



## EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO COVID-19 in Mixed Migration Context in Bosnia and Herzegovina



# SITUATION REPORT #57 / 12 July 2021

Reporting Period: 29/06 – 12/07/2021

[http://drc.ba/covid19\\_resources](http://drc.ba/covid19_resources)

BIWEEKLY UPDATES:	HIGHLIGHTS
<p><b>1</b> PoC exhibiting symptoms and isolated in reception facilities</p> <p><b>1,058</b> PoCs screened in reception facilities</p> <p><b>0</b> new PoCs confirmed positive for COVID-19</p> <p><b>CUMULATIVE:</b></p> <p><b>274</b> PoCs positive for COVID-19</p> <p><b>77,355</b> COVID-19 screenings in reception facilities and in out-of-site locations</p> <p><b>1,664</b> PoCs tested for COVID-19</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>205,181 cases</b> of COVID-19 confirmed in BiH, <b>9,662 deaths</b> and <b>185,762 recovered patients</b>.<sup>1</sup></li> <li>• <b>1 PoC exhibiting COVID-like symptoms</b> monitored by PHC and DRC medical teams in TRC Blazuj.</li> <li>• <b>No active cases isolated nor monitored by PHC and DRC medical teams in TRCs.</b></li> <li>• <b>2 newly arrived PoCs exhibiting COVID-like symptoms</b> referred to symptomatic isolation in TRC Blazuj.</li> <li>• <b>1,058 PoCs screened for COVID-19 symptoms</b> (all new arrivals to reception centers).</li> <li>• <b>66 PoCs monitored in preventive isolation</b> by DRC Medical Officers (8 in TRC Miral, 58 in TRC Borici).</li> <li>• <b>115 PoCs referred to preventive isolation</b> in reception facilities.</li> <li>• <b>There were no tested PoCs for COVID-19 during the reporting period.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>KEY DEVELOPMENTS AND CHALLENGES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following the official closure of TRC Sedra on 29<sup>th</sup> of June, TRC Borici remains the only family camp in USC, with 58 beds for preventive, and 6 beds for symptomatic isolation. Coordination with all relevant actors, especially Public Health Institute, is crucial in order to ensure compliance with preventive measures and properly maintain the sanitary-epidemiological situation inside the TRC, when it comes to relocation of PoCs from out-of-site locations towards TRC Borici.</li> <li>• New Delta variant SARS-CoV-2 positive cases were reported in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well in the region. The World Health Organization has stated that</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Official statistics for [Federation of BiH](#), [Republika Srpska](#) and [Brcko District](#).

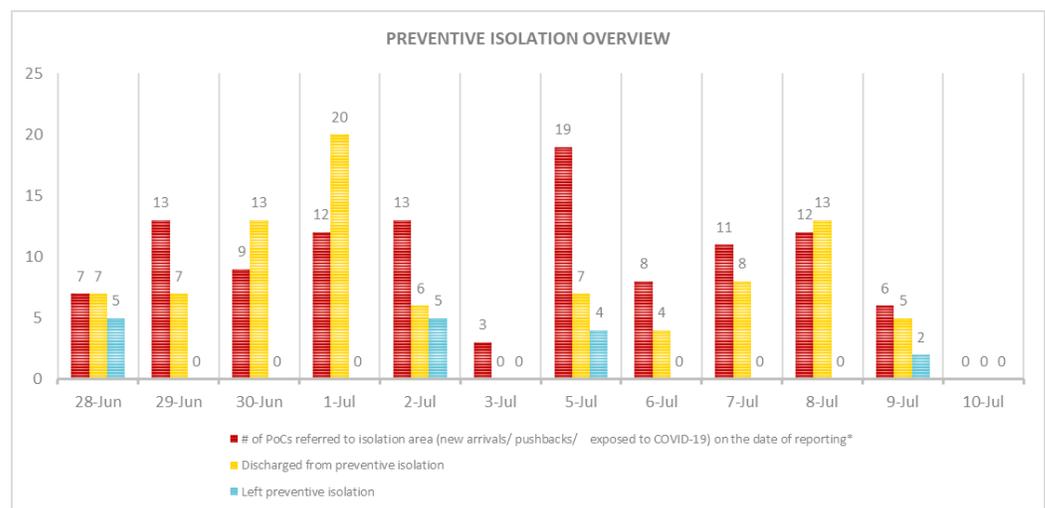
the Delta variant is the fastest and fittest coronavirus strain yet, and it will “pick off” the most vulnerable people, especially in places with low COVID-19 vaccination rates, which includes BiH. It is reported that the variant can have different symptoms compared to previous variants, especially among young and vaccinated individuals. Additionally, WHO recommends that fully vaccinated people continue to wear masks, practice social distancing and other preventive measures in order to decrease the spread of the virus.

