

2019 G20 Osaka Summit Interim Compliance Report

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“The University of Toronto ... produced a detailed analysis to the extent of which each G20 country has met its commitments since the last summit ... I think this is important; we come to these summits, we make these commitments, we say we are going to do these things and it is important that there is an organisation that checks up on who has done what.”

— *David Cameron, Prime Minister, United Kingdom, at the 2012 Los Cabos Summit*

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16. Health: Public Health Preparedness

“We are committed to improving public health preparedness and response including strengthening our own core capacities”

G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina			+1
Australia			+1
Brazil			+1
Canada			+1
China		0	
France			+1
Germany			+1
India			+1
Indonesia		0	
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
Korea			+1
Mexico		0	
Russia			+1
Saudi Arabia			+1
South Africa		0	
Turkey			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.80 (90%)	

Background

G20 leaders made their first commitments on health in Brisbane in 2014 in response to the outbreak of Ebola virus in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.²⁷⁸⁵ They approved a joint statement on Ebola threat and pledged to “do what is necessary to ensure the international effort can extinguish the outbreak” and urged the World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund to “continue their strong support for the affected countries.” The G20 members pledged to fully implement the World Health Organization’s (WHO) International Health Regulations (IHR) addressing “longer-term systemic issues and gaps in capability, preparedness and response capacity that expose the global economy to the impacts of infectious disease.”²⁷⁸⁶

Under Germany’s G20 presidency in 2017, G20 health ministers met for the first time. They acknowledged the role of the IHR and agreed to act “accordingly with our obligations under the IHR and support the leadership and coordination of WHO in the event of health crises of international

²⁷⁸⁵ G20 Leaders’ Brisbane Statement on Ebola, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 November 2014. Access Date: 19 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1115-ebola.html>

²⁷⁸⁶ G20 Leaders’ Brisbane Statement on Ebola., G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 November 2014. Access Date: 11 December 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1115-ebola.html>

concern.”²⁷⁸⁷ G20 members agreed to “strengthen the national and, where applicable, regional monitoring and surveillance of both antimicrobial resistance and the consumption of antibiotics” within their own jurisdictions.²⁷⁸⁸ At the Hamburg Summit the G20 leaders discussed antimicrobial resistance (AMR), acknowledged its “growing threat to public health and economic growth” and pledged to “strengthen public awareness, infection prevention and control and improve the understanding of the issue of antimicrobials in the environment.”²⁷⁸⁹

In 2018 at Buenos Aires the G20 leaders once again acknowledged “the need for further multi-sectoral action to reduce the spread of AMR” and extended the health-related agenda of the G20 by pledging to “tackle malnutrition, with a special focus on childhood overweight and obesity, through national, community-based and collaborative multi-stakeholder approaches.”²⁷⁹⁰ In addition, the G20 leaders draw attention to provision of “better health care” and agreed to “improve [health care] quality and affordability to move towards Universal Health Coverage.”²⁷⁹¹

In 2019 at Osaka G20 leaders reaffirmed the need for stronger health systems providing cost-effective and evidence-based intervention to achieve better access to health care and to improve its quality and affordability to move towards universal health coverage (UHC), in line with their national contexts and priorities.²⁷⁹² They also promised to continue to strengthen core capacities required by IHR for preventing, detecting and responding to public health emergencies, recognized the WHO’s critical role, and committed to ending HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.²⁷⁹³

In May 2018, the WHO approved its 13th general work program for 2019–2023, which includes public health preparedness and response among its key goals.²⁷⁹⁴ It calls for public health to be strengthened with developing appropriate governance arrangements and essential institutional architecture, and increasing the pool of trained professionals.²⁷⁹⁵ Another important aspect is improved surveillance systems necessary for early disease detection and control.

Commitment Features

At Osaka leaders made a commitment to improve public health preparedness and response including strengthening core capacities. According to WHO, public health preparedness means having a

²⁷⁸⁷ Berlin Declaration of the G20 Health Ministers. G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 20 May 2017. Access date: 11 December 2018. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/170520-health-en.html>

²⁷⁸⁸ Berlin Declaration of the G20 Health Ministers. G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 20 May 2017. Access date: 11 December 2018. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/170520-health-en.html>

²⁷⁸⁹ G20 Leaders’ Declaration Hamburg, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 11 December 2018. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

²⁷⁹⁰ G20 Leaders’ Declaration Buenos Aires, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 11 December 2018. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

²⁷⁹¹ G20 Leaders’ Declaration Buenos Aires, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 11 December 2018. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

²⁷⁹² G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

²⁷⁹³ G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

²⁷⁹⁴ Thirteenth General Programme of Work 2019–2023, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2019. <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/324775/WHO-PRP-18.1-eng.pdf>

²⁷⁹⁵ Thirteenth General Programme of Work 2019–2023, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2019. <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/324775/WHO-PRP-18.1-eng.pdf>

comprehensive plan, that has been tested and refined through conducting exercises, engaging the whole of society.²⁷⁹⁶

Public health response requires national emergency frameworks and systems that include risk-based emergency preparedness plans, robust emergency management structures, including emergency operation centres, a trained workforce and mobilization of resources during an emergency. In cases where international assistance is required, so are supportive national systems and legislation.²⁷⁹⁷

Core capacities require establishing the capacities necessary to respond effectively and in a timely manner to potential public health emergencies of international concern. These capacities should include efforts to strengthen health systems and to coordinate mobilization of domestic and international funding through multisectoral action plans.²⁷⁹⁸

This commitment requires taking actions in three areas, drawing on the WHO's current work program: governance arrangements and institutional architecture, personnel development, surveillance systems.

Governance Arrangements and Institutional Architecture

The goal of developing the adequate institutional environment can be achieved by reforming national health systems, providing financing to medical institutions and implementing programs to develop national health systems.

Personnel Development

The goal of personnel development can be achieved by introducing additional programs for medical personnel, allocating funding to medical education, and developing upskilling or reskilling programs for medical services.

Surveillance Systems

In 2008, the WHO published “A Guide to Establishing Event-Based Surveillance” that defines surveillance capacity as the organized and rapid capture of information about events that are a potential risk to public health.²⁷⁹⁹ In 2009, the WHO published “Global Surveillance during an Influenza Pandemic,” which lists possible governmental actions to build surveillance capacity.²⁸⁰⁰ Such actions include:

- detecting and influencing an influenza virus with pandemic potential;
- confirming that an influenza virus with pandemic potential has acquired the ability to be transmitted from person to person and to initiate and sustain community-level outbreaks;

²⁷⁹⁶ Public Health Preparedness, World Health Organization (Geneva) no date. Access Date: 3 April 2019.

<https://www.who.int/influenza/preparedness/en/>

²⁷⁹⁷ Action plan to improve public health preparedness and response in the WHO European Region 2018–2023, WHO (Copenhagen) 2019. Access date: 8 April 2020. http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/393705/Action-Plan_EN_WHO_web_2.pdf?ua=1

²⁷⁹⁸ Action plan to improve public health preparedness and response in the WHO European Region 2018–2023, WHO (Copenhagen) 2019. Access date: 8 April 2020. http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/393705/Action-Plan_EN_WHO_web_2.pdf?ua=1

²⁷⁹⁹ A Guide to Establishing Event-Based Surveillance, World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific (Manila), 2008. Access Date: 9 February 2018.

http://www.wpro.who.int/emerging_diseases/documents/docs/eventbasedsurv.pdf

²⁸⁰⁰ Global Surveillance During an Influenza Pandemic, World Health Organization (Geneva), 2009. Access date: 9 February 2018. http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/global_pandemic_influenza_surveillance_apr09.pdf

- describing early epidemiological, virological and clinical characteristics of the outbreak;
- estimating the geographical extent of virus spread to inform containment and control efforts; and
- alerting other states of a public health event of international concern or public health emergencies of international concern.

To achieve full compliance, a G20 member is required to take actions in all three priority areas.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G20 member did not take any actions aimed at promotion of public health preparedness and response
0	The G20 member took actions in one or two of the priority areas
+1	The G20 member took actions in all three priority areas

Centre for International Institutions Research

Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with the commitment to improve public health preparedness and response.

On 15-17 July 2019, the Ministry of Health and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) organized the Workshop on Measurement, Analysis and Monitoring of Social Inequalities in Health. The workshop aimed to strengthen capacities for the measurement, analysis, and monitoring of social inequalities in health; provide technical recommendations; develop practical applications and review the monitoring process of the Sustainable Development Goals.²⁸⁰¹

On 16 August 2019, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights organized a meeting on the rational management and use of Essential Medicines at the First Level of Care for the health teams of the Federal Penitentiary Service.²⁸⁰²

On 29 August 2019, Ministry of Health and laboratory Astrazeneca signed an agreement to promote precision medicine in Argentina. This agreement will contribute to generating research, development and innovation (R + D + i) capacities through strategic collaboration projects between the public and private sectors, aimed at innovation in health services, optimizing existing qualities such as quality of care and access with equity in our health system. It will also allow strengthening and accelerating projects with opportunities for expansion, training and exchanging talents, and sharing practices and experiences with local and international leaders.²⁸⁰³

²⁸⁰¹ Argentina fue sede del Taller de Medición, Análisis y Monitoreo de Desigualdades Sociales en Salud, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 17 July 2019. Access date: 20 May 2002. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-fue-sede-del-taller-de-medicion-analisis-y-monitoreo-de-desigualdades-sociales-en>

²⁸⁰² Equipos de Salud del Servicio Penitenciario Federal asistieron a jornada de capacitación sobre uso de Medicamentos Esenciales, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 16 August 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/equipos-de-salud-del-servicio-penitenciario-federal-asistieron-jornada-de-capacitacion>

²⁸⁰³ Health Innovation Hubs in Emerging Markets: creating integrated science ecosystems, Astra Zeneca (Cabbridge) 5 May 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.astrazeneca.com/Partnering/partnering-case-studies/health-innovation-hubs-in-emerging-markets.html>

On 6 September 2019, Ministry of Health launches the National Plan for Cancer Control. The strategy aims to reduce the prevalence of modifiable risk factors for cancer, improve early diagnosis, care and quality of life for patients, and strengthen human resources to control this disease.²⁸⁰⁴

On 1 October 2019, a research program on antimicrobial resistance promoted through international cooperation between Argentina and the United Kingdom was presented in Buenos Aires. Research seeks to determine patterns in antimicrobial use; knowledge, attitudes and practices in livestock farming; structures and capacities of veterinarians and para-veterinarians; water and waste and sanitation management systems; the behavior and transit of antimicrobial resistant organisms in food systems and other key elements of reproductive systems.²⁸⁰⁵

On 7 October 2019, initiative organized by the Ministry of Health Government in collaboration with PAHO awarded three good practices of Family and Community Health in the framework of the universal health coverage. The Good Practices in Family and Community Health competition aimed to recognize and disseminate the actions of the first level of care to encourage and replicate them in the territory.²⁸⁰⁶

On 18 October 2019, Secretary of Health of the Nation presented the first Epidemiological Bulletin on Viral Hepatitis with the aim of providing tools to the members of the health teams, giving access to the information necessary to respond to the disease. The newsletter joins the concrete actions that guarantee surveillance, safe blood, vaccine prevention and timely treatment for people with viral hepatitis.²⁸⁰⁷

On 7 November 2019, Secretary on Health presented the First Clinical Practice Guide for the control of High Blood Pressure that includes recommendations based on scientific evidence on the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and monitoring of hypertension and seeks to contribute to the reduction of morbidity and mortality. caused by cardiovascular diseases in Argentina.²⁸⁰⁸

On 19 December 2019, the Minister of Health inaugurated the Federal Health Council. “We are going to work with all the provinces to build a federal health policy. We will listen to everyone, we want to have everyone’s representation and work intensively,” said the Minister of Health of the Nation, Ginés González García during the opening of the Federal Health Council.²⁸⁰⁹

On 10 March 2020, the national government created a special fund of ARS1.7 billion to strengthen response to COVID-19. It was announced by authorities from the national health portfolio after

²⁸⁰⁴ Salud lanza el Plan Nacional de Control de Cáncer, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 6 September 2019.

Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/salud-lanza-el-plan-nacional-de-control-de-cancer-0>

²⁸⁰⁵ Argentina avanza en la investigación sobre resistencia antimicrobiana, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 1 October 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/en-cooperacion-con-el-reino-unido-argentina-avanza-en-la-investigacion-sobre-resistencia>

²⁸⁰⁶ Salud y OPS premiaron buenas prácticas en salud familiar y comunitaria, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 7 October 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/salud-y-ops-premiaron-buenas-practicas-en-salud-familiar-y-comunitaria>

²⁸⁰⁷ Salud presentó el primer boletín epidemiológico sobre las hepatitis virales en Argentina, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 18 October 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/salud-presento-el-primer-boletin-epidemiologico-sobre-las-hepatitis-virales-en-argentina>

²⁸⁰⁸ Salud lanzó la primera guía de práctica clínica para la atención de la hipertensión arterial en el país, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 7 November 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/salud-lanzo-la-primera-guia-de-practica-clinica-para-la-atencion-de-la-hipertension>

²⁸⁰⁹ González García: “Vamos a trabajar con todas las provincias para construir una política de salud federal, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 19 December 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/gonzalez-garcia-vamos-trabajar-con-todas-las-provincias-para-construir-una-politica-de>

participating in a meeting at Casa Rosada led by the President of the Nation, Alberto Fernández and the Minister of Health, Ginés González García.²⁸¹⁰

On 20 March 2020, the Ministry of Health began the process of progressive distribution of more than 57,000 tests for diagnosis of COVID-19 to the different jurisdictions of the country. This action is completed with the online training that the professionals of the National Administration of Laboratories and Health Institutes offered by Dr. Carlos Malbrán and PAHO to the country's institutions that are part of the national network of laboratories.²⁸¹¹

On 22 March 2020, Minister Ginés González García and the Secretary for Health Quality, Arnaldo Medina, launched the distribution of chinstraps, masks, goggles, examination gloves, camisoles, thermometers, gel alcohol and disinfectant for ambulances and surfaces, within the framework of the emergency declared by the coronavirus pandemic.²⁸¹²

Argentina has taken steps to promote public health preparedness and response across all three areas outlined by the World Health Organization.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1 for full compliance.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with the commitment to improve public health preparedness and response.

On 14 August 2019, the Government of Australia approved Australia's Long Term National Health Plan. The plan has four major pillars — enhancing primary care and improving access to medicines, supporting private and public hospitals, improving mental health, enhancing medical research capacity. The first pillar includes measures to boost healthcare institutions in rural areas, through increased funding (AUD500 million Stronger Rural Health Strategy), increased number of skilled medical workers in rural hospitals (plus 3000 new doctors and 3000 new nurses), creating new clinical training schools, and incentivizing healthcare professionals. The plan also provides for a AUD125 million investment into Million Minds Mission initiative, including AUD5 million for early detection, diagnosis and treatment of eating disorders. One of the priorities of the plan is to continue improving capacities for early detection of oncological diseases.²⁸¹³

On 11 March 2020, the Australian Government unveiled its COVID-19 National Health Plan. The Plan worth AUD2.4 billion. The Plan provided for support across multiple areas, such as: primary care, aged care, hospitals, research and the national medical stockpile. One of the highlights of the plan is the development of telemedicine capacity of the Australian healthcare system. AUD100

²⁸¹⁰ Gobierno nacional creó fondo especial de 1.700 millones de pesos para fortalecer respuesta ante el COVID-19, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 10 March 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/gobierno-nacional-creo-fondo-especial-de-1700-millones-de-pesos-para-fortalecer-respuesta>

²⁸¹¹ ANLIS avanza en la descentralización de la detección diagnóstica del nuevo coronavirus, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 20 March 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/anlis-avanza-en-la-descentralizacion-de-la-deteccion-diagnostica-del-nuevo-coronavirus>

²⁸¹² Salud refuerza la distribución de insumos con destino a hospitales nacionales, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 22 March 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/salud-refuerza-la-distribucion-de-insumos-con-destino-hospitales-nacionales>

²⁸¹³ Australia's Long Term National Health Plan, Australian Government Department of Health (Canberra) 14 August 2019. Access Date: 14 May 2020. https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/australia-s-long-term-national-health-plan_0.pdf.

million were allocated for a new Medicare service for people in home isolation or quarantine. AUD500 million were slated for states and territories to fight COVID-19 outbreak. AUD30 million were allocated from the Medical Research Future Fund for vaccine, anti-viral and respiratory medicine research.²⁸¹⁴

Australia has taken steps to promote public health preparedness and response across all three areas outlined by the World Health Organization.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1 for full compliance.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with the commitment to improve public health preparedness and response.

On 11 November 2019, the computerization program of the Government of Brazil for health, “Connect SUS,” was launched by the Minister of Health Luiz Henrique Mandetta. The program will integrate citizen health information into a large data network. As a result, health professionals and managers will be more efficient in providing care and continuing patient care at any time and place.²⁸¹⁵

On 12 November 2019, ordinance No. 2,979 instituted the Previne Brasil Program, which established a new financing model for funding Primary Health Care within the scope of the Unified Health System. For public health management, the main impact is related to changes in the transfer of funds by the federal government. In order not to lose resources, it will be necessary to comply with specific indicators that assess coverage and quality of services.²⁸¹⁶

On 27 November 2019, the National Congress approved the creation of the Doctors for Brazil program, launched by President Jair Bolsonaro. The initiative will take 18,000 doctors to the poorest regions of the country, in addition to training specialists in the prevention and monitoring of diseases more frequent in Brazilians, such as diabetes and hypertension.²⁸¹⁷

On 11 December 2019, ordinance No. 3,263 established the financial incentive for federal funding for the implementation and strengthening of registration actions for users of the Unified Health System, within the scope of primary health care.²⁸¹⁸

Brazil has taken steps to promote public health preparedness and response across all three areas outlined by the World Health Organization.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1 for full compliance.

Analyst: Irina Popova

²⁸¹⁴ \$2.4 Billion Health Plan To Fight Covid-19, Australian Government (Canberra) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2020. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/24-billion-health-plan-fight-covid-19>.

²⁸¹⁵ Saúde será conectada em todo Brasil, Ministry of Health of Brazil (Brasília) 11 November 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.saude.gov.br/noticias/agencia-saude/conecte-sus-saude-sera-conectada-em-todo-brasil>

²⁸¹⁶ Portaria Nº 2.979, Diário Oficial Da União (Brasília) 12 November 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <http://www.in.gov.br/en/web/dou/-/portaria-n-2.979-de-12-de-novembro-de-2019-227652180>

²⁸¹⁷ Médicos pelo Brasil é aprovado pelo Congresso Nacional, Ministry of Health of Brazil (Brasília) 27 November 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://saude.gov.br/noticias/agencia-saude/46092-medicos-pelo-brasil-e-aprovado-pelo-congresso-nacional>

²⁸¹⁸ Portaria Nº 3.263, Diário Oficial Da União (Brasília) 11 December 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <http://www.in.gov.br/en/web/dou/-/portaria-n-3.263-de-11-de-dezembro-de-2019-232941846>

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with the commitment to improve public health preparedness and response.

On 17 July 2019, Minister of Health Ginette Petitpas Taylor announced the Government's allocation of additional CAD76.2 million to address the opioid crisis and problematic substance use, bringing the total funding to more than CAD100 million. These funds include: CAD41.8 million to scale up key life-saving measures in underserved communities, CAD33.6 million to mitigate the impacts of the illegal drug supply, and CAD31.3 million to identify and address emerging drug threats.²⁸¹⁹

On 15 January 2020, the Public Health Agency of Canada activated its Health Portfolio Operations Centre and triggered the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Public Health Response Plan for the Biological Events. The plan aims to coordinate federal, provincial and territorial healthcare authorities' responses to public health events that are biological in nature and are of a high level of severity.²⁸²⁰

On 18 March 2020, Minister Hajdu announced the signing of Interim Order, allowing expedited access to COVID-19-related medical devices for use by healthcare providers, including diagnostic test kits. This measure was taken to ensure quicker and more flexible approval of the importation and sale of medical devices that are necessary for Canada's response to COVID-19.²⁸²¹

On 23 April 2020, the Government of Canada released its Research Response to COVID-19. As a part of a CAD1 billion support to the fight against the coronavirus outbreak, CAD275 million were directed to the support of academia and industry partners to advance innovative research and large-scale projects to respond to COVID-19 and ensure domestic supply of potential vaccines and treatments. The Plan also provides for engaging with private sector to build-up research capacity in response to COVID-19. CAD100 million are to be directed towards improving public health services, including enhanced surveillance and scaled-up testing.²⁸²²

Canada has taken steps to promote public health preparedness and response across all three areas outlined by the World Health Organization.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1 for full compliance.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

China: 0

China has partially complied with the commitment on improving public health preparedness and response.

²⁸¹⁹ Government of Canada invests in new measures to address the opioid crisis and emerging drug threats, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 17 July 2019. Access Date: 14 May 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2019/07/government-of-canada-invests-in-new-measures-to-address-the-opioid-crisis-and-emerging-drug-threats.html>.

²⁸²⁰ Government of Canada takes action on COVID-19, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 13 March 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/canadas-reponse/government-canada-takes-action-covid-19.html>.

²⁸²¹ Health Canada expedites access to COVID-19 diagnostic laboratory test kits and other medical devices, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2020/03/health-canada-expedites-access-to-covid-19-diagnostic-laboratory-test-kits-and-other-medical-devices.html>.

²⁸²² Government of Canada's research response to COVID-19, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/diseases-conditions/covid-19-government-canada-research-response.html>.

