Latvia’s Response to COVID-19
WHO Member States Information Session

Dr. Jurijs Perevoščikovs
Chief Epidemiologist

July 23, 2020
Epidemiological situation in Latvia as of July 22, 2020

Population: 1,9 million
Cases: 1197
14-day cum.inc.: 3.1/100000
Epidemiological situation in Latvia on July 22

31 deaths = 0.1/100 000 14-day cumul. # of deaths

1045 re-covered

121 active cases
Latvia’s response has been based on the following guiding principles

- **3 pillars:** always Test, Trace & Isolate.

- **Evidence-based decision-making:** Governmental decisions have been based on the advice of epidemiologists, medics and academics.

- **Collaboration:** All levels of Government are involved to coordinate a common response and maintain one strategic communication line.

- **A professional crisis response team:** The crisis response team on a daily base evaluated the situation and latest data sets, tailoring adequate response and swift cooperation with local hospitals, private laboratories and neighbouring countries.

- **Participation of Society:** Hackathons and various NGO’s collaborated to find solutions to «hack the COVID», resulting in for example, volunteering movements and new 3D printing solutions for PPE. A notable part of society actively uses COVID tracking app «Apturi COVID». 

July 23, 2020
Latvia’s basic principles for public include:

- **Clear info displayed**: in public areas on hygiene, distancing and other restrictions.
- **Hygiene**: surfaces / hands should be washed/disinfected, rooms should be ventilated.
- **Distancing**: 2 m distancing should be observed, whenever possible.
- **Health status**: advising to take care and observe your health.
- **Travelling**: based on incidence rate, observing the caution.

Set **entertainment, recreation and gathering limits**: time and people.
COVID-19 Application – 1st of its kind

The Application «Apturi COVID» (Stop the COVID) has been launched in Latvia on 28 May. It is an effective tool to break the chain of infection and reduce the further spread of the virus in the community.

July 23, 2020
Lessons learnt

- **Together:** the Government, the Parliament and experts – it has been good example of “whole of government” approach.

- **Evidence:** Reasoning and evidence provided by our epidemiologists was considered during the Government’s decision making process.

- **Intersectoral approach:** we established special crisis management teams both at the MoH and at the Governmental level and intersectoral cooperation is the key.

- **Baltics approach:** Health, Foreign and other Ministers agreed on common approaches. It helped to open up for Baltics’ travel and later on proceed with EU-wide travel.

- **Coordination across countries:** scope for improvement;

- **Community:** each member of the society matters.

- **Communication:** there is a scope for further studies on how to be better at health-communication.

July 23, 2020
Thank you for your attention!