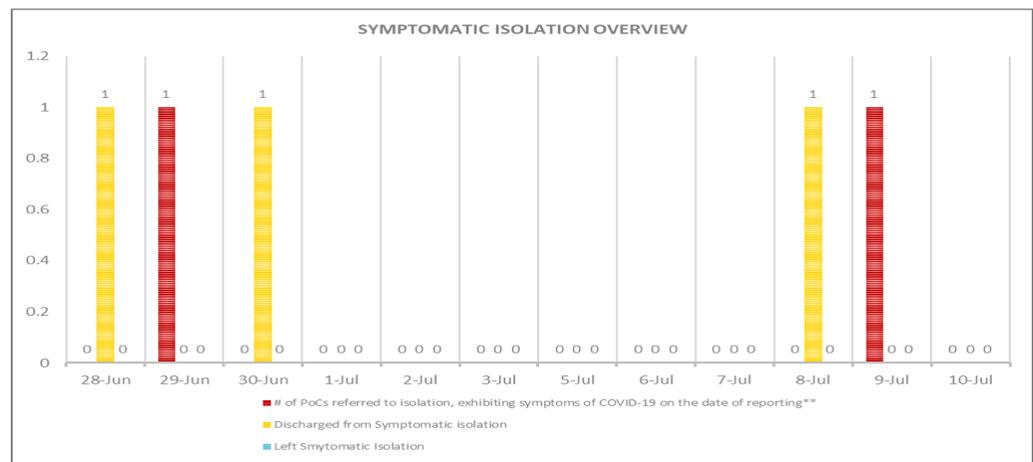
*For more information regarding the [Delta variant visit WHO section on this matter.](#)*

- Hemorrhagic (mouse) fever with renal syndrome has been reported in several locations across the country and the region. This is an endemic infection, meaning that is common for this area during the specific part of the year. It is caused by Hantaan virus, and is transmitted through excrement of rodents (mouse, rat, etc.). Individuals spending the majority of time in nature are prone to come in contact with the virus, especially in the areas where the rodents are common (landfills, abandoned buildings, improvised camps, etc.). The virus is not transmissible from human-to-human. Early symptoms include fatigue, fever and muscle aches, especially in the large muscle groups, followed by urinary and digestive symptoms. Preventive measures include practicing hand and personal hygiene, using clean water and food, as well as avoiding spending time in places with high presence of rodents.

*For more information regarding [Hemorrhagic fever visit Public Health Institute of FBiH section on this matter.](#)*

- A total of 90 PoCs were discharged from preventive isolation in all TRCs in BiH and 3 PoCs from symptomatic isolation, upon expiry of the isolation and monitoring period. In the same period, **18 PoCs left preventive isolation of their own will.**





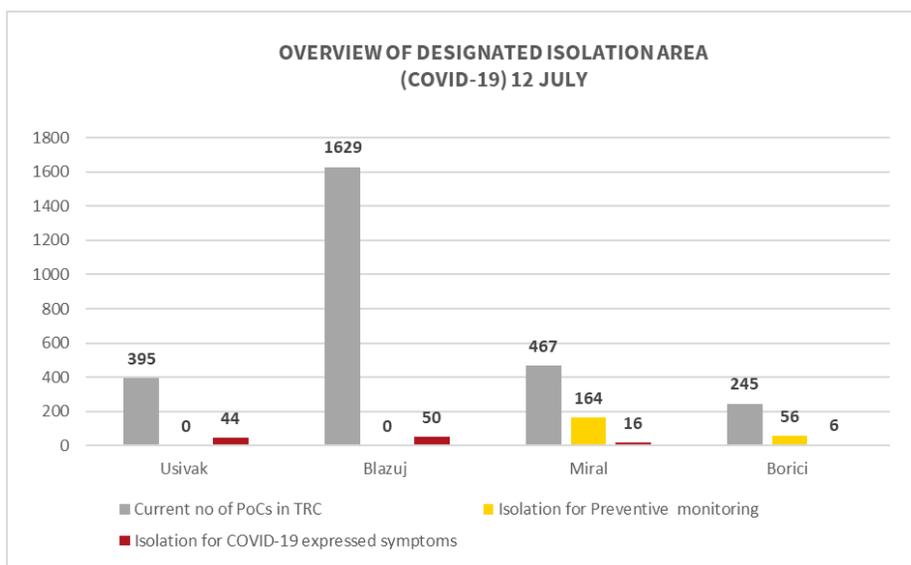
- **Outreach response:**

- PoCs in out-of-site locations are provided with medical assistance by DRC and RC teams visiting the sites, delivering First Aid and performing medical screening of PoCs for COVID-19 symptoms.
- Due to the high number of PoCs in out-of-site locations, DRC outreach teams are performing a higher number of COVID-19 symptom screenings, delivering health educational sessions regarding COVID-19 preventive measures, referring and reporting any suspected case to health authorities. The ban on provision of humanitarian aid, including healthcare, for specific outreach locations is limiting the proper prevention of COVID-19 spread among this population.

