



Strengthened community resilience and COVID-19 response through community action interventions

Meeting Report – Fifth COVID-19 response meeting of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network and National Network Coordinators

Thursday May 14, 2020 11:00-12:45 CET

Online via WebEx

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Context

On 11 March 2020 the Director General of WHO announced that the current global COVID-19 outbreak was a pandemic. This decision was based on two factors. First, the speed and scale of transmission. Second, concerns that not all countries were addressing the outbreak with the level of political commitment needed to control it.

Cities are majorly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and are key actors in an effective response. The WHO European Healthy Cities Network is a platform through which the WHO Regional Office for Europe can directly engage with and support city response efforts across the region.

On Thursday 14 May 2020, the fifth COVID-19 response meeting of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network and National Network Coordinators was convened. It responds to the information sharing needs of cities in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic, as expressed in the first extraordinary meeting on 19th March. The information is both useful within the network, and is used more widely by colleagues in WHO Regional Office for Europe

The 2nd meeting (2nd April), focused on sharing insights within the network on how to reach and support vulnerable and at-risk groups. The 3rd meeting (16th April) focused on sharing new resources and guidelines from WHO and allowed cities and national networks to share experiences on how communities around the region are responding to the pandemic. The 4th meeting (30th April) addressed transition strategies with a focus on building back better.

The meeting brought together cities and national networks from 20 countries and included 46 participants

Purpose

The fifth meeting focused on transition strategies, and mechanisms to reduce the risk of there being a significant second wave of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Summary of shared experiences

Representatives from cities and national networks discussed and reported on the current national and local situation with regards to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Transition from lock-down to the 'new normal'

Most countries are currently moving into the second phase, implementing transition strategies that allows for a gradual reopening of society. Many participants reported on a shift from large-scale restrictions to more targeted measures and that the measures taken in some cases will become the responsibility of the local level.

Most countries entering the transition phase start by opening schools, pre-schools and nurseries with restrictions related to physical distancing. In many countries shops are reopening. Plans are developing or being enacted for the reopening of bars and restaurants though with reduced capacity and careful distancing and hygiene.

In some countries direct contact businesses such as hairdressers, podiatrists, and nail bars are gradually opening with tight regulations on masks. Sports venues, museums and minor events are to follow and will be well monitored to detect any increase of the spreading of the disease.

Large sports and cultural events and cruising ships are still banned in all countries which reported, without a timeframe to open.

Mask-wearing

The wearing of masks is still an issue that varies much from country to country, and indeed in Spain and France between regions and cities. In most countries it is obligatory to wear masks on public transport.

Tourism

Some countries reported the importance they are putting on creating strategies allowing for the tourist season to open, since this is a major source of their country income. This was mentioned by Croatia, Italy and the Baltic countries.

The evolving role of the national networks of healthy cities

The national networks reported on how they can support member cities by compiling useful data, organizing webinars and information exchange at a national level, disseminating information and acting as advocates and partners for local governments towards their national government.

Learning from measures put in place during the pandemic

Several participants raised the lessons learned from the present lock-down situation that could be maintained part of a city approach to 'build back better'. For example, cities could reorganize public spaces so that they are transformed into more walkable and cycle-friendly cities in the recovery phase of the pandemic. There are cities that have started discussions and planning for reinvigorating the local economy, and tools are successfully being used by some cities. There is a strategic opportunity to ensure that Healthy Cities systems and structures are included in the future planning of cities as they begin to open up and transition.

Testing

The issue of testing was raised by many coordinators, with experiences and issues raised in Germany and France being potential areas for discussion, with apparently effective track and trace in Germany, and issues of trust in track and trace in immigrant communities in France.

Second wave pandemic

Despite some countries having a phased reopening at set points, all countries add the caveat that the transition from lock-down depends on there not being a resurgence of the pandemic. Careful data analysis will be needed to ensure that the relaxing of measures does not lead to a second wave of contagion either now, or in the future.

WHO response

WHO thanked everybody for responding to 2 issues raised during the Fourth Covid-19 meeting on 30 April:

- 1) For responding positively to the request for collecting case-studies and for your availability to be interviewed. WHO will come back to the coordinators with a proposal on how this will be taken forward.
- 2) For input into the checklist of **Suggested Actions for Health Authorities of Cities and Other Urban Settlements in Preparedness for the COVID-19 Pandemic and Other Novel Respiratory Outbreaks**. The response has been submitted to HQ and a final draft will be published shortly.

A WHO report on the Italian experience and response to COVID-19 was published online on 13 May. This report has been written under the leadership of Dr Francesco Zambon, (Coordinator, Investment for Health and Development in Healthy Settings, WHO Venice) and his team.

The link to the report is:

http://www.euro.who.int/data/assets/pdf_file/0008/442655/COVID-19-Italy-response.pdf?ua=1

It was indicated that a questionnaire will be sent out assessing local government's experience from the first wave of the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in order to allow WHO to gather information on how to respond to potential second wave.

Cities were reminded that the call for nominations to the political committee will be opened shortly, pending the approval of the new Regional Director Dr Hans Kluge. The intention is to appoint and convene the political committee ahead of the WHO Regional Committee takes place in September.