On 19 February 2020, China's health authorities revealed that a novel coronavirus can be transmitted via aerosol. In that case, the respiratory droplets and close contacts should be considered as primary means of the infection's spread.²⁸²³

On 7 March 2020, the National Medical Products Administration approved a 29-minute testing kit that would help to enhance surveillance capacity against the spread of the novel coronavirus. The kit was developed by specialists from Xiamen University.²⁸²⁴

On 8 March 2020, the Government of China announced its intention to donate USD20 million to the World Health Organization to help reduce the spread and impact of the coronavirus.²⁸²⁵

On 12 March 2020, China announced its intention to assist countries in combating the spread of COVID-19. The announcement was made during a meeting of a leading group of China's coronavirus response chaired by Premier Li Keqiang. The participants of the meeting urged Chinese producers of medical supplies to boost production to match growing demand in countries affected with influenza.²⁸²⁶

On 17 March 2020, Chinese authorities launched clinical trials of coronavirus vaccine. Volunteers aged between 18 and 60 are kept in two medical facilities in Wuhan. The trial is scheduled to finish by 31 December 2020.²⁸²⁷

On 18 March 2020, the leading Chinese experts in traditional medicine from the Chinese Academy of Engineering shared their experience with the American counterparts in diagnosing and treating pneumonia associated with the recent outbreak of COVID-19 in Wuhan. The methods discussed were proved to be effective in-field and thus can be exploited to deal with the spread of disease in the United States.²⁸²⁸

On 18 March 2020, China sent a group of 13 medical experts and 17.3 metric tons of medical supplies to Milan, Italy, to help European countries contain the spread of COVID-19. It's the second flight sent by the Chinese government to Europe. The expert team would share experience with local health authorities in dealing with the novel coronavirus.²⁸²⁹

On 20 March 2020, Chinese health officials and experts held an online conference on the prevention and control of the COVID-19. The conference was attended by health practitioners, experts and

²⁸²³ Novel coronavirus can transmit via aerosol: health authorities, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China 02 February 2020 (Beijing). Access date: 23 March 2020. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-02/20/c_76749.htm

²⁸²⁴ China approves 29-minute testing kit for new coronavirus, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China 08 March 2020 (Beijing). Access date: 23 March 2020.: http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-03/08/c_77478.htm

²⁸²⁵ China to donate 20 mln USD supporting WHO's global fight against coronavirus, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China 08 March 2020 (Beijing). Access date: 23 March 2020.http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-03/08/c_77481.htm

²⁸²⁶ China pledges international pandemic aid, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China 13 March 2020 (Beijing). Access date: 23 March 2020. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-03/13/c_77654.htm

²⁸²⁷ China launches first clinical trial of coronavirus vaccine, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China 22 March 2020 (Beijing). Access date: 23 March 2020. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-03/22/c_78098.htm

²⁸²⁸ TCM experience shared with US counterparts to fight virus, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China 20 March 2020 (Beijing). Access date: 23 March 2020. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-03/20/c_78013.htm

²⁸²⁹ 13-member team of Chinese experts fly to Italy, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China 19 March 2020 (Beijing). Access date: 23 March 2020.http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-03/19/c_77957.htm

officials from 19 countries, influenced with the virus. The aim of the conference was to share positive experience gathered by Chinese health authorities during latest emergency.²⁸³⁰

On 9 May 2020, China has released guidelines on regular COVID-19 prevention. The guide is aimed at prevention of imported cases of the COVID-19 and domestic resurgence, faster response to an epidemic outbreak, better treatment of infected persons and overall recovery of the social and economic order.²⁸³¹

On 10 May 2020, China delivered another batch of anti-coronavirus medical aid to Egypt. The batch included 4.7 tones of medical supplies namely N95 masks, protective suits and detecting reagents.²⁸³²

On 13 May 2020, 12 Chinese specialists were dispatched to Harare, Zimbabwe, to fight against the spread of COVID-19 in the country. The doctors will help in sharing ideas and experiences with local medical practitioners.²⁸³³

On 14 May 2020, Chinese medical experts held a videoconference with counterparts from 24 African countries and the African Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The conference covered more than 50 technical questions related to the clinical diagnosis and treatment methods of COVID-19 and the application of traditional Chinese medicine in its diagnosis and treatment.²⁸³⁴

China is taking steps aimed at further improvement of public health surveillance system and personal training, but no facts proving that China is working on improvement of institutional architecture in the public health sphere have been found.

Thus, China receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

France: +1

France has fully complied with the commitment to improve public health preparedness and response.

On 15 October 2019, the Ministry of Solidarity and Health announced the launch of the Complémentaire santé solidaire (New Complementary Healthcare). The new program came into effect on 1 November. It allows people with modest or low incomes to benefit from additional coverage of health costs.²⁸³⁵

²⁸³⁰ China shares virus knowledge, response with 19 nations in conference, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China 21 March 2020 (Beijing). Access date: 23 March 2020. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-03/21/c_78065.htm

²⁸³¹ State Council issues guideline on regular COVID-19 prevention, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 09 May 2020. Access date: 15 May 2020. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-05/09/c_79992.htm

²⁸³² Egypt receives 2nd batch of anti-coronavirus medical aid from Chinese gov't, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 11 May 2020. Access date: 15 May 2020. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-05/11/c_80052.htm

²⁸³³ China dispatches anti-COVID-19 doctors to Zimbabwe, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 13 May 2020. Access date: 15 May 2020. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-05/13/c_80109.htm

²⁸³⁴ China, African countries share COVID-19 knowledge via video link, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 14 May 2020. Access date: 15 May 2020. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-05/14/c_80139.htm

²⁸³⁵ Nouvelle Complémentaire santé solidaire, Ministry of Solidarity and Health of France (Paris) 15 October 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/nouvelle-complementaire-sante-solidaire>

On 20 November 2019, Prime Minister Édouard Philippe and Minister of Solidarity and Health Agnès Buzyn announced “Investing for the Hospital,” a new component of the “My Health 2022” strategy, aimed at restoring flexibility and leeway for improve the daily lives of hospital teams and to better support them in transformations, around three axes:

- Restore the attractiveness of the trades and (re) make caregivers want to work in the hospital,
- Restore the dialogue and flexibility of management in the daily life of the hospital,
- Reinvest the public hospital by giving it new means and visibility over time.²⁸³⁶

On 30 November 2019, the Health Data Hub was officially launched. New tools, such as mass processing of health data and artificial intelligence will allow significant progress in patient support, assessment and choice of treatments and management of the health system.²⁸³⁷

On 9 January 2020, Minister Buzyn, Minister of Higher Education Research and Innovation Frédérique Vidal and Secretary General for Investment Guillaume Boudy launched the priority research program with EUR40 million dedicated to the fight against antibiotic resistance coordinated by Inserm on behalf of the entire national scientific community.²⁸³⁸

On 6 February 2020, Minister Buzyn concluded a memorandum of understanding with the federations of health establishments and for the first time registered the progression of the resources of health establishments in a multi-year logic. The decisions taken for the 2020 price and budget campaign, like those of the 2019 campaign, are a major break with the long cycle of price cuts that establishments have experienced in recent years.²⁸³⁹

On 25 March 2020, the Ministry of Solidarity and Health set up an accelerated procedure for evaluating research projects. A jury comprising representatives of the scientific committee of the REACTing consortium urgently examined 27 projects related to COVID-19. 11 projects were identified by the jury as priorities to be implemented now. These projects cover a large part of the continuum of health research, from diagnosis to treatment through the psychological impact of the epidemic and concern both patients and caregivers.²⁸⁴⁰

On 8 May 2020, the government decided to finance by health insurance an exceptional premium for professionals present during the crisis, whatever their status, of all accommodation establishments for dependent elderly people (Ehpad) as well as establishments and services accompanying adults and

²⁸³⁶ Agnès BUZYN enclenche la mise en oeuvre des mesures "investir pour l'hôpital", Ministry of Solidarity and Health of France (Paris) 13 January 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/agnes-buzyn-enclenche-la-mise-en-oeuvre-des-mesures-investir-pour-l-hopital>

²⁸³⁷ Création officielle du Health data hub, Ministry of Solidarity and Health of France (Paris) 30 November 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/creation-officielle-du-health-data-hub>

²⁸³⁸ Coup d'envoi du programme prioritaire de recherche sur l'antibiorésistance, Ministry of Solidarity and Health of France (Paris) 9 January 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/coup-d-envoi-du-programme-prioritaire-de-recherche-sur-l-antibioresistance-429001>

²⁸³⁹ Premier protocole d'accord sur l'évolution pluriannuelle minimale des ressources des établissements de santé, Ministry of Solidarity and Health of France (Paris) 6 February 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/premier-protocole-d-accord-sur-l-evolution-pluriannuelle-minimale-des>

²⁸⁴⁰ Ministère des Solidarités et de la Santé — Financement en urgence de 11 projets de recherche appliquée en santé pour près de 9 millions d'euros, Ministry of Solidarity and Health of France (Paris) 25 March 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/ministere-des-solidarites-et-de-la-sante-financement-en-urgence-de-11-projets>

children with disabilities who are financed or co-financed by health insurance. For these professionals, who have worked in the thirty-three departments most affected by the epidemic, the premium will be EUR1,500. For professionals in other departments, it will be EUR1,000.²⁸⁴¹

On 18 May 2020, Minister of Solidarity and Health Olivier Véran and Minister Vidal announced that the “numerus clausus” for the year 2019-2020 will allow nearly 15,000 students to continue their studies to become health professionals. This numerus clausus will be the last. In fact, in application of the law relating to the organization and transformation of the health system, the First Common Year of Health Studies (PACES) and the Numérus Clausus will be abolished from the start of the 2020 academic year in favor of a variety of access routes to Health Studies and to regulation as close as possible to the needs of the territories.²⁸⁴²

France has taken steps to promote public health preparedness and response across all three areas outlined by the World Health Organization.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1 for full compliance.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with the commitment to improve public health preparedness and response.

On 4 October 2019, Germany committed an additional EUR3 million in support of the World Health Organization’s (WHO) fight against Ebola. Minister of Health Jens Spahn pledged this at a meeting of WHO representatives in Goma, Congo. These additional funds will replenish WHO’s Contingency Fund for Emergencies, which was set up in 2015 in the wake of the first major Ebola crisis. With the EUR33.6 million it had donated since the Fund’s creation, the German government became its biggest single contributor.²⁸⁴³

On 23 January 2020, the Global Health Hub Germany awarded the three winning teams of the New Ideas for Global Health competition. The Global Health Hub Germany was founded by the Federal Ministry of Health as an independent network. Minister Spahn called for this competition and invited over 600 members of the Global Health Hub to form cross-stakeholder project teams to jointly develop project ideas to solve global health challenges. In November 2019, a panel of experts selected the top three project ideas. The selected projects range from an app to pay for healthcare services to the promotion of global health at German medical schools and a database on project partnerships.²⁸⁴⁴

On 1 March 2020, the Measles Protection Act entered into force. In particular, the act provides for the proof of age-appropriate measles vaccination protection to be given when being admitted to

²⁸⁴¹ Versement d’une prime exceptionnelle aux professionnels des secteurs sociaux et médico-sociaux, , Ministry of Solidarity and Health of France (Paris) 8 May 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/versement-d-une-prime-exceptionnelle-aux-professionnels-des-secteurs-sociaux-et>

²⁸⁴² Numérus Clausus 2020, Ministry of Solidarity and Health of France (Paris) 18 May 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/numerus-clausus-2020-429464>

²⁸⁴³ Federal Minister of Health, Jens Spahn, commits additional funds to WHO Contingency Fund for Emergencies (CFE), German Federal Ministry of Health 4 October 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/en/press/2019/who-contingency-fund.html>.

²⁸⁴⁴ Spahn: “Strong German network for global health”, German Federal Ministry of Health 23 January 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/en/en/press/2020/global-health-hub.html>.

daycare facilities or schools. Persons who work in community and healthcare facilities must also be vaccinated against this infectious disease.²⁸⁴⁵

On 25 March 2020, the Bundestag adopted the COVID-19 Hospital Relief Act. It comprises a number of measures to guarantee the funding of hospitals and ensure their liquidity. The act contains provisions for out-patient care. Doctors working in practices can expect to receive compensatory payments if they suffer loss of earnings as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. It also amends the Federal Training Promotion Act to ensure that young people who are still in training, and who make a valuable contribution to easing the strain on the health system, do not suffer any disadvantages relating to their loans for trainees.²⁸⁴⁶

On 4 May 2020, Chancellor Angela Merkel pledged EUR525 million for the Global Response Initiative to fight COVID-19.²⁸⁴⁷

Germany has taken actions in all three areas of improving public health preparedness and response.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrey Shelepon

India: +1

India has fully complied with the commitment to improve public health preparedness and response.

