

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

# SITUATION REPORT #43 / 11 January 2021

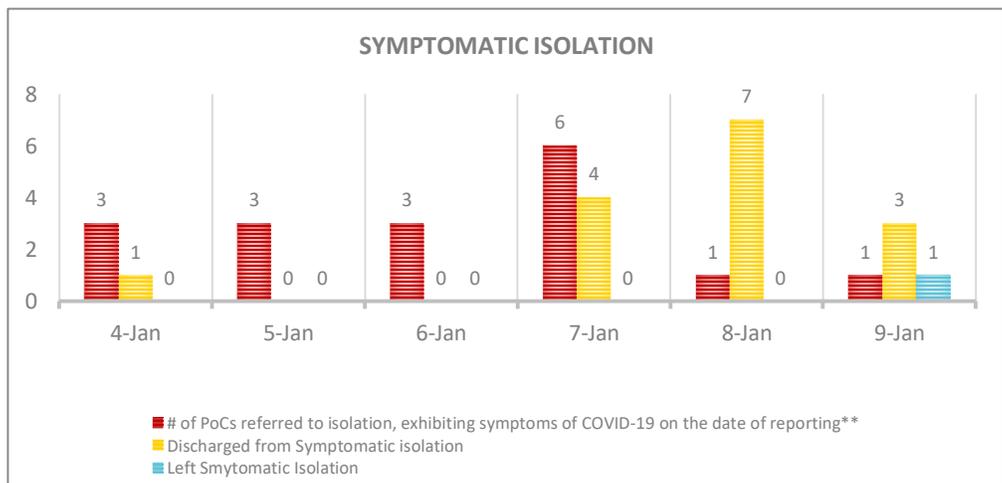
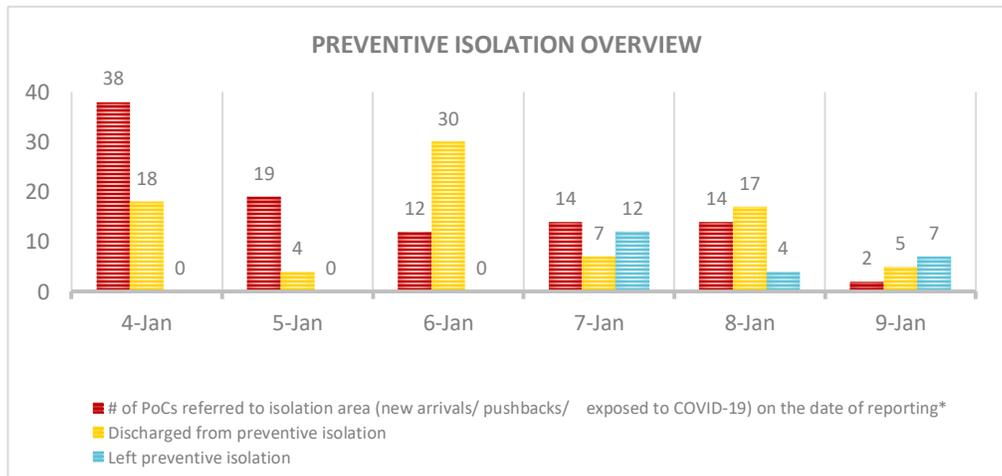
Reporting Period: 04 - 11/01/2021

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

WEEKLY UPDATES:	HIGHLIGHTS
<p><b>16</b> PoCs exhibiting symptoms and isolated in reception facilities</p> <p><b>369</b> PoCs screened in reception facilities</p> <p><b>0</b> new PoCs confirmed positive for COVID-19</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>115,758 cases</b> of COVID-19 confirmed in BiH, <b>4,358 deaths</b> and <b>82,191 recovered patients</b>.<sup>1</sup></li> <li>• <b>16 PoCs exhibiting COVID-19-like symptoms</b> monitored by PHC and DRC medical teams in TRCs: 4 in TRC Miral, 1 in TRC Borici and 11 in TRC Blazuj.</li> <li>• <b>17 new PoCs exhibiting COVID-19-like symptoms</b> referred to symptomatic isolation in reception centers: 2 in TRC Miral, 1 in TRC Sedra, 1 in TRC Borici and 13 in TRC Blazuj.</li> <li>• <b>99 PoCs referred to preventive isolation</b> in reception facilities.</li> <li>• <b>369 PoCs screened for COVID-19 symptoms:</b> all new arrivals to temporary reception facilities in BiH during the reporting week.</li> <li>• <b>47 PoCs monitored in preventive isolation</b> by DRC Medical Officers (31 in TRC Miral, 4 in Sedra and 12 in Borici).</li> </ul>
<p><b>CUMULATIVE:</b></p> <p><b>33</b> PoCs positive for COVID-19</p> <p><b>61,505</b> COVID-19 screenings in reception facilities</p> <p><b>373</b> PoCs tested for COVID-19</p>	<p><b>KEY DEVELOPMENTS AND CHALLENGES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The situation in the former ETC Lipa site remains largely unchanged. Even though capacities for accommodation are being developed by the authorities, there are insufficient and inadequate efforts to establish minimum sanitary conditions for prevention of contagious diseases, including COVID-19 (running water, sanitary facilities, etc.). As observed by the DRC team present during the distribution, <b>many of the service providers are not complying with recommended IPC measures, increasing the risk of an outbreak among this already vulnerable population.</b></li> </ul>