During a meeting between the WHO and the Turkish National Healthy Cities Network there was a proposal put forward for the establishment of a subnetwork or a task force on Urban and Emergency preparedness. There was a consensus amongst participants that this would be an important development and WHO agreed to initiate the process.

WHO informed the participants that following a decision by the Kyrgyz government through a joint order by the Ministry of Health and the State Agency for Local Government and Inter-ethnic Relations, the national network of healthy cities of Kyrgyzstan has been officially inaugurated. WHO thanked the network for the continued support in building capacity and sharing learning across countries in developing and supporting healthy cities. In particular, WHO thanked the Russian Federation National Healthy Cities Network and the City of Riga,

Latvia for their particular support to Kyrgyzstan. All municipalities in Kyrgyzstan are members providing the first national network in the European Region to cover 100% of its population.

With regret and deepest condolences to the city of Stavropol, Russian Federation and the Russian Association of Healthy Cities, Districts and Rural Settlements WHO informed the network of the death of the Mayor of Stavropol, Andre Khasanovich Dzhatdov. The Mayor had been very involved and supportive of the work of healthy cities not only in his city but also in the Russian Association and will be missed.

Cities and national networks are encouraged to contact WHO at eurohealthycities@who.int for any specific support requested or technical questions in relation to Phase VII or the COVID-19 response.

Actions:

During a meeting between the WHO and the Turkish National Healthy Cities Network there WHO Healthy Cities Network to initiate a subnetwork or a task force on Urban and Emergency preparedness.

Questions:

The Austrian network would like to support a range of social networks in switching to other ways of communicating, during social distancing. Do other cities have a similar plan or knows of any kind of available technical support?

Is there any advice on helping deaf people who lip if the mouth is covered with a mask?

The issue of trust is important in track and trace, are there good practices in working with migrant communities so that they are fully on-board (and trusting) with the requirements for effective track and trace?

Access to parks and green areas: associations in Udine have asked whether it is possible to do physical activity, yoga and gym classes in parks, by adopting preventive measures and social distancing. Is there any guidance or best practices from other cities on how this can be done?

Day care centres and nursing homes: day care centres are still closed and the nursing homes (in Udine) are starting to take action in order to guarantee protective measures towards their patients and social workers, but no official guidance for all of them has been issued. Special needs are required by people with dementia and facilities hosting them. Do you have any advice on this?

Educational and recreational activities for children and adolescents: schools will remain closed (in Udine) until September, so we are reflecting on which alternative opportunities could be organized for children and adolescents, in order to avoid the increasing of health inequalities and educational gap. Many students do not have digital devices or internet connection and, besides these difficulties, online activities imply much more efforts by educators and associations. The same will be for summer centres or other similar activities

to be organized in presence, that could guarantee socializing opportunities for children. Do you have any example or guidance on this?

The tourist sector is trying to develop preventive measures for the summer season, especially in beach resorts but this is a very complicated issue. Do you have any guidance or best practice adopted in other countries for the re-opening of these sites?

Summaries by country

<p>Austria <i>Austrian National Healthy Cities Network (Vienna)</i></p>	<p>The Austrian network referred to a note in the Meeting Report of the Third COVID-19 response meeting (16th of April) on the criticism of the “Stop corona app”. Criticism about the "Stop Corona" app of the Red Cross came from ARGE DATEN - Austrian Society for Data Protection: According to ARGE DATEN is "not practical" for several reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using the app effectively would mean that phone battery drains quickly • The matching probability (of having the virus) is currently less than one per thousand, the app therefore gives "false security". • The false-positive count would reach very high numbers • Transparency issues: Programming interfaces are not publicly available <p>Some of these issues have been addressed, however the false positive rates (and consequent labour to track and trace) will remain an issue.</p> <p>The network reported on further relaxation of lock down measures which came into effect on 11 May. Restaurants will open with restrictions, most trains will resume the normal schedule, schools will open but for a maximum of 18 pupils in one group at the most, leading to splitting classes and using gyms or function rooms for normal classes as well as part time home schooling.</p> <p>Specific question: The Austrian Health Promotion Fund has an ad-hoc funding campaign on social isolation of risk-groups and will soon start a project called “Keep Existing Social Networks Alive”. The campaign will support organizers of relevant social networks (religious, sports and cultural leaders) who cannot meet physically. The Austrian network would like to support these social networks in switching to other ways of communicating.</p> <p>Do other cities have a similar plan or knows of any kind of available technical support?</p>
<p>Czech Republic <i>Czech National Healthy Cities Network (Brno)</i></p>	<p>The national network in the Czech Republic stated that the country is currently in the transition phase and newly detected daily cases of COVID-19 have been below 50 in the past few days. Schools will open on May 25 but only for certain grades. Restaurants, shops, malls, theatres, are all opening with strict hygiene measures. Masks are still required everywhere but will probably soon be obligatory only in indoor spaces (public transport, shops, etc.). Hairdressers and their clients must wear masks, and the hairdressers themselves have to</p>