On 16 July 2019, the government constituted a committee to examine various aspects of a uniform legislative framework to address issues of assault on clinical establishments and doctors on duty.²⁸⁴⁸

On 18 July 2019, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of AYUSH, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Railways to strengthen inter-ministerial coordination and efforts towards tuberculosis-free India by 2025. Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said that “multisectoral action” is one of the key strategies which makes a strong case for transforming India’s tuberculosis elimination efforts from a siloed health sector response to a holistic approach.²⁸⁴⁹

On 26 August 2019, the Health Ministry signed an MOU with the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for enhanced outreach on HIV/AIDS prevention. It will help in developing specific strategies and action plans for HIV and AIDS prevention and mechanisms for drug addiction treatment and extending social protection schemes to the vulnerable populations. Speaking on the key deliverables of the MoU, Minister Vardhan stated that the MoU will help in developing human resources and build capacity in order to strengthen the service delivery mechanisms for HIV/AIDS

²⁸⁴⁵ The Bundestag adopts the Measles Protection Act, German Federal Ministry of Health 14 November 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/en/press/2019/measles-protection-act.html>.

²⁸⁴⁶ Hospitals and medical practices to be strengthened, German Federal Government 25 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/themen/coronavirus/covid19-krankenhaus-gesetz-1735060>.

²⁸⁴⁷ Billions pledged for the fight against the coronavirus, German Federal Government 4 May 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/geberkonferenz-covid-19-1750332>.

²⁸⁴⁸ Bill on Protection of Resident doctors, Press Information Bureau of Indian Government (New Delhi) 16 July 2019. Access date: 19 May 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1578930>

²⁸⁴⁹ Health Ministry signs MoUs with three Ministries for enhanced cooperation to end TB by 2025, Press Information Bureau of Indian Government (New Delhi) 18 July 2019. Access date: 19 May 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1579436>

prevention, drug addiction treatment and referral to services offered by National AIDS Control Programme.²⁸⁵⁰

On 30 August 2019, the Central Tuberculosis Division of the Health Ministry signed an MoU with Wadhvani Institute for Artificial Intelligence to explore the application of cutting-edge Artificial Intelligence technology in its fight against tuberculosis. As part of the collaboration, Wadhvani AI would be supporting the national tuberculosis program become ready for artificial intelligence (AI), which would include, developing, piloting and deploying AI-based solutions. It would support the programme in vulnerability and hot-spot mapping, modelling novel methods of screening and diagnostics and enabling decision support for care givers.²⁸⁵¹

On 28 March 2020, Minister Vardhan launched the National Teleconsultation Centre (CoNTeC). He said that CoNTeC has been made operational with a view to connect the doctors across the country in real time for treatment of COVID-19 patients. He said that doctors would be available in the facility seven days a week and operational for 24 hours.²⁸⁵²

On 19 April 2020, the Indian government launched an online data pool of doctors including nurses and other health care professionals and volunteers to use by the ground level administration at state, district or municipal levels.²⁸⁵³

India has taken actions in all three areas of improving public health preparedness and response.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Indonesia: 0

Indonesia has partially complied with the commitment to improve public health preparedness and response.

On 7-9 August 2019, in Bekasi, West Java, in order to improve local and national emerging infectious diseases (EIDs) preparedness and to improve the capacity for detection and response to potential public health emergencies the Ministry of Health in cooperation with World Health Organization (WHO) Indonesia hold local EID risk mapping workshops.²⁸⁵⁴

²⁸⁵⁰ Health Ministry signs MoU with Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment for enhanced outreach on HIV/AIDS prevention, Press Information Bureau of Indian Government (New Delhi) 26 August 2019. Access date: 19 May 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1583055>

²⁸⁵¹ TB Division of the Health Ministry signs MoU to explore Artificial Intelligence (AI) based solutions in combating TB, Press Information Bureau of Indian Government (New Delhi) 30 August 2019. Access date: 19 May 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1583584>

²⁸⁵² Dr. Harsh Vardhan launches National Teleconsultation Centre (CoNTeC), Press Information Bureau of Indian Government (New Delhi) 28 March 2020. Access date: 19 May 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1608907>

²⁸⁵³ Government has created an online data pool on <https://covidwarriors.gov.in> of doctors including AYUSH doctors, nurses and other health care professionals, volunteers from NYKs, NCC NSS, PMGKVY, ex Servicemen etc for use by the ground level administration at state, district or municipal levels.

²⁸⁵⁴ Risk Mapping for Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) 07 October 2019. Access date: 28 March 2020. [https://www.who.int/indonesia/news/detail/07-10-2019-risk-mapping-for-emerging-infectious-diseases-\(eid\)](https://www.who.int/indonesia/news/detail/07-10-2019-risk-mapping-for-emerging-infectious-diseases-(eid))

On 13-15 August 2019, Timor-Leste and Indonesia have embarked upon the joint elimination of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. The parties agreed:²⁸⁵⁵

- To develop the details of activity implementation plans for each program,
- To establish the coordination mechanism and service pathway for disease control and prevention of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria,
- To monitor and evaluate the existing joint activities on AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria,
- To evaluate the progress of the baseline assessment for malaria.

On 26 August 2019, Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati said the government intends to set aside IDR48.8 trillion for healthcare in the 2020 state budget (IDR26.7 trillion in 2019) to take into account the increased subsidy for the poor so they can afford their health insurance.²⁸⁵⁶

On 4 October 2019, the Indonesian Ministry of Health, in collaboration with WHO Indonesia and other implementing partners, launched the fifth and final round of Lymphatic Filariasis Elimination Campaign in Malaka District, East Nusa Tenggara. The campaign is called “Bulan Eliminasi Kaki Gajah (BELKAGA),” or “LF Elimination Month.” The campaign aims to accelerate the delivery of preventive chemotherapy medicine to high-risk populations within 118 endemic districts. It is running in conjunction with the annual Mass Drugs Administration for the entire eligible population which began on 1 October and is expected to be completed by 31 October 2019. The National Lymphatic Filariasis Elimination Programme aims to eliminate the disease by delivering single annual doses of diethylcarbamazine citrate and albendazole to all eligible populations living in endemic districts.²⁸⁵⁷

In October 2019, the Ministry of Health in cooperation with WHO Indonesia facilitated antimicrobial resistance (AMR) awareness sessions at universities in three cities across Indonesia: Udayana University, Gadjah Mada University, and Padjajaran University under World Antibiotic Awareness Week 2019 (annually organized by WHO). The sessions targeted medical, dentistry, veterinary, public health, nursing, and pharmaceutical students to sensitise them on the issues of AMR, including the use of antibiotics and the concept of the One Health approach that covers human health, veterinary health, and environmental health. The lectures also highlighted the compliance of health professionals with infection prevention control measures.²⁸⁵⁸

On 16-17 October 2019, in Riau, West Sumatra, in order to improve local and national EIDs preparedness and to improve the capacity for detection and response to potential public health

²⁸⁵⁵ The 3rd Cross Border Meeting between the Republic of Indonesia and the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste on AIDS, TB, and Malaria 28 August 2019. Access date: 28 March 2020. <https://www.who.int/indonesia/news/detail/28-08-2019-the-3rd-cross-border-meeting-between-the-republic-of-indonesia-and-the-democratic-republic-of-timor-leste-on-aids-tb-and-malaria>

²⁸⁵⁶ Bitter Pill to Swallow: Should BPJS Kesehatan Increase Premium to Cover Deficit? 26 August 2019. Access date: 28 March 2020. <https://jakartaglobe.id/news/bitter-pill-to-swallow-should-bpjs-kesehatan-increase-premium-to-cover-deficit/>

²⁸⁵⁷ Indonesia launches final round of Mass Drugs Administration (MDA) Campaign to eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis 22 October 2019. Access date: 28 March 2020. [https://www.who.int/indonesia/news/detail/22-10-2019-indonesia-launches-final-round-of-mass-drugs-administration-\(mda\)-campaign-to-eliminate-lymphatic-filariasis](https://www.who.int/indonesia/news/detail/22-10-2019-indonesia-launches-final-round-of-mass-drugs-administration-(mda)-campaign-to-eliminate-lymphatic-filariasis)

²⁸⁵⁸ Raising awareness on antimicrobial resistance among university students 14 January 2020. Access date: 28 March 2020. <https://www.who.int/indonesia/news/detail/14-01-2020-raising-awareness-on-antimicrobial-resistance-among-university-students>

emergencies the Ministry of Health in cooperation with WHO Indonesia hold local EID risk mapping workshop.²⁸⁵⁹

On 20 and 22 November 2019, the Ministry of Manpower in cooperation with the International Labour Organization conducted two-day workshop titled “Strategic Programme Development on HIV/AIDS Prevention at the Workplace 2020-2024” with participation of various relevant ministries, private sector, workers’ organizations, civil society organizations and United Nations agencies. Making the best use of digitalization and social media channel, greater public and trade union involvement and advocacy as well as sensitization HIV programmes for relevant ministries, local governments and enterprises were key activities proposed to be included in the national HIV/AIDS prevention programme in Indonesia. Other proposed action programmes included the revitalization of HIV working group and the tax incentive program to attract more companies and industries in HIV prevention program at the workplace.²⁸⁶⁰

Indonesia has made progress in one priority area — surveillance systems development, but actions on other two areas were registered yet.

Thus, it receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with the commitment to improve public health preparedness and response.

On 9 September 2019, the Ministry of Health announced the call for researchers to present their research projects aimed at developing innovative procedures in prevention, diagnostics, treatment and rehabilitation. The Ministry of Health allocated EUR100 million to be distributed among the researchers, who’s proposals would be approved.²⁸⁶¹

On 4 October 2019, the national self-sufficiency program for blood and its products, for the year 2019 was published in the Official Gazette. The 2019 program identified the annual objectives, consumption levels, production levels required, compensation and monitoring of the self-sufficiency of blood components.²⁸⁶²

On 14 December 2019, the Ministry of Health highlighted the healthcare measures taken during the first 100 days of the new Government. Among these measures: EUR2 billion allocated for National Healthcare Fund, EUR2 billion allocated for healthcare infrastructure modernization and construction.²⁸⁶³

²⁸⁵⁹ Risk Mapping for Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) 07 October 2019. Access date: 28 March 2020.

[https://www.who.int/indonesia/news/detail/07-10-2019-risk-mapping-for-emerging-infectious-diseases-\(eid\)](https://www.who.int/indonesia/news/detail/07-10-2019-risk-mapping-for-emerging-infectious-diseases-(eid))

²⁸⁶⁰Indonesia to develop Strategic Programme on HIV Prevention at the Workplace 2020-2024 27 November 2019.

Access date: 28 March 2020. https://www.ilo.org/jakarta/info/public/pr/WCMS_733268/lang--en/index.htm

²⁸⁶¹ Bando della ricerca finalizzata 2019, fondi per 100 milioni di euro, Italian Ministry of Health (Rome) 9 September 2019. Access Date: 15 May 2020.

http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=3877.

²⁸⁶² Sangue, programma di autosufficienza nazionale 2019, Italian Ministry of Health (Rome) 22 October 2019. Access Date: 15 May 2020.

http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=3937.

²⁸⁶³ Bilancio dei primi cento giorni di governo in materia di salute, Italian Ministry of Health (Rome) 14 December 2019. Access Date: 15 May 2020.

http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=3995.

On 22 January 2020, the Ministry of Health hosted the first meeting of the task-force convened to coordinate the government healthcare response to the COVID-19 outbreak.²⁸⁶⁴

On 23 February 2020, the government approved the law on urgent measures to contain the spread of COVID-19, allocating EUR20 million to cover the costs, associated with the initial stages of the national health emergency.²⁸⁶⁵

On 17 March 2020, the government issued a new law on increasing the national healthcare service capacities to contain the spread of COVID-19. The measures included financial stimuli for overtime medical workers worth EUR250 million, measures to strengthen surveillance worth EUR5 million in 2020.²⁸⁶⁶

Italy has taken steps to promote public health preparedness and response across all three areas outlined by the World Health Organization.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1 for full compliance.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with the commitment to improve public health preparedness and response.