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

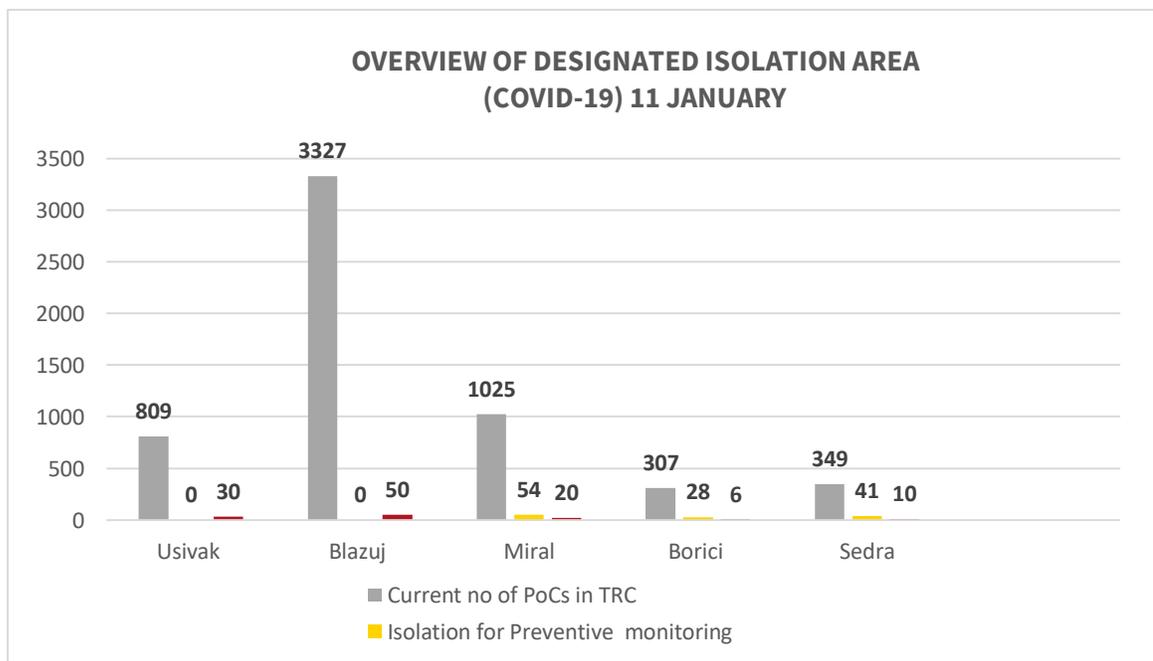
- DRC keeps monitoring and observing PoCs with symptoms related to COVID-19 daily, as well as referring to healthcare if their medical condition deteriorates.
- At this moment all accommodation capacities inside TRC Miral are full, and there is no possibility for further reception of PoCs in the center, not even for medical cases that require further care and supervision. With the current number of nearly 1,200 people within TRC Miral, the initial accommodation capacity of 700 beds is far exceeded. The practice so far has been to accommodate the single male PoCs in TRC Miral, after treatment in one of the health institutions of USC, in order to continue medical care and supervision. The situation in Miral will create additional challenge in provision of quality medical care for the PoCs stranded outside TRCs in USC.
- A total of 81 PoCs were discharged from preventive isolation in all TRCs in BiH, and 15 PoCs from symptomatic isolation, on expiry of the isolation and monitoring period. In the same period, **23 PoCs left preventive and 1 PoC left symptomatic isolation on their own.**



- **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.
  - **DRC teams on Lipa site observed major health concerns of PoCs related to skin infections/conditions, respiratory diseases (COVID-19 like symptoms) and accidental/intentional trauma.**

**OPERATIONAL PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE**

- **COVID-19 Response in TRCs in BiH:**
  - Capacities for preventive and symptomatic isolation in TRCs in BiH have been preserved. At the moment, a total of **123 beds** in TRCs in USC are available for preventive isolation and a total of **202 beds** for PoCs with COVID-19 symptoms.