	<p>wear a protective shield as well. The national network continues with webinars for municipalities. On 15 May there was a webinar called 'Economic impacts and possibilities of municipalities in 'post-covid' times'. The Network collects and shares best practices of how the municipalities enact measures and move to the transition phase. Other non-Covid topics are also now being discussed.</p>
<p>Croatia <i>City of Rijeka</i></p>	<p>The City of Rijeka, Croatia reported that the control of the pandemic is still very good. Most places have reopened (shops, bars, restaurants, shopping malls), However they all have to follow social distancing rules. Theatres, cinemas and other venues are still closed, but it is being said they will soon be able to open with a limited capacity. The Government is working on the guidelines for tourism. Borders have been opened with some countries (for business and other essential travel) and the Government is in negotiation with other countries on how to allow their citizens to go on holiday in Croatia. There has been no increase in the number of infected people since lifting restrictions. On 13 May Croatia had only 6 newly infected.</p> <p>Rijeka has been designated the European Capital of Culture for 2020. However, the situation of the COVID/19 pandemic has made the planning and the implementation of the project difficult. The national and regional funding was cut to almost half and the company assigned to work on the project has had to postpone the implementation and is trying to find other ways of doing it, taking social distancing and a new "unnatural" into account. The city is trying to save the project as much as possible and has asked the EU for the project to be extended into 2021.</p>
<p>Cyprus <i>Cypriote National Healthy Cities Network</i></p>	<p>The Cypriote national network reported that the situation in Cyprus is progressively changing. Lock-down measures will be changed on the 21 May. Measures recommended in order to prevent the spread of the virus are still social distancing, hygiene measures that should be followed strictly, face masks to be worn according to specific specifications.</p> <p>The national network is developing guidelines on measures to be implemented for reopening of business. More information can be found on pio.gov.cy/coronavirus. https://www.pio.gov.cy/coronavirus/en/</p>
<p>Finland <i>Finnish National Healthy Cities Network</i></p>	<p>The Finnish national network stated that Finland is shifting from large-scale restrictions to more targeted measures. Schools, day centers and outdoor recreational facilities opened on 14 May with restrictions. A mobile application to help tracing is being developed.</p>

<p><i>(Helsinki, Kuopio, Turku)</i></p>	<p>The Finnish Institute for Health and Wellbeing (THL) is evaluating the effects of the coronavirus situation on wellbeing, society and services and publishing information every week to help decision makers. THL has also published a webpage that offers information on the promotion of health and wellbeing in municipalities during the coronavirus, and a webpage that gathers good practices from cities.</p> <p>Article on a quick assessment published 24 April: https://thl.fi/en/web/thlfi-en/-/far-reaching-impacts-of-the-covid-19-epidemic-on-people-s-well-being-and-social-and-health-care-services</p> <p>Information on Finland’s strategy (STM) and latest updates (THL):</p> <p>Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (STM): https://stm.fi/en/frontpage</p> <p>Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL): https://thl.fi/en/web/infectious-diseases/what-s-new/coronavirus-covid-19-latest-updates</p>
<p>France <i>French National Network/City of Rennes</i></p>	<p>The French national network reports that there is a unusual political situation in France as the second round of elections has been postponed and there are uncertainties as to when it will now take place.</p> <p>The network has been very active as there have been many confusing and mixed messages for example on how/when to use masks, shop opening and the use of green spaces. According to the network there are conflicts between the local level governments and the national government.</p> <p>The network has written editorials and requests to the French government together with the Health Promotion Association asking them to take into account inequalities and poor neighborhoods. There have been no meetings between national and local actors. National endeavors during the crisis have been directed at hospitals and hospital-based data.</p> <p>The network would have like to be involved as there are valuable local data and tools being discussed among the city members. For example, on vulnerable groups such as how persons with hearing impairment can lip read while others are wearing masks.</p> <p>The network has organized a working group on schools and teenagers, supporting schools that are reopening as people are concerned about the children’s mental health and wellbeing. The network is trying to compile data from help lines to use as support for educators and they have found that digital literacy has been a massive problem for schools. There are rumors that schools might be closed again.</p> <p>Another group has been working on the issue of testing. How can it be organized and how can the network mobilize to build trust? In Rennes for example there is a Turkish community that needs to be reached.</p>