**OPERATIONAL PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE**

- **COVID-19 Response in TRCs in BiH:**

- Following the TRC Sedra closure, the capacity of symptomatic isolation areas has been decreased. At the moment, a total of **220 beds** in TRCs in USC are available for preventive isolation and a total of **155** beds for POCs with COVID-19 symptoms in USC/SC/HNC.



- The Danish Refugee Council, through the implementation of “Response to health needs of migrants and general population in relation to COVID-19 outbreak” project funded by the Government of Switzerland, delivered fully equipped triage containers (examination bed and chair, examination light and furniture) to PHC Cazin, PHC Kljuc and PHC Bosanska Krupa. Additionally, 2 solar mobile showers with full equipment were donated to Red Cross teams in Velecevo in order to improve WASH response on site.
- **Coordination with authorities and health actors:**
  - **The temporary reception centers are still considered to have a heightened risk of COVID-19 transmission due to being densely populated and with limited access to proper and regular sanitary facilities, so it is necessary to continue complying with infection prevention and control (IPC) measures recommended by health authorities. Individuals vaccinated (fully or partially) against SARS-CoV-2, regardless of vaccine type, are still obliged to follow all IPC measures in place, since they could still be a source of infection for others.**
- **Measures related to humanitarian staff:**
  - **Humanitarian staff working in the reception centers and out of site locations should continuously self-monitor<sup>2</sup>. In case humanitarian staff have been in contact with persons confirmed positive for COVID-19, they should inform their health provider and follow the suggested measures. Staff exhibiting COVID-19 like symptoms, including fever, should suspend their presence from the reception centers until fully recovered. Additionally, information needs to be shared with DRC medical teams, to ensure contact tracing and mitigating the risk of spread of COVID-19 infection.**

<sup>2</sup> The Federal Institute for Public Health has made available the online self-assessment test on COVID-19, available at <https://www.zzjzfbih.ba/covid-19/>

## MEASURES ANNOUNCED BY BIH AUTHORITIES

On 01.07.2021. the Federal Government of BiH extended the measures currently in place since 03.06.2021.

[Preventive measures extended for another 14 days](#)

On 08.07.2021. Federal Public Health Institute have shared the information regarding number of vaccines delivered and used in Federation of BiH since the beginning of the immunization.

[PHI FBiH shared the number of delivered and administrated vaccines](#)

In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases during upcoming Kurban Bayrami holidays, Federal Veteranary Inspection has shared the several recommendations.

[Preventive measures during Kurban Bayrami](#)

## MEDIA REPORTING

### 1. Bosnia reports 11 new coronavirus cases and six fatalities

Bosnian health officials reported 11 new Covid-19 cases on Monday, along with six virus-related fatalities. The Federation entity reported 10 new cases after testing 1634 samples for the new coronavirus. The entity's Public Health Institute said they recorded three deaths caused by the virus. The Republika Srpska said they registered one new case of the disease after testing 91 suspected samples. This entity also reported having three fatalities over the last 24 hours. Brcko District health officials said they recorded no new coronavirus cases or fatalities.

[Bosnia reports 11 new coronavirus cases and six fatalities - N1 \(n1info.com\)](#)

### 2. Bosnia reports no COVID deaths for the first time in months

Bosnia and Herzegovina has recorded seven new coronavirus cases and no fatalities over the past 24 hours, which is the first day in months with no COVID-related deaths confirmed in the country, the healthcare authorities said on Monday.

[Bosnia reports no COVID deaths for the first time in months - N1 \(n1info.com\)](#)

### 3. Hungary to donate 200,000 Sinopharm vaccine doses to Bosnia

Hungary will donate 200,000 doses of the Sinopharm vaccine against Covid-19 to Bosnia - 100,000 doses to each of the two semi-autonomous entities in the country, the Federation (FBiH) and Republika Srpska (RS).

[Hungary to donate 200,000 Sinopharm vaccine doses to Bosnia - N1 \(n1info.com\)](#)

### 4. Revaccination of Residents of Canton Sarajevo continues Today

Revaccination of 996 residents of Sarajevo Canton with Pfizer vaccines will be performed today in the hall "Juan Antonio Samaranch" (Zetra) in Sarajevo. These are citizens who received the first dose of the vaccine on June 1 this year, the Sarajevo Canton Health Center announced.

[Revaccination of Residents of Canton Sarajevo continues Today - Sarajevo Times](#)

#### **5. Another 11,700 doses of Pfizer vaccine arrive in Bosnia**

Another 11,700 doses of the Pfizer vaccine against Covid-19 arrived in Bosnia and Herzegovina through the EU4Health programme, the BiH Civil Affairs Ministry said on Wednesday.