On 30 July 2019, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) announced it would provide emergency relief goods and personal protective equipment per request from the Democratic Republic of the Congo relating to the Ebola virus disease outbreak.²⁸⁶⁷

On 28 October 2019, JICA signed a grant agreement with the government of Cote d'Ivoire, to provide grant aid of up to JPY4,163 billion for the Project for the Development of the University Hospital Center for the improvement of maternal and child health care services in Abidjan.²⁸⁶⁸

On 28 November 2019, JICA signed the Record of Discussions in Teheran for the “Project for Improving Medical Services in the Islamic Republic of Iran through Japan’s Medical Management Models” to improve medical services for patients with non-communicable diseases and senior citizens through transferring knowledge of, and experiences in, advanced medical services and related

²⁸⁶⁴ Coronavirus 2019-nCoV: riunita la task-force del Ministero della Salute, Italian Ministry of Health (Rome) 22 January 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2020.

<http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioComunicatiNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5373>.

²⁸⁶⁵ Decreto Legge del 23 febbraio 2020 n.6 — Misure urgenti in materia di contenimento e gestione dell'emergenza epidemiologica da COVID-19, Italian Government (Rome) 23 February 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2020.

<http://www.protezionecivile.gov.it/amministrazione-trasparente/provvedimenti/-/content-view/view/1215252>.

²⁸⁶⁶ Misure di potenziamento del Servizio sanitario nazionale, Gazzetta Ufficiale Della Repubblica Italiana (Rome) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2020. http://www.governo.it/sites/new.governo.it/files/documenti/documenti/Notizie-allegati/covid-19/decreto_20200317.pdf.

²⁸⁶⁷ Emergency Assistance to the Democratic Republic of the Congo in Response to the Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak in the eastern part of the country, JICA 30 July 2019. Access date: 23 March 2019.

https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/field/2019/20190730_40.html

²⁸⁶⁸ Signing of Grant Agreement with Cote d'Ivoire: Contributing to the improvement of maternal and child health care through the construction of a maternal and child health care annex, JICA 28 October 2019. Access date: 23 March 2019. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20191028_41_en.html

health policies developed in Japan, including increasing the capacity of Iran's health professionals through training programs in medical technology and management.²⁸⁶⁹

On 26 February 2020, JICA signed a grant agreement with the Palestinian Authority in Ramallah to provide grant aid of up to JPY1,955 billion to strengthen the capacity for diagnosis and treatment of non-communicable diseases at core hospitals in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip through the supply of medical equipment for countermeasures against non-communicable diseases.²⁸⁷⁰

On 6 March 2020, screening for the novel coronavirus was included into coverage by the national health insurance.²⁸⁷¹

On 10 March 2020, a task force set up by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe approved a JPY430 billion (USD4.1 billion) package that includes support for small to medium-size businesses hit by the (COVID-19) coronavirus outbreak, subsidies for parents who need to take time off work due to school closures, funding for development of virus vaccines and test kits and for extra production of protective masks; and announced further plans to provide JPY1.6 trillion (USD15 billion) in interest-free, no collateral loans to help such companies manage the crisis.²⁸⁷²

Japan has taken steps to promote public health preparedness and response across all three areas outlined by the World Health Organization.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1 for full compliance.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with the commitment on improving public health preparedness and response.

On 9 July 2019, the government announced a new regulation on healthcare insurance for foreigners living in the country. From now on, foreign nationals who are planning to stay in Korea for more than six month are obliged to enroll in the state health insurance plan.²⁸⁷³

On 28 January 2020, the government announced the allocation of USD17.7 million (KRW20.8 billion) from the national budget to combat the spread of coronavirus namely KRW6.7 billion set aside for building a quarantine system, KRW5.2 billion for diagnosis and KRW2.9 billion for isolated treatment.²⁸⁷⁴

²⁸⁶⁹ Signing of the Record of Discussions for Technical Cooperation for Iran: Learning from Japan's medical management models to improve Iran's medical services, JICA 28 November 2019. Access date: 23 March 2019. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20191128_41_en.html

²⁸⁷⁰ Signing of Grant Agreement with Palestine: Contributing to the improvement of medical care services and health finance through the provision of medical equipment, JICA 26 February 2020. Access date: 23 March 2019. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20200226_41.html

²⁸⁷¹ Coronavirus testing now covered by Japan's national insurance, Japan Times 6 March 2020. Access date: 23 March 2019. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/03/06/national/science-health/covid-19-tests-japan-national-insurance/#.XnkNKeozapp>

²⁸⁷² Japan unveils US\$4bil package to fight Covid-19, The Star 10 March 2020. Access date: 23 March 2019. <https://www.thestar.com.my/news/regional/2020/03/10/japan-unveils-us4bil-package-to-fight-covid-19>

²⁸⁷³ State Health Insurance to Become Mandatory for Foreigners in Korea 6 Months or Longer, KBS World Radio (Seoul) 09 July 2019. Access date: 18 May 2020. http://world.kbs.co.kr/service/news_view.htm?lang=e&Seq_Code=146515

²⁸⁷⁴ S. Korea to spend W20.8b to combat spread of coronavirus, the Korea Herald (Seoul) 28 January 2020. Access date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200128000704&np=57&mp=6>

On 4 March 2020, the government allocated extra USD9.9 billion to fight against the spread of coronavirus, especially its economic consequences.²⁸⁷⁵

On 6 April 2020, the state-run Export-Import Bank of Korea announced its intention to allocate extra funds to support the country's pharmaceutical companies. The money will go to Korean companies devoted to immunotherapy, gene therapy, health care systems, diagnostic kits and medical devices. It will be used to support them in exporting more products, clinching more overseas investment and expanding to foreign markets.²⁸⁷⁶

On 14 May 2020, the government eased the regulations on telemedicine services. New regulations allow doctors to treat coronavirus patients with mild symptoms via video.²⁸⁷⁷

Korea is taking steps aimed at further improvement of public health surveillance system and personal training as well as improvement of institutional architecture in the public health sphere.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

Mexico: 0

Mexico has partially complied with the commitment on improving public health preparedness and response.

On 21 October 2019, Secretary of Health Jorge Alcocer Varela announced the Wellness Doctors program, aimed at increasing health personnel in rural, marginalized, vulnerable and remote areas, for which the call was launched for doctors and general practitioners, specialists and nurses, who wish to participate in the transformation of the community health system.²⁸⁷⁸

On 11 November 2019, the Ministry of Health issued the call to recruit professionals (doctors, nurses, dentists, health promoters) committed and with a high sense of ethics to work in the most marginal regions of the country.²⁸⁷⁹

On 9 January 2020, the Government of Mexico activated a response plan, which includes preventive travel notice, media monitoring, identification of suspected cases in passengers internationals from China. Since January 16, the Institute of Epidemiological Diagnosis and Reference (Indre), established the diagnostic protocols following the guidelines of the World Health Organization

²⁸⁷⁵ S. Korea drafts W11.7tr extra budget plan to fight coronavirus, the Korea Herald (Seoul) 04 March 2020. Access date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200304000276&np=41&mp=5>

²⁸⁷⁶ Eximbank Korea to create health care funds worth W400b, the Korea Herald (Seoul) 06 April 2020. Access date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200406000968&np=24&mp=3>

²⁸⁷⁷ S. Korea to actively consider telemedicine services amid coronavirus pandemic, the Korea Herald (Seoul) 14 May 2020. Access date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200514000688&np=5&mp=1>

²⁸⁷⁸ 295. En Palacio Nacional, el secretario Alcocer presenta Plan Nacional de Salud e Instituto de Salud para el Bienestar (Insabi), Mexican Government (Mexico City) 21 October 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/salud/prensa/295-en-palacio-nacional-el-secretario-alcocer-presenta-plan-nacional-de-salud-e-instituto-de-salud-para-el-bienestar-insabi>

²⁸⁷⁹ Convocatoria Abierta a Médicos/as Generales, Especialistas y Enfermeros/as para conformar el equipo de Salud del Bienestar, Mexican Government (Mexico City) 11 November 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/salud%7Cseguropopular/articulos/convocatoria-abierta-a-medicos-generales-especialistas-y-enfermeras-para-conformar-el-equipo-de-salud-del-bienestar>

(WHO). The National Liaison Center for International Health Regulations is in continuous communication with WHO and the countries of the affected region.²⁸⁸⁰

On 21 January 2020, an “Epidemiological Notice” was issued to inform the methods for the timely identification of suspicious cases in Mexico and the pertinent preventive measures. submission to the Institute of Epidemiological Diagnosis and Reference (InDRE), as well as its follow-up until the remission of your disease, including its final classification and study of direct contacts.²⁸⁸¹

On 27 January 2020, in Colima, staff from the Health Institute for Wellbeing started the course for Managers of Social Participation in Health and toured hospitals and health centers as part of the coordination to guarantee free medical care and medicines to the population. The activities were led by the head of the National Medical Coordination, Alejandro Ernesto Svarch Pérez, and the Secretary of State Health, Leticia Delgado, along with the representative in Mexico of the Pan American Health Organization Óscar Martínez.²⁸⁸²

On 30 January 2020, the “Standardized Guidelines for Epidemiological Surveillance and by Disease Laboratory by COVID-2019” were published, through which the actions of the National Health System are standardized to identify suspected cases of the new disease, treat them and study them, as well as your contacts. Procedures are also defined for taking biological samples and confirming or ruling out the presence of the new virus, using laboratory techniques. In addition, a chapter for “International Surveillance” is included that describes algorithms and procedures by international health services at air and maritime entry points.²⁸⁸³

On 10 February 2020, the preparation of the “Medical Care Guidelines” for application in general and family medical consultation, general hospitals and high-specialty hospitals, in urban and rural areas, was completed. These guidelines provide each health unit in the country, public or private, with the standardized frame of reference, to provide medical care to suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-2019 disease. Also, they guide the programming of the acquisition of the necessary health supplies in possible scenarios of spread and epidemic intensity.²⁸⁸⁴

On 13 February 2020, Minister Alcocer released recommendations for health personnel on the COVID-19 outbreak where medical personnel can find important information about prevention

²⁸⁸⁰ 015. Acciones de preparación y respuesta ante nuevo coronavirus (2019- nCoV) para la protección de la salud en México, Mexican Government (Mexico City) 22 January 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/salud/prensa/015-acciones-de-preparacion-y-respuesta-ante-nuevo-coronavirus-2019-ncov-para-la-proteccion-de-la-salud-en-mexico>

²⁸⁸¹ 015. Acciones de preparación y respuesta ante nuevo coronavirus (2019- nCoV) para la protección de la salud en México, Mexican Government (Mexico City) 22 January 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/salud/prensa/015-acciones-de-preparacion-y-respuesta-ante-nuevo-coronavirus-2019-ncov-para-la-proteccion-de-la-salud-en-mexico>

²⁸⁸² Personal del Instituto de Salud para el Bienestar inició en Colima el curso para Gestores de Participación Social en Salud, Mexican Government (Mexico City) 27 January 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/insabi/es/articulos/personal-del-instituto-de-salud-para-el-bienestar-inicio-en-colima-el-curso-para-gestores-de-participacion-social-en-salud?idiom=es>

²⁸⁸³ 054. México cuenta con lineamientos para vigilancia epidemiológica, diagnóstico y atención por coronavirus COVID-2019, Mexican Government (Mexico City) 11 February 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/salud/prensa/mexico-cuenta-con-lineamientos-para-la-vigilancia-epidemiologica-diagnostico-por-laboratorio-y-atencion-medica-de-personas-con-sospecha-o-confirmacion-al-nuevo-coronavirus-covid-2019?idiom=es>

²⁸⁸⁴ 054. México cuenta con lineamientos para vigilancia epidemiológica, diagnóstico y atención por coronavirus COVID-2019, Mexican Government (Mexico City) 11 February 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/salud/prensa/mexico-cuenta-con-lineamientos-para-la-vigilancia-epidemiologica-diagnostico-por-laboratorio-y-atencion-medica-de-personas-con-sospecha-o-confirmacion-al-nuevo-coronavirus-covid-2019?idiom=es>

measures in health units, as well as relevant documents to carry out health promotion actions, epidemiological surveillance and disease prevention.²⁸⁸⁵

On 27 February 2020, Director General of the Institute of Security and Social Services for State Workers Luis Antonio Ramírez Pineda assured that the first level of care will be strengthened to make it more decisive and promote prevention in patients. The permanent training workshops for first-level doctors and specialists will increase. He also stressed that the problems in surgery will be solved with the purchase and change of equipment; in addition to incorporating resident doctors to the staff of clinics and hospitals.²⁸⁸⁶

Mexico made progress in two priority areas — surveillance systems development and personnel development, but no action on the third area were registered yet.