<p><i>City of Nice</i></p>	<p>Another issues the network is concerned about is urban health, mobility and green spaces - how to make happy and healthy cities and how to get circular economy available for everyone.</p> <p>Big metropolitan cities are approaching the French Healthy Cities network with a view to joining. A webinar together with the Global Urban Air-pollution Observatory will probably be organized on air pollution and Covid-19 and what can be done together.</p> <p>A new coordinator will be joining the French network in August.</p> <p>Link to a call to act upon inequalities http://www.villes-sante.com/wp-content/uploads/Tribune-FTS-ESPT-RFVSOMS.pdf</p> <p>The City of Nice, France reported that from 11 May they have partially reopened the economy and the schools. In Nice the wearing of masks has been declared mandatory in the streets. There has been an increase in capacity and human resources on public transport to make sure the restrictions are respected. Free car-parking has been allowed until June 30, for employees working from home. The streets that have been closed and are currently being reopened and cycle lanes have been added to major streets encouraging cycling to shops and to work. The city has also been gradually reopening parks and gardens. 11 parks throughout the city have been dedicated to senior citizens during the mornings so that they can feel confident to go out and get physical activity.</p> <p>Schools and nurseries reopened on 11 May. This has been an important measure for the public as to gain recovery of the economy. Leisure facilities will open gradually but indoor sports-venues will remain closed. Food markets will reopen with new rules, and libraries, museums and nautical activities are open again, but cruise ships will remain prohibited for a long period.</p>
<p>Germany <i>German National Healthy Cities Network (Dresden, Dusseldorf)</i></p>	<p>The German network reported that the responsibility to control the spread of the virus is very much a local level responsibility for Germany's 300 districts plus 100 Cities. Health departments in German municipalities have the responsibility to trace the infection chains of those who are found to be infected, and each health department has their own experts and medical teams. They have been successful in controlling the virus. In order to reopen society, there are hygiene concepts for everything, which have to be approved by the local health department. Shops are reopening with the restriction of one customer per square meter. Schools are gradually reopening. There has to be a larger distance between pupils. Schools can decide</p>

	<p>themselves how this is to be managed. Restaurants can open with less clients, theaters can open with a smaller more distanced audience etc. Current hygiene rules are that masks must be worn indoors and in public transport only. Distance rules are everywhere in public, with strict cleaning rules for public facilities.</p> <p>Germany wants to introduce an app in a few weeks. There are concerns that it will produce too many false alarms which will lead to unnecessary work for the local health departments. The local level is not involved in the development of the app.</p> <p>There is one website app from the University Clinics of Marburg and Giessen which helps identify whether your symptoms point to Covid-19 and how to call on help in your geographical area. You can also enter any risk factor you have, and it gives you information whether you might be at high risk when you catch the virus.</p> <p>www.covid-online.de</p>
<p>Greece <i>Hellenic National Healthy Cities Network (Palaio Faliro, Pilea-Hortiatis, Samos, Amarooussion)</i></p>	<p>The Hellenic national network reported that they have created new social networks and strengthened existing ones.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There are call centres in all municipalities supporting those in need. 2. All the municipality websites provide instructions on how people should be careful in order to stay safe. 3. Municipalities have taken measures to help those who have lost their jobs or have economic problems. 4. Municipalities have also disinfected all areas. <p>From the beginning, the network helped the member municipalities with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gathering all information and instructions on a website. 2. Creating auxiliary material with instructions on various topics, with leaflets, videos e.g. on home exercises 3. Translating instructions and material into the Greek language 4. Providing technical assistance and ideas on how to help the population, especially for the small municipalities. 5. Twinning experienced coordinators with new coordinators to provide support.
<p>Iceland <i>City of Reykjavik</i></p>	<p>The city of Reykjavik reported that Iceland has done well in controlling the spread of the virus and has started to open most places with restrictions. There are no rules for the wearing of masks. Swimming pools, bars and restaurants will open with a restriction on opening hours.</p> <p>Iceland will continue to use their testing app and are encouraging everyone to use it. Festivals have been cancelled but will be taking place in different forms. As people will not be traveling over summer, there is a programme to make Reykjavik a safe and fun place this summer, to help both the youth and the arts and cultural organisations/companies.</p>

	<p>The report is available at: https://covidnews.eurocities.eu/2020/05/05/reykjavik-overview-of-measures/</p>
<p>Republic of Ireland</p> <p><i>Irish National Healthy Cities and Counties</i></p>	<p>The national network gave an update on the situation in Ireland.</p> <p>Nationally: Currently there is a 'National Road Map' with 5 phases which started on Monday 18 May, and will ease restrictions progressively. There will be constant monitoring of progress and reinforcement of restrictions if required. Nationally there is good communication across all government departments #InThisTogether.</p> <p>Locally: The national network has 24 Coordinators in place with good engagement and cross network support. They are adapting plans to be responsive and relevant to Covid-19 control. Place making is a huge opportunity. Reclaiming and reorganizing outdoor spaces is happening.</p> <p>The challenge is that health and wellbeing is now a very 'busy space' with new committees being established. These are both a practical and a strategic opportunity to ensure that Healthy Cities systems and structures are included in the response system of cities and countries.</p>
<p>Italy</p> <p><i>Italian National Healthy Cities Network (Modena, Padova, Udine)</i></p>	<p>The Italian network reported that the gradual easing of Italy's lockdown started today, May 4, with the reopening of manufacturing activities taking around 4.4 million workers back out of their homes. It is now possible for everyone to go out to do exercise in Italy's parks, which are reopening, and to visit relatives and "steady" loved ones, and no longer just to do the shopping or for health reasons.</p> <p><u>Which sectors are reopening, which are not and what can be done.</u></p> <p>Manufacturing The manufacturing and construction sectors are returning to work, along with wholesale retailers linked to the active sectors. According to labour consultants, 4.4 million people are returning to their workplaces.</p> <p>Restaurants Bars and restaurants can reopen, but only for takeaway services and home deliveries.</p> <p>Retail Retail activities remain suspended apart from those shops already authorised (food, personal hygiene, news agents, pharmacies, tobacconists, bookshops, stores selling clothes for children, those selling flowers and plants, and, very soon, bicycles).</p> <p>Visiting relatives People are also being allowed out to visit relatives and other loved ones, but they will have to wear facemasks and big family gatherings are not permitted. Visits to friends are not allowed. No travel outside the region It is only permitted to move in one's region of residence.</p> <p>Second homes</p>

