AUSTRIA’S EXPERIENCE: COVID-19

2020-05-07: WHO COVID-19 Information Session by a Member State
PHASE 1: Wake-up Call & Containment 1.0

Preparations after First Confirmed Cases by End of February 2020:

• **State crisis and disaster management** (activated on 27\textsuperscript{th} February)
  • Chaired by the Federal Chancellor respective Director General Ministry of the Interior
  • DGs of relevant Federal Ministries, provincial governments, government agencies and emergency services
  • Strategic briefing every morning

• **Telephone triage “1450”** as first contact point for all people with symptoms, dispatch of mobile testing units with the goal of keeping people at home for their tests

• **Electronic reporting system** for infectious diseases to monitor development of infection rates

• First legal measures according to **Epidemic Emergency Code**
PHASE 1: Wake-up Call, We Must Take This Seriously

Situation by 12\textsuperscript{th} March 2020:
361 confirmed cases & doubling in 2 to 3 days

Forecast for 31\textsuperscript{st} March: 110,000 cases
Goal for 31\textsuperscript{st} March: 15,500 cases

Country shut down on 16\textsuperscript{th} March as a measure to achieve the goal

Measures take effect: Actual by 31\textsuperscript{st} March: 10,800 cases
PHASE 2: Country Shutdown (Physical Distancing)

Measures between 16\textsuperscript{th} March and 13\textsuperscript{th} April:

• All stores, hotels, theaters, schools, (sport) facilities and institutions closed, except grocery stores, pharmacies and critical infrastructure

• Stay-at-home order (physical distancing)
  • People are urged to stay at home and only leave for good reasons (grocery shopping, helping others, urgent work and taking a walk)
  • Many are in their home office, registered for short-time work or dismissed

• Government framework budget
  • 4 billion EUR $\rightarrow$ for health-related matters
  • 38 billion EUR $\rightarrow$ for social and economic impact of shutdown
PHASE 2: Containment 1.0

Situation between 16th March and 13th April:

- **Containment 1.0 Strategy**
  - COVID-19 surveillance program (local public health authorities):
    1. Identification (testing)
    2. Isolation (min. 14 days quarantine)
    3. Contact tracing
  - Capacity management / modeling / monitoring in hospitals for COVID-19 cases
    - => 80% of confirmed cases in home care
  - Testing capacity in labs \(\rightarrow\) up to 15,000 tests/day
  - Procurement of PPEs \(\rightarrow\) most difficult!
  - Obligatory behavioral and hygiene measures
Development of COVID-19 cases in Austria – as of 6th May:

- Confirmed cases: 15,684
- Recovered: 13,639
- Active cases: 1,394
- Deceased: 608

292,254 tests performed up to 6th May
FACTS & FIGURES – $R_{eff}$ and Doubling Rate

Epi Parameter: $R_{eff}$ over time

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Doubling Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 Mar</td>
<td>2.46 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Mar</td>
<td>3.65 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Mar</td>
<td>5.57 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 Mar</td>
<td>18.40 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 Mar</td>
<td>35.40 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 Mar</td>
<td>92.3 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Mar</td>
<td>150.3 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02 Apr</td>
<td>239.4 days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Doubling Rate:
- 2.46 days
- 3.65 days
- 5.57 days
- 18.40 days
- 35.40 days
- 92.3 days
- 150.3 days
- 239.4 days
FACTS & FIGURES – Confirmed Cases & Deaths

Confirmed cases per 100,000 inhabitants - Europe:
- Spain: 470
- Ireland: 457
- Belgium: 440
- Italy: 357
- Switzerland: 354
- UK: 290
- France: 261
- Portugal: 241
- Netherlands: 240
- Sweden: 202
- Germany: 177
- Austria: 177

Deaths per 100,000 inhabitants - Europe:
- Belgium: 69
- Spain: 55
- Italy: 49
- UK: 44
- France: 39
- Netherlands: 30
- Ireland: 28
- Sweden: 28
- Switzerland: 21
- Portugal: 10
- Germany: 9
- Austria: 7
FACTS & FIGURES – The Risk of Death

Number of deaths by age group and sex:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Number of deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;5</td>
<td>Male 1, Female 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-14</td>
<td>Male 2, Female 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-24</td>
<td>Male 0, Female 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34</td>
<td>Male 0, Female 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>Male 0, Female 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54</td>
<td>Male 0, Female 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-64</td>
<td>Male 0, Female 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-74</td>
<td>Male 0, Female 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75-84</td>
<td>Male 0, Female 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85+</td>
<td>Male 0, Female 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 603

Lethality by age group: Corresponds to deaths per 100 cases of illness:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Number of deaths per 100,000 cases of illness</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;5</td>
<td>Male 28, Female 16.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-14</td>
<td>Male 7.5, Female 0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-24</td>
<td>Male 0.3, Female 0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34</td>
<td>Male 0, Female 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>Male 0, Female 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54</td>
<td>Male 0, Female 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-64</td>
<td>Male 0, Female 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-74</td>
<td>Male 0, Female 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75-84</td>
<td>Male 0, Female 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85+</td>
<td>Male 0, Female 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 28
PHASE 3: Adaptive Recovery (2-week Steps)

• 14th April:
  • End of country shutdown and start of country’s “adaptive recovery”
  • Opening of all stores < 400m², DIY stores and garden centers, public parks
  • Obligatory facial masks in stores, public spaces and public transportation

• 1st May:
  • Opening of all stores > 400m², hair-dressers and other services
  • Easing of general stay-at-home order

• 15th May:
  • Opening of restaurants, outdoor zoos and other outdoor leisure facilities, schools (certain restrictions)

• 29th May:
  • Opening of hotels, leisure / sport facilities, swimming pools

• Still closed (beyond 1st June): Cross-border tourism, theaters, large events/festivals, conventions, bars/nightclubs, etc.
PHASE 3: Containment 2.0 Strategy

• Public health goals
  • Special protection of the elderly and multimorbid population
    • 33% of all infections appear in nursing homes, 7% in hospitals
  • Effective COVID-19 surveillance within 48 hours
    • Use of the official “Stop Corona App”
  • Obligatory distancing (“1m rule”), facial masks and hygiene measures

• Containment 2.0 test program
  I. Testing of people with symptoms (COVID-19 surveillance program)
  II. Testing for monitoring and screening purposes
    i. Area-wide testing of risk groups and staff member in nursing homes, home care and mobile care service teams
    ii. Area-wide testing in healthcare facilities (staff member and new patients)
    iii. Targeted population-based monitoring (schools, restaurants, grocery stores, etc.)
    iv. Epidemiological population-based testing for research
What Do We Expect from WHO

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AND TOURISM
• Conclusive proposals containing a list of objective criteria for travel (warnings) and tourism

REGISTRY FOR CLINICIANS
• Registry used by physicians/clinicians to share their experiences about successful and failed treatments of COVID-19 patients

FUTURE MEDICAL TREATMENTS AND VACCINATIONS
• Shall be considered as a global public good
• Must be accessible to all member states at a reasonable price
• Facilitate solutions regarding intellectual property rights, e.g., mechanism under TRIPS Agreement

SUPPORT FOR RECOVERY OF AREAS MEMBER STATES ARE STRUGGLING WITH
• Example: Clear recommendations for the reopening of kindergardens, schools, universities and larger (cultural) events