- In line with COVID-19 testing procedures for the local population, PoCs exhibiting mild or moderate symptoms are not tested, but frequently monitored in isolation areas by both PHC and DRC medical staff. MoH and PHIs are informed on daily basis on the conditions of these patients. Security of isolation areas needs to be improved in order to establish better compliance with COVID-19 preventive measures, since several beneficiaries left isolation during night hours.

- **Coordination with authorities and health actors:**
  - As per request of Ministry of health, Labor and Social Policy of USC, DRC has shared the minimum preconditions that must be met in order for medical teams to be able to deliver appropriate medical services on Lipa site.
- **Measures related to humanitarian staff:**
  - **Humanitarian staff working in the reception centers 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 should be shared with DRC medical teams, to ensure contact tracing and mitigating the risk of spread of COVID-19 infection.**

## MEASURES ANNOUNCED BY BIH AUTHORITIES

Following the Decision of the Constitutional Court of BiH from 22.12.2020. on admissibility and merits in the case of E.Š. and secondly (regarding an order of mandatory usage of face mask), the Government of the Federation of BiH ordered the Crisis Board of the Federal Ministry of Health to review, within seven days, the complete epidemiological situation related to the coronavirus (COVID-19) in the Federation of BiH, make a risk assessment and submit a proposal to confirm or amend the measures set out in the Order of the Crisis Staff of 9.11.2020. years.

[http://www.fbihvlada.gov.ba/bosanski/aktuelno\\_v2.php?akt\\_id=9041](http://www.fbihvlada.gov.ba/bosanski/aktuelno_v2.php?akt_id=9041)

According to the information received by the Federal Ministry of Health from the BiH Ministry of Civil Affairs, the first small contingent of vaccines against COVID-19 manufactured by Pfizer is expected to be delivered to Bosnia and Herzegovina through the COVAX mechanism at the end of January and the beginning of February.

[http://www.fbihvlada.gov.ba/bosanski/aktuelno\\_v2.php?akt\\_id=9043](http://www.fbihvlada.gov.ba/bosanski/aktuelno_v2.php?akt_id=9043)

## MEDIA REPORTING

### 1. Bosnia reports 125 new coronavirus cases and 28 fatalities

Bosnian health officials reported 125 new Covid-19 cases on Monday, along with 28 virus-related fatalities.

<https://ba.n1info.com/vijesti/u-bosni-i-hercegovini-125-novih-slucajeva-zaraze-koronavirusom/>

### 2. BiH Ministry of Civil Affairs coordinates vaccine procurement with entity institutions

In accordance with the expressed needs of the BiH entities and the Brčko District, 1,232,000 doses of vaccines were ordered through the COVAX mechanism, and the needs of the entities for 892,000 doses within the EU

<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/>

procurement mechanism were expressed, announced today the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

[BiH Ministry of Civil Affairs coordinates vaccine procurement with entity institutions - FENA.NEWS](#)

### **3. Bosnia's RS entity expects to receive Russia's COVID-19 vaccine end of February**

Bosnia's semi-autonomous Republika Srpska (RS) entity expects to receive the first doses of the Russian Sputnik V vaccine at the end of February, the head of the RS Public Health Institute, Branislav Zeljkovic, said on Tuesday

[Bosnia's RS entity expects to receive Russia's COVID-19 vaccine end of February - N1 \(n1info.com\)](#)

### **4. Sattler: BiH among the first to apply for vaccines and won't be last to get them**

Minister of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina Ankica Gudeljević and Head of the European Union Delegation to BiH Johann Sattler talked today about the procurement of vaccines for the BiH citizens and the pressure of a part of BiH public onto the Ministry of Civil Affairs and Minister Gudeljević.

Sattler congratulated Minister Gudeljević on the quick and successful coordination of the competent ministries of health and BiH's accession to the two mechanisms for the procurement of vaccines, which is also the safest way for BiH to get the vaccines.

[Sattler: BiH among the first to apply for vaccines and won't be last to get them - FENA.NEWS](#)

### **5. Vaccines should be priority for BiH Council of Ministers and other institutions**

The Joint Committee on Human Rights supported the parliamentary initiative proposed by the Deputy Speaker of the BiH PA House of Representatives Denis Zvizdić, requesting from the BiH Council of Ministers to start negotiations on direct procurement of vaccines for the most endangered categories of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

[Vaccines should be priority for BiH Council of Ministers and other institutions - FENA.NEWS](#)

**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.