<p><i>City of Udine</i></p> <p><i>City of Padova</i></p>	<p>People are not allowed to visit their holiday homes, unless it is for necessary maintenance work, although even in this case, the trip must be within one's region of residence.</p> <p>People away from their home town Students and workers who were blocked away from their home towns during the lockdown, can now return to their "domicile, home or residence", but they will not be able to then go back to the region that they set off from.</p> <p>Public transport Public transport is one of the key factors for phase two. The regional governments have the job of making sure services operate while social-distancing rules are respected. There are criteria limiting how many people can be inside a vehicle and it is obligatory to wear facemasks and, in some regions, single-use gloves.</p> <p>Parks and physical exercise Parks and public gardens are reopening, but children's play areas are not and distances must be respected. Limitation on doing exercise only "in the vicinity of one's home" has been removed. So it is possible to move, including via car, to reach the area where one wants to go jogging or do exercise.</p> <p>Individual sports Training is permitted behind closed doors for individual sports for athletes (professional and non) declared of national interest by Italian Olympic Committee CONI. The interior ministry has said that individual training "in public and private spaces" is also allowed for team-sport athletes.</p> <p>University Universities can hold exams and sessions for the presentation of degree theses, while respecting social-distancing. Laboratories can operate too as well as placement programmes.</p> <p>Funerals and cemeteries Funerals are permitted but a maximum of 15 people can attend and facemaks must be worn. It is also possible to visit cemeteries but Masses remain banned for the moment.</p> <p><u>INFORMATION FOR THE COMMUNITY</u> Udine are constantly updating information for citizens both regarding the preventive measures to contrast the transmission of COVID-19 and measures for Phase two. They have translated and published materials and links from reliable websites (WHO, Italian Health Institute, UNESCO, other international websites). https://www.comune.udine.it/servizi/salute-sociale-welfare/citta-sane/coronavirus-indicazioni-di-citta-sane</p> <p>The city of Udine, reported that the Health Institute in Italy seems to be planning a testing process but there is not much information yet.</p> <p>The city of Padova shared a link to information on phase 2 in Padova https://www.padovanet.it/notizia/20200507/coronavirus-fase-2</p>
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<p>Latvia <i>City of Riga</i></p>	<p>The city of Riga reported that due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the declared emergency in Latvia has been extended until 9 June. At the same time there is a significant easing of various restrictions, such as allowing up to 25 people to gather under various conditions, allowing shopping malls to work on weekends and holidays. The changes take effect on 12 May. Gathering both indoors and outdoors will be allowed in the following organized events: public events except for the sports events, meetings, processions, and for the performance of organized religious activities, and private events, except for the sports events, provided that the following requirements are observed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - there is a maximum of 25 people at the event at the same time. These conditions apply also to private indoor and outdoor spaces; - the restriction on the number of persons shall not be applied to the events in which the visitor participates from his or her car (outdoor concerts, outdoor cinema, etc.); - the duration of the indoors event does not exceed three hours; the duration of the outdoors event is not restricted. - the organizer of the event shall ensure the observance of the restrictions and the availability of disinfectants to the participants. - the cultural, entertainment, sports, and other recreational sites shall start work not earlier than at 7.00 and end work not later than at 24.00. <p>The following restrictions are imposed on persons in public places:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the persons must maintain a two-meter distance from others (this refers both to indoor public spaces and public open spaces); - the persons must comply with other social (physical) distancing and epidemiological safety measures determined (this refers to indoor public spaces, public open spaces, and common-use premises); <p>The organized sports trainings are allowed, observing the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - no more than 25 persons gather at the same time in an organized manner in one training group for sports training (including the conductor of the sports training (session) and other employees); - the duration of the sports training indoors does not exceed three hours, the duration of the sports training outdoors is not restricted; - the sports training is conducted by a person who conforms to the requirements laid down in the laws and regulations governing the certification of sports specialists; - the persons observe a mutual two-meter distance; - the physical overlap of flows of different training groups is prevented, and separate supervision of their activities is ensured; - persons under 7 years of age are not involved in a sports training. - Competitions may not be organized. <p>Nose and mouth shields should be used in public transport (homemade or purchased mask, scarf, shawl and other solutions are suitable). Studies will continue through distance learning, however face-to-face counselling may be provided to prepare students in secondary and secondary vocational education institutions for final examinations, and face-</p>
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	<p>to-face counselling may be provided to 9th grade students for successful completion of the school year.</p> <p>Exams for 12th grade and final examinations for Technical schools will take place.</p> <p>The schools may organize the receipt of certificates by graduates without guests for up to 25 persons but may not organize graduation parties.</p> <p>Children's camps are not allowed.</p> <p>Weddings and funerals may be organized for a maximum of 25 people, with a distance of 2 meters and for a maximum of 3 hours (indoors).</p> <p>Seminars and meetings may be organized for a maximum of 25 people, with a distance of 2 meters between and for a maximum of 3 hours (indoors).</p> <p>In addition to the existing medical treatment services, medical institutions were informed that from 13 May that the following planned health care services may also be provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - in secondary health care: - health care services provided by specialists; - examinations : endoscopy, scintigraphy, neurography, mammography, myography; rehabilitation, except day hospital services; - day hospital: coronary angioplasty, invasive radiology services; eye surgery; invasive treatment of patients with arrhythmias etc. <p>As before, medical institutions must continue to take precautions. They must ensure a clear flow of patients, limit the number of patients staying at the premises of the treatment facility at the same time and set a precise time of arrival for healthcare. Medical institutions and patients will also have to provide personal protective equipment, and disinfection measures will have to be taken after each patient's visit.</p> <p>Tourism services can only operate for travelling in Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia after 15 May. The necessity of the trip must be carefully considered. After returning from Lithuania or Estonia, there is no need for 14 days of self-isolation.</p>
<p>Lithuania</p> <p><i>City of Kaunas</i></p>	<p>The city of Kaunas reported on the COVID-19 situation in Lithuania. As the situation is improving, the government is trying to reduce the quarantine measures. It was agreed that it is no longer compulsory for people to wear masks in public as of 14 May (it is just a recommendation). To wear masks is however compulsory indoors and in other crowded places.</p> <p>As by 14 May a group of 5 people can meet in public places (previously it was only 2). Kindergartens will reopen on 18 May and on 25 May primary schools. 30 May, events and personal celebrations will be allowed and the organizing of sports competitions in open and closed spaces without the participation of spectators. Weddings, birthdays and other celebrations for up to 30 people can be organized in both public open and closed spaces.</p>