[Another 11,700 doses of Pfizer vaccine arrive in Bosnia - N1 \(n1info.com\)](#)

#### **6. BiH included in the list of safe countries**

Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union has updated a new list of safe countries with a low COVID-19 risk, which includes Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Kosovo, Radio Free Europe learns.

[BiH included in the list of safe countries | FENA](#)

#### **7. Chinese partner signs contract for vaccine delivery to Bosnia's FBiH entity**

The government of Bosnia's Federation entity has been notified that its Chinese partner signed the contract on half a million Sinopharm vaccines and has finalised all administrative procedures needed for the contract to be implemented.

[Chinese partner signs contract for vaccine delivery to Bosnia's FBiH entity - N1 \(n1info.com\)](#)

#### **8. Čerkez: Epidemiological situation stable, existing measures extended**

Assistant Minister of Health of the Federation of BiH Goran Čerkez said today that the epidemiological situation is still improving, but that it is necessary to continue adhering to the measures, given that there is a high risk of developing coronavirus delta strains.

[Čerkez: Epidemiological situation stable, existing measures extended | FENA](#)

#### **9. Head of WHO in Serbia warns Delta strain could spread in July and August**

*"The fact that the delta strain appeared does not mean that the worsening will happen immediately, but the situation can certainly get worse in July, August. We will see, I hope for the best," Ivanuca told RTS.*

[Head of WHO in Serbia warns Delta strain could spread in July and August - N1 \(n1info.com\)](#)

#### **10. Delta strain detected in test samples of two Bosnian citizens**

*The Delta variant of the new coronavirus has been confirmed in test samples of two citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, chief of the lab and member of the COVID crisis staff in Bosnia's Federation entity Teufik Goletic told N1.*

Two days ago the Delta variant was detected in the samples of two tourists visiting Bosnia and Herzegovina. Speaking to N1 earlier on Monday, Rijad Konjhodzic and Lana Salihefendic of the ALEA Genetic Centre said the Delta variant is likely to become a dominant virus variant in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

[Delta strain detected in test samples of two Bosnian citizens - N1 \(n1info.com\)](#)

**11. BiH will be ready to start mass immunization with new deliveries of vaccines**

Hungarian donation of 200,000 Sinopharm vaccines against coronavirus arrived this morning at the Sarajevo International Airport, and it is the largest single delivery of vaccines for BiH.

Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Zoran Tegeltija, who together with the Prime Minister of the Federation of BiH, Fadil Novalić, received this donation, said that the donation was the result of previous talks and the visit of Minister Szijarto in BiH.

He underlined that the intention was to buy vaccines at market prices, but in the end BiH received the vaccines as a donation, adding that with this morning's delivery of vaccines, 928,000 doses of vaccines arrived in BiH, which is enough to vaccinate priority groups.

He announced that the next delivery of Pfizer vaccines through the EU mechanism will arrive on Wednesday, as well as AstraZeneca vaccines, and that a million doses of vaccines should arrive by the end of this week.

[BiH will be ready to start mass immunization with new deliveries of vaccines - FENA.NEWS](#)

**12. Greece will donate 120,000 Doses of Vaccine to BiH**

Greece will donate 120,000 doses of coronavirus vaccines to Bosnia and Herzegovina, whose manufacturer is "AstraZeneca", it was confirmed from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of BiH.

[Greece will donate 120,000 Doses of Vaccine to BiH - Sarajevo Times](#)

**13. FBiH Government holds a meeting on epidemiological situation and immunization**

A meeting on activities related to the epidemiological situation caused by coronavirus and the process of immunization of the population in FBiH, initiated by FBiH Prime Minister Fadil Novalić, has started at the FBiH Government headquarters in Sarajevo.

[FBiH Government holds a meeting on epidemiological situation and immunization | FENA](#)

**14. CoM Chair: Bosnia currently has about 930,000 doses of vaccines against Covid-19**

The Chairman of Bosnia's Council of Ministers, Zoran Tegeltija, stated on Tuesday that BiH has about 930,000 doses of coronavirus vaccines at this moment, while some two million are still expected to arrive in the country through COVAX and the EU's mechanism.

[CoM Chair: Bosnia currently has about 930,000 doses of vaccines against Covid-19 - N1 \(n1info.com\)](#)

**15. Denmark has offered 250,000 and Greece 120,000 AstraZeneca vaccines to BiH**

The Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina passed a decision on Wednesday asking for international assistance for protection and rescue.

[Denmark has offered 250,000 and Greece 120,000 AstraZeneca vaccines to BiH | FENA](#)

**Stay informed – find the latest information from WHO or related sources:**

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports/>

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

<https://www.epi-win.com/>

We thank you for your responsible behavior in the interest of your own health, but also in the interest of the health of all the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina.