

CORONAVIRUS IN CROATIA, 13.03.2020

Press Conference held on March 13th at 9hrs by:

Health Minister Vili Beros, Head of Infectious Diseases Clinic 'Fran Mihaljević' in Zagreb Ms. Alemka Markotić, Director of the Croatian Institute of Public Health
Mr. Krunoslav Capak :

- We have 4 new cases since yesterday (2 in Pula and 2 in Zagreb), and now a total number is 31
- We are waiting for 3 more results, so it is quite possible that in the next few hours we will have 3 more infected patients.
- More than 5.900 people are under self-isolation measures
- We are satisfied because for now we don't have signs of 'local transmission' within the population, and that is very good. But in case situation gets worse, we are ready to react.
- All patients spent time abroad (before coming to Croatia), or are close contacts/family members of patients that arrived from abroad.
- We are checking all contacts of patients; with whom they were in contact, where they went, etc.
- Situation in China is getting better. We hope this will start happening in Europe as well.
- We have been very open and transparent. We say everything we know
- It is clear that number of sick people in Croatia will get bigger in the coming days. But, it is important to know that over 80% of patients has 'mild clinical condition'.
- We can introduce perfect measures, but this will mean nothing if citizens do not behave responsibly. Avoid public gatherings! Avoid travelling abroad or being in contact with those who came from abroad!
- Some faculties in Zagreb have introduced online lectures. Zagreb University told students and professors who came from abroad – to stay home for the next 15 days.

- We don't have enough men to check if people are respecting orders and staying in isolation. But, we have a list of those people. We might give it to Interior Ministry. Also, there are possibilities to track these people via their mobile phones (that's not done yet)
- We ask citizens to stick to self isolation and think what their actions might cause.
- All infected patients are younger people. They don't have heavy symptoms.
- We have enough sanitary inspectors at border crossings
- At this point there is no need to close schools (except Istria). Schools will be closed if we will have local transmission within the population.
- We are working on decentralization. Meaning that we are organizing other centres (in case something happens in Zagreb). They will be in Split, Rijeka, Osijek
- We are focused, responsible, we are learning from mistakes that were done in China and Italy. We also have serious plans if situation gets worse.
- Please act with caution, but without panic