	<p>There is ongoing planning on new conditions for visiting cultural, leisure, entertainment and sport institutions, in open spaces. On 18 May, cafes, restaurants, bars and other entertainment venues will be able to open indoors from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. There will be no such restrictions for outdoor cafes and takeaways. On 30 May, activities will be permitted by health service centers providing recreational services. Regular flights to Lithuania will be allowed on routes approved by the government. After returning from Latvia, Poland or Estonia, people will not have to stay in 14 days of self-isolation.</p> <p>In general people feel better since quarantine is now less strict, but there is concern that everybody will be relaxed too early.</p>
<p>The Netherlands <i>City of Utrecht</i></p>	<p>The city of Utrecht shared an update on the present restrictions and transitions in the Netherlands.</p> <p>National: Pressure has been put on the Prime Minister to loosen the restrictions, so a new phase has just started though keeping to the basic rules of hand hygiene, distancing and working from home. The government is introducing a road map till September with milestones at 1 June, 1 July and 1 September if there are no negative impacts of opening up. Primary schools have already opened, and children aged 12 and above can go for physical activities. Swimming pools are opening up with restrictions and contact-based jobs (hairdressers, homeopaths, beauty parlors etc) and libraries, have started again. Public transport and trains will open 1 June which will be the only place where the wearing of masks will be obligatory. From 1 June there will be a geographical widening of the reopening, so people can travel further. Secondary schools will open, and cafés and restaurants can reopen outdoor seating if keeping patrons 1,5 m apart. Restaurants, cinemas and museums can reopen with max 30 people.</p> <p>If this goes well, cinemas and music venues with up to 100 people can be expected to open up from 1 July. On 1 September gyms, saunas, spas, casinos etc. will reopen. No decision has yet been taken in relation to larger concerts.</p> <p>Utrecht: The city of Utrecht has been testing the reopening of outdoor cafes and restaurants with the idea of providing enough space throughout the city by taking out cars and car-parking to stimulate wider public space for walking and cycling and allowing better space for mobile food trucks.</p> <p>There is a taskforce working on checking which streets are too narrow to provide social distancing and which streets near schools can be closed to cars. This will be changing the city into an even more cycling</p>