Thus, it receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with the commitment to improve public health preparedness and response.

On 2 September 2019, President Vladimir Putin endorsed a list of instructions issued as a follow-up to the meeting on primary healthcare modernization held on 20 August 2019. He instructed the Government of Russia to draft principles for upgrading primary health care; to analyse, jointly with the regional executive authorities, the condition of first-line healthcare, including the assessment of wages in primary care and the degree of wear and tear of the medical equipment, vehicles and buildings of the relevant medical institutions; and to organise the drafting of regional programmes to upgrade primary care in the regions.²⁸⁸⁷

On 2 October 2019, President Putin held a meeting on upgrading primary healthcare. He discussed the principles of upgrading primary healthcare drafted in accordance with his previous instructions, and asked the government to provide the resources for funding regional programmes in this area, and improve the pay system for medical workers.²⁸⁸⁸

On 31 October 2019, President Putin chaired an expanded meeting of the State Council Presidium on Russian regions' tasks in healthcare. He highlighted that the regions must adopt their regional programmes of primary healthcare modernization before 1 July 2020. He also asked the Ministry of Healthcare and other governmental departments to provide comprehensive assistance and support to the regions in this regard.²⁸⁸⁹

On 25 December 2019, President Putin chaired a meeting of the Council for Strategic Development and National Projects. He informed that to increase the availability of primary health care in the

²⁸⁸⁵ Recomendaciones Para Personal De Salud, Mexican Government (Mexico City) 22 February 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/salud/documentos/informacion-para-personal-de-salud>

²⁸⁸⁶ Atacar el rezago quirúrgico y capacitar al personal médico, base del nuevo modelo de salud en el ISSSTE: Ramírez Pineda, Mexican Government (Mexico City) 27 February 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/issste/prensa/atacar-el-rezago-quirurgico-y-capacitar-al-personal-medico-base-del-nuevo-modelo-de-salud-en-el-issste-ramirez-pineda?idiom=es-MX>

²⁸⁸⁷ Instructions following meeting on primary healthcare modernisation, President of Russia 2 September 2019. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <http://en.kremlin.ru/acts/news/61434>.

²⁸⁸⁸ Meeting on upgrading primary healthcare, President of Russia 2 October 2019. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/61706>.

²⁸⁸⁹ Meeting of State Council Presidium on healthcare in Russian regions, President of Russia 31 October 2019. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/61942>.

regions, 432 new medical outpatient clinics would be created in Russia. The regions also purchased 517 mobile medical complexes.²⁸⁹⁰

On 15 April 2020, President Putin instructed the government to simplify the procedure and reduce the time for preclinical and clinical trials and state registration of immunobiological drugs for the prevention of communicable diseases (including vaccines for the prevention of COVID-2019), as well as to introduce the possibility of conducting clinical studies in parallel with preclinical research.²⁸⁹¹

On 17 April 2020, President Putin held a meeting on the construction and repurposing of medical institutions to treat patients with the coronavirus infection in the Russian regions. He informed that over RUB50 billion had been earmarked to support regional healthcare, including over RUB33 billion for reequipping in-patient facilities and fitting out beds for coronavirus patients and another RUB17.7 billion for purchasing modern medical equipment, including ling ventilators and ambulances. In addition, the government allocated over RUB78 billion to finance the process of repurposing regional and federal healthcare facility beds.²⁸⁹²

From 17 April to 15 May 2020, 16 new multifunctional medical centres built by the Defence Ministry to help coronavirus patients were opened across Russia, from Kaliningrad to Kamchatka. They were built in record-breaking time and to a high standard. High-level, skilled medical teams were formed for the new centres as over 2,000 doctors, nurses and other medical staff underwent additional training at the Kirov Military Medical Academy in St Petersburg.²⁸⁹³

On 28 April 2020, President Putin held a videoconference meeting with heads of the Russian regions on countering the spread of COVID-19. He instructed the government, inter alia, to build new hospitals and diagnostic centres, to continuously monitor the situation in the country in general, and in every region specifically, and to regularly update its plans with regard to COVID-19, and take additional measures to strengthen the capacities of the healthcare sector.²⁸⁹⁴

Russia has taken actions in all three areas of improving public health preparedness and response.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrey Shelepov

Saudi Arabia: +1

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with the commitment on improving public health preparedness and response.

On 30 July 2019, the Ministry of Health launched the Medical Referral Program “Ehalati” in the Holy Sites of the Kingdom. The program is an e-system meant to facilitate the procedures of

²⁸⁹⁰ Meeting of Council for Strategic Development and National Projects, President of Russia 25 December 2019. Access Date: 15 May 2020 <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/62411>.

²⁸⁹¹ List of instructions on countering the spread of new coronavirus infection (COVID-2019) in the regions of the Russian Federation, President of Russia 15 April 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <http://kremlin.ru/acts/assignments/orders/63206>.

²⁸⁹² Meeting on construction and repurposing of medical institutions in the regions, President of Russia 17 April 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/63212>.

²⁸⁹³ Opening of Defence Ministry’s medical centres for treating patients with COVID-19, President of Russia 15 May 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/63355>.

²⁸⁹⁴ Meeting with regional heads on countering the spread of the coronavirus, President of Russia 28 April 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/63288>.

referring patients between hospitals of the region or between the health affairs directorates. This referral process is electronically done at the different health levels (primary, secondary, specialized, or reference), based on the medical decision; either due to the lack of medical service or a bed for the patient.²⁸⁹⁵

On 12 September 2019, the Ministry of Health signed a memorandum of understanding with the Projects Support Fund to establish cooperation frameworks between the two sides in areas of joint competence in accordance with their respective roles and in light with the regulations and policies in order to achieve Vision 2030 and improve competitiveness in the municipal sector. The two sides seek to achieve three main objectives, including: expanding the scope of health projects loans, developing targeted strategic stimulus, and developing procedures for a joint action.²⁸⁹⁶

On 30 October 2019, the Ministry of Health organized a workshop on health design challenges. The workshop aims at creation of new and applicable opportunities with clear methodology, identification of problems and generation of ideas that would lead to new innovative solutions.²⁸⁹⁷

On 12–14 November 2019, the Ministry of Health organized an international conference under the title “The Future of Health Facilities Management.” According to the ministry, the conference is an international platform for the exchange of ideas and strategies among thought pioneers, specialists, institutions, companies and government agencies specialized in healthcare provision.²⁸⁹⁸

On 17 November 2019, the Ministry of Health launched an influenza vaccination campaign. The service was launched in 15 cities for the period from 17 to 21 November 2019. The ministry aims to cover the largest possible number of service seekers, expecting that the elderly will benefit most from the service.²⁸⁹⁹

On 10–13 December 2019, the Ministry of Health organized an international conference for mass gatherings medicine. The conference attracted more than 100 participants from 30 countries. The experts discussed the latest developments in the field.²⁹⁰⁰

On 07 January 2020, the Ministry of Health launched an e-platform for health awareness “Live Well.” The ministry aims to make this account the main reference for reliable health information.

²⁸⁹⁵ MOH: «Ehalati» Program Launched at Hospitals of the Holy Sites, Ministry of Health, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 30 July 2019. Access date: 30 March 2020.

<https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/news-2019-07-30-003.aspx>

²⁸⁹⁶ MOH Signs MOU with Projects Support Fund. Ministry of Health, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 12 September 2019. Access date: 30 March 2020. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2019-09-12-001.aspx>

²⁸⁹⁷ MOH Organizes a Workshop on Health Design Challenge, Ministry of Health, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 30 October 2019. Access date: 30 March 2020. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2019-10-30-005.aspx>

²⁸⁹⁸ 3rd International Conference of Saudi Society for Health Administration to be Launched Next Tuesday, Ministry of Health, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 10 November 2019. Access date: 30 March 2020. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2019-11-10-002.aspx>

²⁸⁹⁹ MOH Launches Flu Vaccination Service at Homes, Ministry of Health, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 17 November 2019. Access date: 30 March 2020. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2019-11-17-001.aspx>

²⁹⁰⁰ 100 Experts from 30 Countries Participate in 4th International Conference for Mass Gatherings Medicine, Ministry of Health, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 04 December 2019. Access date: 30 March 2020. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2019-12-04-005.aspx>

The “Live Well” page will provide basic and various health information about the health of all strata of society, from childhood to old age.²⁹⁰¹

On 13 February 2020, the Ministry of Health represented by the Community Participation Program, organized the first Forum of Emerging Health Associations. The forum comes in line with the role of the Community Participation Program to empower the national health associations for integration with the Ministry of Health and meeting community health requirements.²⁹⁰²

On 3 March 2020, the Ministry of Health posted on its Twitter account an infographic explaining how to wash hands appropriately. This comes as part of the ministry’s health-awareness efforts meant to control COVID-19, and a continuation of the series of educational materials it posts on the various media platforms.²⁹⁰³

On 04 March 2020, the Ministry of Health tightened the restrictive measures at land ports amid growing number of confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus. These measures include screening all incoming passengers for symptoms of COVID-19-related diseases and mandatory disclosure of previously visited countries.²⁹⁰⁴

On 05 March 2020, the National Center for Disease Prevention and Control (Weqaya) posted on its official social media accounts a series of preventive guidelines meant to combat the spread of COVID-19. They include the steps to follow when during travels, at public places, mosques, workplaces, and at home.²⁹⁰⁵

On 12 March 2020, the Ministry of Health introduced a new tool for assessment of health risks in gatherings and public places.²⁹⁰⁶

On 17 March 2020, the Ministry of Health issued awareness guidelines on necessary precautionary measures for protection against the novel coronavirus in six languages besides Arabic.²⁹⁰⁷

On 18 March 2020, the Ministry of Health published awareness tips highlighting the proper ways of home quarantine and other precautionary measures using its Twitter account.²⁹⁰⁸

²⁹⁰¹ MOH Launches e-Platform for Health Awareness "Live Well", Ministry of Health, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 07 January 2020. Access date: 30 March 2020. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2020-01-07-004.aspx>

²⁹⁰² MOH Organizes First Emerging Health Association Forum Ministry of Health, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 13 February 2020. Access date: 30 March 2020. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2020-02-13-001.aspx>

²⁹⁰³ MOH’s Guidelines for Sound Handwashing. Ministry of Health, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 03 March 2020. Access date: 30 March 2020. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2020-03-03-005.aspx>

²⁹⁰⁴ MOH: Preventive Surveillance Measures Tightened at Land Ports. Ministry of Health, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 04 March 2020. Access date: 30 March 2020. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2020-03-04-001.aspx>

²⁹⁰⁵ ‘Weqaya’ Center Releases Preventive Guidelines to Combat Novel Coronavirus, Ministry of Health, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 05 March 2020. Access date: 30 March 2020. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2020-03-05-006.aspx>

²⁹⁰⁶ Global Center for Mass Gathering Medicine Deploys ‘Salem Tool’ in COVID-19 Fight, Ministry of Health, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 12 March 2020. Access date: 30 March 2020. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2020-03-12-001.aspx>

²⁹⁰⁷ MOH Issues COVID-19 Awareness Guidelines in Many Languages, Ministry of Health, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 17 March 2020. Access date: 30 March 2020. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2020-03-17-001.aspx>

On 11 April 2020, the Ministry of Health launched a new application to curb the spread of COVID-19. The Tatman App is aimed at providing protection and healthcare to citizens and residents who are self-isolating or in quarantine. The app provides many services including, examination results, updating data of those who were in contact with confirmed cases, daily follow-up of the health status and epidemiological investigation.²⁹⁰⁹

Saudi Arabia is taking steps aimed at further improvement of public health surveillance system and personal training as well as improvement of institutional architecture in the public health sphere.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

South Africa: 0

South Africa has partially complied with the commitment on improving public health preparedness and response.

