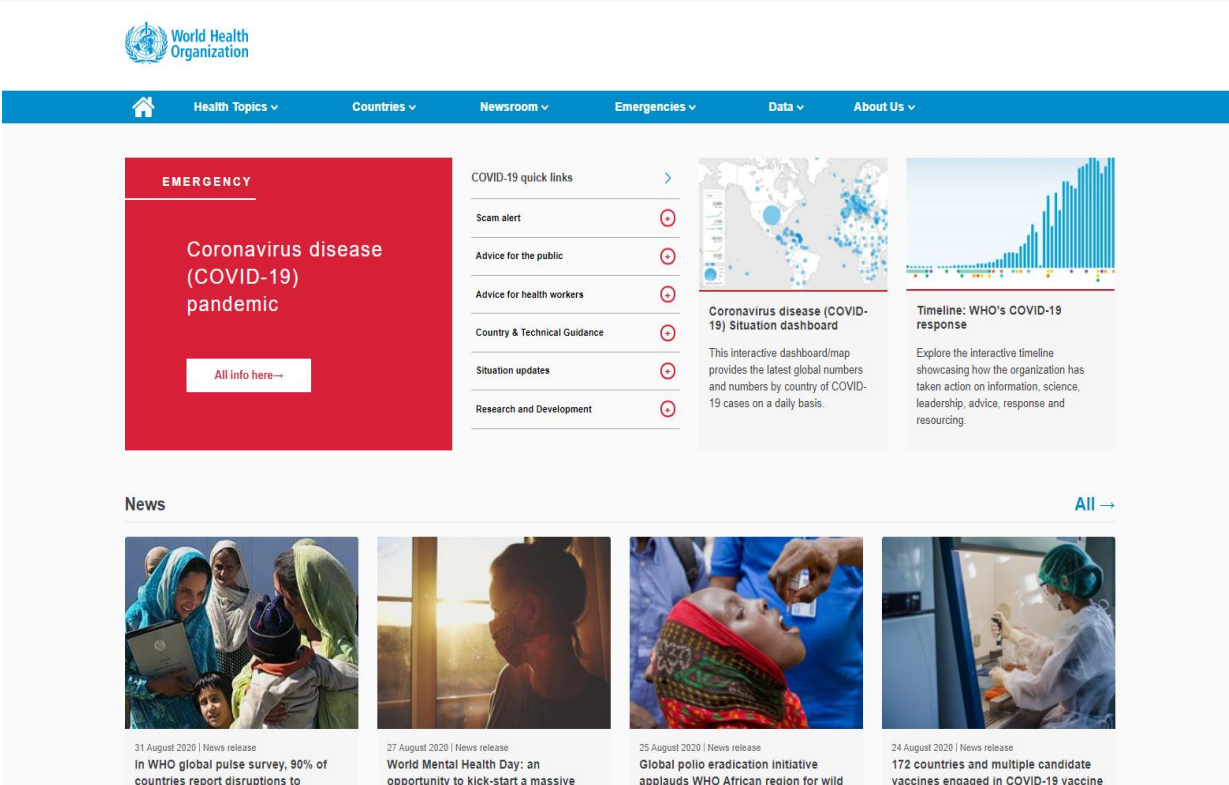

Case finding strategies at POE

- **Entry and exit screening**
  - Checking for symptoms and interviewing
  - Temperature screening – not effective as a <u>stand-alone</u> measure
  - Follow up – medical examination and testing for symptomatic travelers and contacts
- **Testing**
  - Symptomatic travelers and identified contacts
  - Travelers from 'high risk areas'
- **Contact tracing**
  - Use of passenger locator forms (PLF) and health declarations
  - Use of digital tools
- **Enhanced risk communication**
  - Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette
  - Safe use of masks
  - Physical distancing
  - Advice to seek medical assistance
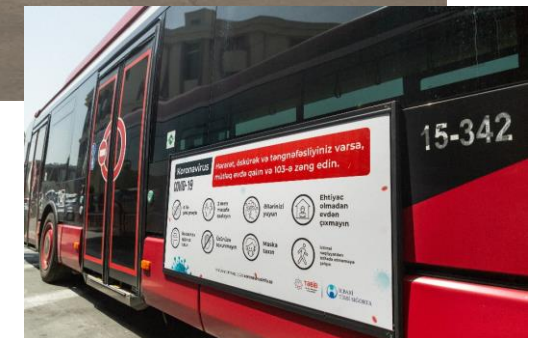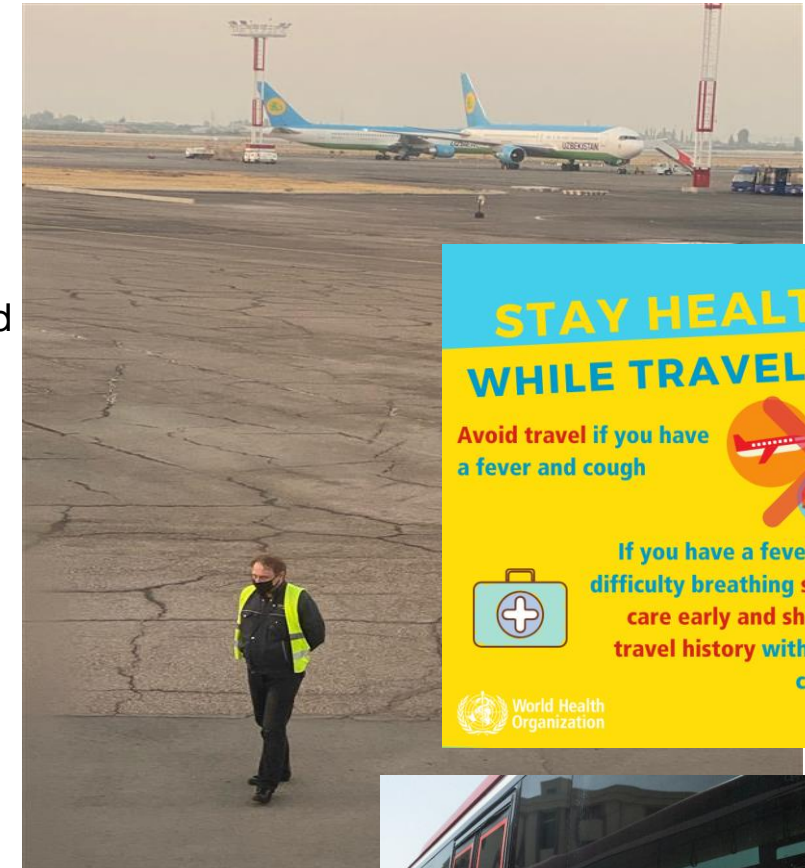
Conclusion

- **Essential travel should always be prioritized.**

  - Health emergency and humanitarian response.

  - Essential cargo (medical, food and energy supplies).

  - Seafarers and diplomatic officers.

  - Repatriations

- **Travel measures should be contextualized and continuously updated based on regular risk assessments** – there is no '*one size fits all*'.

    - Epidemiological situation and transmission patterns

    - Public health capacities

    - Others

- **Medium-longer term: countries should designate their most relevant points of entry (POE) under the International Health Regulations (IHR) and** report annually on their core capacities to prevent, detect, respond to the health emergencies.

Thank you

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https://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/health-emergencies/coronavirus-covid-19

WHO COVID-19 technical guidance:
https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019