	<p>and walking city There have been some good experience of online sessions with the municipality and the Public Health Agency targeting health and social care providers. These sessions will probably continue after the COVID-19 outbreak.</p> <p>Another taskforce is in place (as mentioned in the Fourth COVID -19 response meeting) on the topic of social and economic impact of COVID-19 with the timeframe of 2020-2024. This taskforce is collecting lessons learnt and looking at strategies for coming years and redefining them based on what it has learnt. There are three key perspectives: vital economy, healthy society and an attractive city.</p> <p>https://www.government.nl/documents/publications/2020/05/06/covid-19-dutch-steps-after-11-may-in-simple-language</p>
<p>Portugal <i>Portuguese National Healthy Cities Network (Seixal, Viana do Castelo, Braga)</i></p>	<p>The Portuguese national network reported that schools in Portugal will generally only open for 11th and 12th graders, but only for those disciplines needed for university entry exams. The conditions are: mask to be used by all, disinfectant gel in each classroom, limited number of students per classroom. All other grades will remain in distance learning via online courses and national TV broadcast channels.</p> <p>The Portuguese Network reported that there is an English translated summary of the reopening measures for May-June: https://covid19estamoson.gov.pt/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/lifting-measures.jpeg</p>
<p>Russian Federation <i>Russian National Healthy Cities Network (Cherepovets, Novosibirsk, St Petersburg, Stupino, Ulyanovsk, Velikiy Ustyug, Chapaevsk)</i></p>	<p>The Russian national network reported that in Russia, the regime of non-working days ended on 12 May. The situation in Russian regions differs. Phased removal of restrictions for small and medium-sized businesses starts in the regions with compliance to mandatory hygiene requirements.</p> <p>The website of the Russian Healthy Cities Association hosts news (events, measures) from member municipalities of the Association related to COVID-19: https://zdorovyegoroda.ru/novosti-gorodov-associaczii-po-teme-covid-19-2/. Heads of healthy cities share their experiences in preventing coronavirus infection.</p> <p>The Russian National Healthy Cities Network continues to conduct webinars aimed at mental health, on the formation of a health-protecting environment in educational organizations. The next webinars will be organized jointly with the Bauman Moscow State</p>

<p>Turkey <i>Turkish National Healthy Cities Network (Gölcük, Izmir, Kadiköy, Karsiyaka-Izmir, Mezitli, Trabzon, Metropolitan Yalova, Balçova-Izmir, Burdur, Bursa, Cankaya, Denizli, Tepebaşı – Eskisehir)</i></p>	<p>The Turkish national network reported that they are trying to collect experience from other countries and thanked the country coordinators who have responded by email to the Turkish request.</p> <p>The network reported that according to the ‘Normalization Plan’ published by the government, the curfew imposed on citizens under 20 and over 65 will be lifted in late May. Entry and exit bans will continue in some provinces that are deemed at-risk. If necessary measures are taken, shopping malls can be opened, restaurants in shopping malls will be opened gradually and in accordance with the social distance rules. Barbers and hairdressers can reopen with an appointment system; the number of customers they will serve will be half of the number of the seats they have, and barbers and hairdressers will have to use masks, overalls, gloves and comply with hygiene conditions. Working from home and flexible working hours will be re-evaluated this month, and normalization steps will be taken next month. Support services will continue for citizens to cope with the pandemic psychologically.</p> <p>The Ministry of Health will prepare guideline documents on outbreak measures to be implemented in all sectors during the normalization period. The number of pandemic hospitals will be gradually reduced and only a limited number of hospitals will be used as pandemic hospitals. Social distancing rules are obligatory, and the use of masks will continue. Test and treatment infrastructure will be established at airports in tourism regions. Museums and archaeological sites can be reopened to visitors, if enforcing social distancing and mask rules. Concert halls will be opened with 50% capacity. Sports competitions will be launched next month. Conferences and meetings will be held as of September.</p> <p>Travel between some cities is allowed but not from metropolitan cities like Istanbul and Bursa.</p> <p>The good news is that the number of COVID-19 cases is decreasing and recovery is increasing, day by day.</p>
<p>UK <i>City of Belfast</i></p>	<p>The city of Belfast reported that UK has different approaches. Northern Ireland has a five-stage approach from 28 May for transition, but no timescales with phases. It is likely schools will not be back until September. Work has already begun on using public space for increased walking and cycling. Some people who can work respecting social distancing are back at work. Furlough payments of 80% in payment is in place until end of July - after that a reduced rate will be payable by government until the end of October.</p>

	Belfast agreed that it is a good opportunity to share the experience and examples of working on place-making tools.
Eurocities	<p>Ms Masha Smirnova policy advisor introduced the Eurocities. A network of European cities since 1986 with more than 140 members from 39 countries. Eurocities deals with many policy issues like social, environment, transport, biodiversity and has forums on key issues for sustainable urban development and how to best engage citizens. The network is currently busy collecting and sharing information related to the COVID-19 pandemic as cities are in the forefront of responding to the needs and the situation differs between cities. Exchange with cities has shown the importance of providing multilingual information via hotlines, and mobile apps but also via community services close to citizens. Printed information is quickly outdated.</p> <p>Platform for best practices https://covidnews.eurocities.eu/</p>
EuroHealthNet	<p>Ms Ingrid Stegeman from EuroHealthNet stated that EuroHealthNet is a non-for-profit partnership of public bodies working on health promotion and prevention across Europe. The cross-cutting theme is health and equalities and they are currently working with members on their needs and how they are responding to the pandemic. Webinars have been organized on mental health, digital needs and what new issues members identify that must be addressed quickly. Coming up is a workshop on environment and how members are responding from a public health perspective inspiring each other to prepare and adapt future working agendas.</p> <p>https://eurohealthnet.eu/</p>
NHS Scotland	<p>Mr John Howie reported that the ‘Place, Health Equalities and Wellbeing working-group’ used last year to do a mapping and testing of placemaking tools to disseminate good practices. The planned activities for 2020 have been delayed due to the COVID-19 outbreak: a meeting had been due to be held which is currently on hold, however the mapping and testing of tools is ongoing. Many respondents have chosen the Place Standard tool for use to support place-making in their cities, and recently there have been translations by Norway, Germany and Spain.</p> <p>Placemaking is inclusive and focuses on vulnerable groups and therefore is of great importance in relation to supporting response efforts in the pandemic. NHS Scotland will work with WHO to transition the Working Group to a Taskforce and expand participation</p>