On 23 January 2020, the National Institute for Communicable Diseases developed clinical guidelines on the novel coronavirus for medical practitioners in South Africa. The guide contains basic information concerning the common signs of infection and possible ways of transmission of the virus.²⁹¹⁰

South Africa is taking steps aimed at personal training, but no facts proving that South Africa is working on improvement of other aspects of public health have been found.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

Turkey: +1

Turkey has fully complied with the commitment on improving public health preparedness and response.

On 24-25 June 2019, Turkey's fourth National Field Epidemiology Conference was held in Ankara; the conference was attended by representatives of World Health Organization, Training Program in Epidemiology and Public Health Network, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and other relevant organizations, to share recent developments to improve qualifications and skills of the healthcare professionals about the field epidemiology.²⁹¹¹

On 2 July 2019, Turkey's HIV/AIDS Control Program 2019-2024 aimed to create a road map to alleviating risk factors and preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS was launched; Turkey's HIV/AIDS Diagnosis and Treatment Guide 2019 was presented by Deputy Minister of Health Emine Alp Meşe, who also announced that all Turkey's citizens diagnosed with HIV are granted access to disease

²⁹⁰⁸ MOH Outlines Procedures for Self-Isolation, Ministry of Health, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 18 March 2020. Access date: 30 March 2020. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2020-03-18-004.aspx>

²⁹⁰⁹ MOH Launches New App (Tatman) to Prevent COVID-19, Ministry of Health, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 11 April 2020. Access date: 15 May 2020. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2020-04-11-004.aspx>

²⁹¹⁰ NICD has measures in place to detect coronavirus in SA, Eyewitness News 23 January 2020. Access date: 25 March 2020. <https://ewn.co.za/2020/01/23/nicd-has-measures-in-place-to-detect-coronavirus-in-sa>

²⁹¹¹ 4th National Field Epidemiology Conference in Ankara, Turkey's Ministry of Health, 25 June 2019. Access date: 21 March 2020. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,55772/4th-national-field-epidemiology-conference-in-ankara.html>

examination and innovative treatment services free of charge within the scope of general health insurance.²⁹¹²

On 4 August 2019, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan opened a city hospital complex in the province of Bursa with a capacity of 1355 beds and equipped with latest technology medical equipment, which became the 10th city hospital opened within large-scale government program of upgrading the country's medical infrastructure; the Bursa hospital investment through public-private partnership totaled USD542 billion and will benefit six million patients of the region.²⁹¹³

On 2 October 2019, it was reported that Advisory Board for Hospital Infections Prevention and Control bringing together infectious diseases and clinical microbiology, medical microbiology and intensive care specialists, pediatricians and infection control nurses was created to prevent health-related infections.²⁹¹⁴

On 20 December 2019, the Ministry of Health published its Strategic Plan for the 2019-2023 period; the plan sets out the aims and purposes of the strategy in order to achieve the goals determined for the healthcare sector until 2023, specifies key performance indicators, details the preparation process, and provides an analysis of the current state of the country's healthcare.²⁹¹⁵ The two main goals of the plan are (1) ensuring and improving public health, and (2) ensuring equal public access to quality medical and healthcare services; the goals are intended to be achieved through:²⁹¹⁶

- Promoting and popularizing healthy living,
- Strengthening of primary healthcare services and increasing their efficiency within the healthcare system,
- Ensuring the accessibility, efficiency and quality of healthcare services,
- Implementing an integrated healthcare services model,
- Enhancing customer and healthcare personnel satisfaction and sustainability, and
- Contributing to the socio-economic development of Turkey and to global health, as well as improving national technology and domestic production in medical sectors.

²⁹¹² Road Map to Fight with HIV/AIDS for 2019-2024, Turkey's Ministry of Health, 2 July 2019. Access date: 21 March 2020. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,56113/road-map-to-fight-with-hiv-aids-for-2019-2024.html>

²⁹¹³ Erdogan opens Turkey's 10th city hospital complex, Anadolu Agency 4 August 2019. Access date: 21 March 2020. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/erdogan-opens-turkeys-10th-city-hospital-complex/1549509>

²⁹¹⁴ Advisory Board for Hospital Infections Prevention and Control, Turkey's Ministry of Health, 2 October 2019. Access date: 21 March 2020. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,57610/advisory-board-for-hospital-infections-prevention-and-control.html>

²⁹¹⁵ Turkey: The Ministry Of Health Publishes Its Strategic Plan For 2019-2023, Mondaq 9 March 2020. Access date: 21 March 2020. <https://www.mondaq.com/turkey/Food-Drugs-Healthcare-Life-Sciences/901634/The-Ministry-Of-Health-Publishes-Its-Strategic-Plan-For-2019-2023>

²⁹¹⁶ Turkey: The Ministry Of Health Publishes Its Strategic Plan For 2019-2023, Mondaq 9 March 2020. Access date: 21 March 2020. <https://www.mondaq.com/turkey/Food-Drugs-Healthcare-Life-Sciences/901634/The-Ministry-Of-Health-Publishes-Its-Strategic-Plan-For-2019-2023>

On 16 October 2019, it was reported that Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency organized a training program in Turkey for Moldovan health professionals in the fields of general surgery, cardiology, neurology, and radiology.²⁹¹⁷

On 12 November 2019, Health Minister Fahrettin Koca and Kazakhstan's Minister of Health Yelzhan Birtanov signed a memorandum of understanding on health investments, under which Kazakhstan plans to construct nine hospitals through public-private partnership scheme operated by Turkey's USHAŞ International Health Services Inc.²⁹¹⁸

On 25 December 2019, the Health Sciences University Ibn-i Sina Faculty and Vocational School opened in Bukhara under coordination of Turkey. It enables further transfer to Uzbekistan of the modern medical training and allied healthcare services model successfully implemented in Turkey.²⁹¹⁹

On 15 January 2020, an oncology rehabilitation center in the National Cancer Center of the Ministry of Health of Mongolia, built with support of Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency, was inaugurated. It will serve an average of 16,000 patients each year in order to raise public awareness about cancer, provide accurate information to patients, and reduce psychological breakdowns during cancer treatment.²⁹²⁰

Turkey has taken actions in all three areas of improving public health preparedness and response.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with the commitment to improve public health preparedness and response.

On 18 December 2019, the Department of Health and Social Care announced that nursing students will benefit from guaranteed, additional support of at least GBP5,000 a year to help with living costs. The funding will be given to all new and continuing degree-level nursing, midwifery and many allied health students from September 2020. It is expected to benefit more than 35,000 students every year.²⁹²¹

On 26 February 2020, a new surveillance system to detect cases of COVID-19 in England was been established by Public Health England (PHE) and the National Health Service (NHS) to strengthen existing systems and to prepare for and prevent wider transmission of the virus. Samples will be tested from patients with severe respiratory infections who do not meet the current case definition for COVID-19. Depending on the results, patients will be given the support they need and rapid public health actions will be taken. A programme of testing with a network of around 100 primary

²⁹¹⁷ Training for the Healthcare Professionals of the Aziz Sancar Diagnostic and Treatment Center, TİKA 16 October 2019. Access date: 21 March 2020. https://www.tika.gov.tr/en/news/training_for_the_healthcare_professionals_of_the_aziz_sancar_diagnostic_and_treatment_center-53810

²⁹¹⁸ Memorandum of Understanding between Turkey and Kazakhstan in the field of Health Investments, Turkey's Ministry of Health, 12 November 2019. Access date: 21 March 2020. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,58502/memorandum-of-understanding-between-turkey-and-kazakhstan-in-the-field-of-health-investments.html>

²⁹¹⁹ Turkey provides training for Uzbek Physicians, Turkey's Ministry of Health, 25 December 2019. Access date: 21 March 2020. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,61781/turkey-provides-training-for-uzbek-physicians.html>

²⁹²⁰ TİKA Built an Oncology Rehabilitation Center in Mongolia, TİKA 15 January 2020. Access date: 21 March 2020. https://www.tika.gov.tr/en/news/tika_built_an_oncology_rehabilitation_center_in_mongolia-55327

²⁹²¹ Nursing students to receive £5,000 payment a year, UK Government 18 December 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nursing-students-to-receive-5-000-payment-a-year>.

care sites across England will also complement the detection system in hospitals, so that both mild and more unwell cases can be found.²⁹²²

On 23 March 2020, the UK government and the UK's Chief Scientific Adviser backed the UK's leading clinicians and scientists to map how COVID-19 spreads and behaves by using whole genome sequencing. Through a GBP20 million investment, the consortium will look for breakthroughs that help the UK respond to this and future pandemics.²⁹²³

On 23 March 2020, PHE informed on continuation of the Field Epidemiology Training Programme. This two-year program is aimed at medical, nursing, scientific, or veterinary staff who are, or whose future career may be, in a post involving field investigation and epidemiology and who want to further enhance their specialist skills. The program provides training and experience to develop the competencies agreed for field epidemiologists in the European Union.²⁹²⁴

On 26 March 2020, Parliament adopted the Coronavirus Act 2020.²⁹²⁵ The act allows recently retired NHS staff and social workers to return to work without any negative repercussions to their pensions. NHS staff are also covered by a state-backed insurance scheme to ensure they can care for patients if, for example, they are moving outside their day-to-day duties while making use of their skills and training. Paperwork and administrative requirements are reduced to help doctors discharge patients more quickly when clinically appropriate, to free up hospital space for those who are very ill and enable clinicians to focus on delivering care. Volunteers will have extra employment safeguards, allowing them to pause their main jobs for up to four weeks while they help care for patients in the health and care system, and will receive a flat rate of compensation to mitigate lost earnings and expenses. This could benefit more than 3 million people who already volunteer in health and care settings and bolster the NHS's capacity to respond to the virus.²⁹²⁶

On 3 April 2020, the Department of Health and Social Care announced that it recruited almost 1,000 patients from 132 different hospitals in 15 days and found thousands more who are expected to join the Randomised Evaluation of COVID-19 Therapy (RECOVERY) trial in the coming weeks, making it the largest randomised controlled trial of potential COVID-19 treatments in the world.²⁹²⁷

On 4 April 2020, the Department of Health and Social Care published the government's COVID-19 testing strategy that lays out how the UK intends to scale up testing programs to deliver on the ambition that anyone who needs a test should have one.²⁹²⁸

The UK has taken actions in all three areas of improving public health preparedness and response.

²⁹²² New surveillance system for early detection of COVID-19, UK Government 26 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-surveillance-system-for-early-detection-of-covid-19>.

²⁹²³ UK launches whole genome sequence alliance to map spread of coronavirus, UK Government 23 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-launches-whole-genome-sequence-alliance-to-map-spread-of-coronavirus>.