	to the wider network: the development of placemaking tools could offer a lot of good practice in the up-coming recovery.
WHO Response and information	<p>Ms Monika Kosinska thanked everybody for responding to 2 issues raised during the Fourth Covid-19 meeting on 30 April:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3) For responding positively to the request for collecting case-studies and for your availability to be interviewed. WHO will come back to the coordinators with a proposal on how this will be taken forward. 4) For input into the checklist of Suggested Actions for Health Authorities of Cities and Other Urban Settlements in Preparedness for the COVID-19 Pandemic and Other Novel Respiratory Outbreaks. The response has been submitted to HQ and a final draft will be published in a week's time (ETA end of May) <p>A WHO report on the Italian experience and response to COVID-19 was published online on 13 May. This report has been written by Dr Francesco Zambon, (Coordinator, Investment for Health and Development in Healthy Settings, WHO Venice) and his team.</p> <p>The link to the report is: http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/442655/COVID-19-Italy-response.pdf?ua=1</p> <p>It was indicated that a questionnaire will be sent out assessing local government's experience from the first wave of the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in order to allow WHO to gather information on how to respond to potential second wave.</p> <p>Cities were reminded that the call for nominations to the political committee will be opened shortly, pending the approval of the new Regional Director Dr Hans Kluge. The intention is to appoint and convene the political committee ahead of the WHO Regional Committee takes place in September.</p> <p>During a meeting between the WHO and the Turkish National Healthy Cities Network there was a proposal put forward for the establishment of a subnetwork or a task force on Urban and Emergency preparedness. There was a consensus amongst participants that this would be an important development and WHO agreed to initiate the process.</p> <p>WHO informed the participants that following a decision by the Kyrgyz government through a joint order by the Ministry of Health and the State Agency for Local Government and Inter-ethnic Relations, the national network of healthy cities of Kyrgyzstan has been officially inaugurated. WHO thanked the network for the continued support in</p>

	<p>building capacity and sharing learning across countries in developing and supporting healthy cities. In particular, WHO thanked the Russian Federation National Healthy Cities Network and the City of Riga, Latvia for their particular support to Kyrgyzstan. All municipalities in Kyrgyzstan are members providing the first national network in the European Region to cover 100% of its population.</p> <p>With regret and deepest condolences to the city of Stavropol, Russian Federation and the Russian Association of Healthy Cities, Districts and Rural Settlements WHO informed the network of the death of the Mayor of Stavropol, Andre Khasanovich Dzhatdoev. The Mayor had been very involved and supportive of the work of healthy cities not only in his city but also in the Russian Association and will be missed.</p> <p>Cities and national networks are encouraged to contact WHO at eurohealthycities@who.int for any specific support requested or technical questions in relation to Phase VII or the COVID-19 response.</p>
<p>Next meeting</p>	<p>The next COVID-19 response meeting of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network and National Network Coordinators will take place</p> <p>Thursday May 28 11.00-12.30 CET</p>

List of participants

Austria

Austrian National Healthy Cities Network

Croatia

City of Rijeka

Cyprus

Cyprus National Healthy Cities Network

Czech Republic

Czech National Healthy Cities Network

Finland

Finnish National Healthy Cities Network

France

City of Nice

City of Rennes

Germany

German National Healthy Cities Network

Greece

Hellenic National Healthy Cities Network

Hungary

City of Győr

Ireland

Irish National Healthy Cities Network

Israel

Israeli National Healthy Cities Network

Italy

Italian National Healthy Cities Network

City of Modena

City of Udine

City of Padova

Latvia

City of Riga

Lithuania

City of Kaunas

The Netherlands

City of Utrecht

Portugal

Portuguese National Healthy Cities Network

Russian Federation

Russian Federation National Healthy Cities Network

City of Chapaevsk

Spain

Spanish National Healthy Cities Network

Ministry of Health, Consumer Affairs and Social Welfare

Turkey

Turkish National Healthy Cities Network

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

City of Belfast

Public Health Scotland

John Howie, Organisational Lead - Health Equity (Place)

Claire Hislop, Organisational Lead – Diet, Physical Activity & Healthy Weight

Eurocities

Masha Smirnova, Policy advisor

EuroHealthNet

Ingrid Stegeman, Programme Manager

UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities

Christina Drews, Programme Specialist,

WHO Regional Office for Europe

Lucia Dell Amura, Programme Assistant

Laura Azzaro, Programme Assistant, Governance for Health

Elisabeth Bengtsson, Consultant, WHO European Healthy Cities Network

Christopher Brookes, Consultant, WHO European Healthy Cities Network

Susan Gardiner, Programme Assistant, WHO European Healthy Cities Network

Monika Kosinska, Regional Focal Point, WHO European Healthy Cities Network

Agis Tsouros, Consultant, WHO