²⁹²⁴ Field Epidemiology Training Programme (FETP), UK Government 23 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/field-epidemiology-training-programme-fetp#history>.

²⁹²⁵ Coronavirus Act 2020, UK Legislation. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2020/7/contents/enacted/data.htm>

²⁹²⁶ Emergency bill to strengthen coronavirus (COVID-19) response plans, UK Government 17 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/emergency-bill-to-strengthen-coronavirus-covid-19-response-plans>.

²⁹²⁷ World's largest trial of potential coronavirus treatments rolled out across the UK, UK Government 3 April 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/worlds-largest-trial-of-potential-coronavirus-treatments-rolled-out-across-the-uk>.

²⁹²⁸ Coronavirus (COVID-19): scaling up testing programmes, UK Government 4 April 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-scaling-up-testing-programmes>.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrey Shelepon

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with the commitment to improve public health preparedness and response.

On 18 July 2019, the Department of Health and Human Services awarded around USD20 million through the Health Resources and Services Administration to recipients across 21 states for the purposes of supporting the training of healthcare providers in rural areas. The program is a part of multi-year initiative to expand the physician workforce in rural areas by developing new, sustainable residency programs in family medicine, internal medicine and psychiatry.²⁹²⁹

On 8 August 2019, the Department of Health and Human Services announced the investment of around USD400 million to combat the opioid crisis, enabling the funded community health centers, rural organizations and academic institutions to establish and expand access to integrated substance use disorder and mental health services. USD200 million were awarded to 1,208 health centres across the nation to increase access to high quality, integrated behavioral health services, including the prevention or treatment of mental health conditions and/or substance use disorders.²⁹³⁰

On 4 September 2019, the Department of Health and Human Services announced the allocation of more than USD1.8 billion to states to fight the opioid crisis. The funding was directed at expanding access to treatment and improving monitoring capacities to track data on the drug overdose across the country.²⁹³¹

On 12 September 2019, the Department of Health and Human Services announced the allocation of USD351 million to “56 states, territories and nonprofit organizations through its Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program and approximately USD23 million in funding to three new programs aimed at improving maternal health outcomes.” The program, inter alia, included USD2.6 million in funding to Supporting Maternal Health Innovation Program, designed to provide capacity building assistance to maternal health grantees and other stakeholders.²⁹³²

On 25 October 2019, the Department of Health and Human Services announced the allocation of USD2.27 billion in grants to cities, counties, states, and local community-based organizations, supporting a comprehensive system of HIV primary medical care, medication, and essential support services. Approximately USD628.3 million was awarded to 52 metropolitan areas to provide core medical and support services for people with HIV. USD1.3 billion was awarded to 59 states and

²⁹²⁹ HHS awards \$20 million to 27 organizations to increase the rural workforce through the creation of new rural residency programs, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Washington) 18 July 2019. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/07/18/hhs-awards-20-million-to-27-organizations-to-increase-rural-workforce.html>.

²⁹³⁰ HHS Awards Nearly \$400 Million to Combat the Opioid Crisis, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Washington) 8 August 2019. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/08/08/hhs-awards-nearly-400-million-to-combat-opioid-crisis.html>.

²⁹³¹ Trump Administration Announces \$1.8 Billion in Funding to States to Continue Combating Opioid Crisis, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Washington) 4 September 2019. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/04/trump-administration-announces-1-8-billion-funding-states-combating-opioid.html>.

²⁹³² HHS Awards \$374 Million to Programs Supporting Maternal and Child Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Washington) 12 September 2019. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/12/hhs-awards-374-million-programs-supporting-maternal-child-health.html>.

territories to improve the quality, availability and organization of HIV health care and support services and for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program. USD181.8 million was awarded across the country to 349 local, community-based organizations to provide core medical and support services to people with HIV. Additionally, 76 organizations were awarded approximately USD10.2 million in Capacity Development grants.²⁹³³

On 15 January 2020, the Department of Health and Human Services released the draft 2020-2025 Federal Health IT [Information Technology] Strategic Plan for public comment. The plan aims to enable individuals to access their electronic health information, manage their health and choose appropriate medical institution in case of need.²⁹³⁴

On 27 March 2020, the United States President Donald Trump signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act).²⁹³⁵ On 8 April 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services announced the allocation of USD1.9 billion in response to COVID-19 outbreak under the act. The money was allocated to 1,387 health centres across the country. According to the Department of Health and Human Services communication, the funding would support “health centers’ ability to detect, prevent, diagnose, and treat COVID-19” as well as maintain or increase health center capacity and staff.²⁹³⁶

The United States has taken steps to promote public health preparedness and response across all three areas outlined by the World Health Organization.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1 for full compliance.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with the commitment to improve public health preparedness and response.

On 19 September 2019, the European Commission published the outcome, in the format of a Staff Working Document, of an evaluation of the fee system of the European Medicines Agency. The outcome of the evaluation indicates that the current fee system of the agency is generally efficient and effective. However, the acquired experience indicates that it may need to be revised in order to

²⁹³³ HHS Awards \$2.27 Billion in Grants to Help Americans Access HIV/AIDS Care, Support Services, and Medication, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Washington) 25 October 2019. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/10/25/hhs-awards-2-billion-grants-help-americans-access-hiv-care-services-medications.html>.

²⁹³⁴ Draft Federal Health IT Strategic Plan Supports Patient Access to Their Own Health Information, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Washington) 15 January 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/01/15/draft-federal-health-it-strategic-plan-supports-patient-access-health-information.html>.

²⁹³⁵ S.3548 — CARES Act, United States Congress (Washington) 21 March 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/3548/text?q=product+actualización#toc-id3F19D297D8814FCF8D45C70177412DED>.

²⁹³⁶ HHS Awards \$1.3 Billion to Health Centers in Historic U.S. Response to COVID-19, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Washington) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/08/hhs-awards-billion-to-health-centers-in-historic-covid19-response.html>.

be more flexible to adapt to future developments, including the implementation of the new Veterinary legislation, and also to be more sustainable in the long term.²⁹³⁷

On 23 January 2020, the Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases held its formal meeting in Brussels. The meeting gathered the representatives of Member States, the European Investment Bank and several European Commission services to discuss a wide range of public health policies and initiatives. The Steering Group will have a key role in the strategic planning for the health strand of the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and the health actions of Horizon Europe.²⁹³⁸

On 12 February 2020, the European Commission published its fourth progress report on the implementation of the European One Health Action Plan against Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), which was adopted in June 2017. Substantial progress has been made since the last progress report published mid-2019). This includes meetings of the AMR One Health Network and of the Health Security Committee to enhance cooperation and coordination on AMR and One Health visits to member states to support the implementation of national One Health action plans. Other milestones include the publication of two overview reports respectively on measures to tackle AMR through the prudent use of antimicrobials in animals and on a series of audits carried out in 2017 and 2018 in order to evaluate the monitoring and reporting of AMR in zoonotic and commensal bacteria in certain food-producing animal populations and food.²⁹³⁹

On 19 March 2020, European Commission decided to create a strategic rescEU stockpile of medical equipment such as ventilators and protective masks to help EU countries in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁹⁴⁰

On 24 March 2020, the European Commission launched the “COVID-19 Clinical Management Support System” with the aim to support clinicians in hospitals that are currently facing the coronavirus emergency all over Europe.²⁹⁴¹

On 3 April 2020, the European Commission issued practical guidance to member states to encourage and facilitate cross-border treatment of patients and deployment of medical staff. Cooperation across borders can help ease the pressure on overburdened hospitals by transferring patients suffering from coronavirus for treatment in members where hospital places are available. The European

²⁹³⁷ Medicines: Staff Working Document on the evaluation of the fee system of the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and publication for feedback of an Inception Impact Assessment, European Commission (Brussels) 19 September 2019. Access date: 18 May 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/sante/newsletter-specific-archive-issue.cfm?archtype=specific&newsletter_service_id=327&newsletter_issue_id=17477&page=1&fullDate=Thu%2019%20Sep%202019&lang=default

²⁹³⁸ The Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases holds its Formal Meeting, European Commission (Brussels) 23 January 2020. Access date: 18 May 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/sante/newsletter-specific-archive-issue.cfm?archtype=specific&newsletter_service_id=327&newsletter_issue_id=19493&page=1&fullDate=Thu%2023%20Jan%202020&lang=default

²⁹³⁹ AMR: Commission publishes its progress report on Action Plan, European Commission (Brussels) 12 February 2020. Access date: 18 May 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/sante/newsletter-specific-archive-issue.cfm?archtype=specific&newsletter_service_id=327&newsletter_issue_id=19887&page=1&fullDate=Wed%2002%20Dec%202020&lang=default

²⁹⁴⁰ COVID-19: Commission creates first ever rescEU stockpile of medical equipment, European Commission (Brussels) 19 March 2020. Access date: 18 May 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_476

²⁹⁴¹ Commission launches “COVID-19 Clinical Management Support System”, European Commission (Brussels) 24 March 2020. Access date: 18 May 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/sante/newsletter-specific-archive-issue.cfm?archtype=specific&newsletter_service_id=327&newsletter_issue_id=21060&page=1&fullDate=Fri%2027%20Mar%202020&lang=default

Commission will also support members or non-governmental organizations to send qualified teams of medical personnel to offer assistance across borders.²⁹⁴²

On 10 April 2020, the European Commission, the European Medicines Agency and the European medicines regulatory network have developed a document to provide guidance to stakeholders on adaptations to the regulatory framework to address challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, with a particular focus on crucial medicines for use in COVID-19 patients. The document explains some regulatory flexibilities that can be applied to help pharmaceutical companies cope with the consequences of the pandemic, while ensuring a high level of quality, safety and efficacy for medicinal products made available to patients in the EU.²⁹⁴³

On 13 May 2020, EU member states, with the support of the European Commission, adopted interoperability guidelines for approved contact tracing mobile applications in the EU. This is the first follow-up action envisaged by the toolbox for the use of mobile apps to support contact tracing in response to the coronavirus pandemic presented on 16 April 2020. The guidelines will be complemented by interoperability specifications for cross-border transmission chains between approved apps. This will be supported by structured discussions between members through the eHealth Network. The work of member states to develop and validate the apps will be supported by the New Generation Internet and m-health communities.²⁹⁴⁴

European Union has taken steps to promote public health preparedness and response across all three areas outlined by the World Health Organization.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1 for full compliance.

Analyst: Irina Popova

²⁹⁴² Coronavirus: Commission encourages and facilitates cross-border treatment of patients and deployment of medical staff, European Commission (Brussels) 3 April 2020. Access date: 18 May 2020.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_590

²⁹⁴³ Covid-19: Guidance on more regulatory flexibility for medicines, European Commission (Brussels) 10 April 2020.

Access date: 18 May 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/sante/newsletter-specific-archive-issue.cfm?archtype=specific&newsletter_service_id=327&newsletter_issue_id=21312&page=1&fullDate=Sun%2004%20Oct%202020&lang=default

²⁹⁴⁴ Member States presented interoperability guidelines for approved contact tracing apps in the EU, European

Commission (Brussels) 13 May 2020. Access date: 18 May 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/sante/newsletter-specific-archive-](https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/sante/newsletter-specific-archive-issue.cfm?archtype=specific&newsletter_service_id=327&newsletter_issue_id=22243&page=1&fullDate=Wed%2013%20May%202020&lang=default)

[issue.cfm?archtype=specific&newsletter_service_id=327&newsletter_issue_id=22243&page=1&fullDate=Wed%2013%20May%202020&lang=default](https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/sante/newsletter-specific-archive-issue.cfm?archtype=specific&newsletter_service_id=327&newsletter_issue_id=22243&page=1&fullDate=Wed%2013%20May%202020&lang=default)