

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

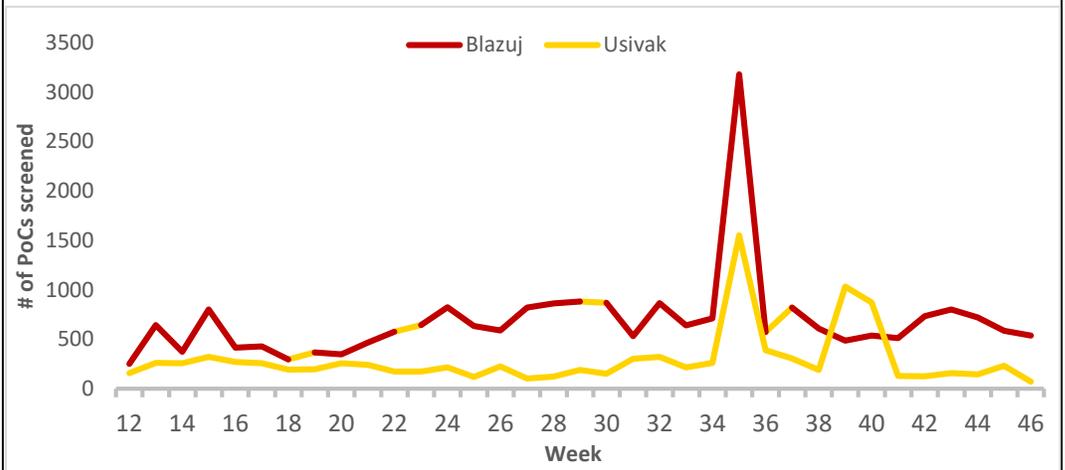
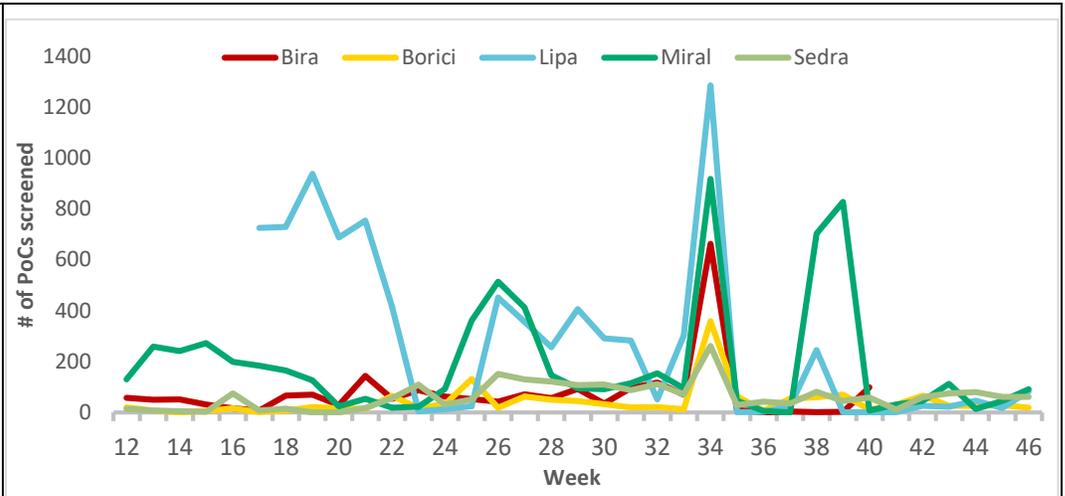
SITUATION REPORT #35 / 16 November 2020

Reporting Period: 09 - 16/11 2020

http://drc.ba/covid19_resources

WEEKLY UPDATES:	HIGHLIGHTS
<p>8 PoCs exhibiting symptoms and isolated in reception facilities</p> <p>864 PoCs screened in reception facilities</p> <p>0 new PoCs confirmed positive for COVID-19</p> <p>CUMULATIVE:</p> <p>28 PoCs positive for COVID-19</p> <p>56,172 COVID-19 screenings in reception facilities</p> <p>345 PoCs tested for COVID-19</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 72,689 cases of COVID-19 confirmed in BiH, 1,972 deaths and 36,473 recovered patients.¹ • 8 PoCs exhibiting COVID-19-like symptoms monitored by PHC and DRC medical teams in TRCs: 4 in TRC Miral and 4 in ETC Lipa. • 6 new PoCs exhibiting COVID-19-like symptoms referred to symptomatic isolation in reception centers: 2 in TRC Miral, 2 in Sedra and 2 in ETC Lipa. • 224 PoCs referred to preventive isolation in reception facilities. • 864 PoCs screened for COVID-19 symptoms: all new arrivals to temporary reception facilities in BiH during the reporting week. • 158 PoCs monitored in preventive isolation by DRC Medical Officers (26 in TRC Miral, 69 in Sedra, 18 in Borici and 45 in ETC Lipa). • 0 PoCs tested for COVID-19. <p>KEY DEVELOPMENTS AND CHALLENGES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of 110 PoCs were discharged from preventive isolation, and 20 PoCs from symptomatic isolation, upon expiry of the isolation and monitoring period. In the same period, 75 PoCs left preventive isolation on their own and 2 PoCs left symptomatic isolation, of which Public Health Institute and Ministry of Health were informed as required.

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



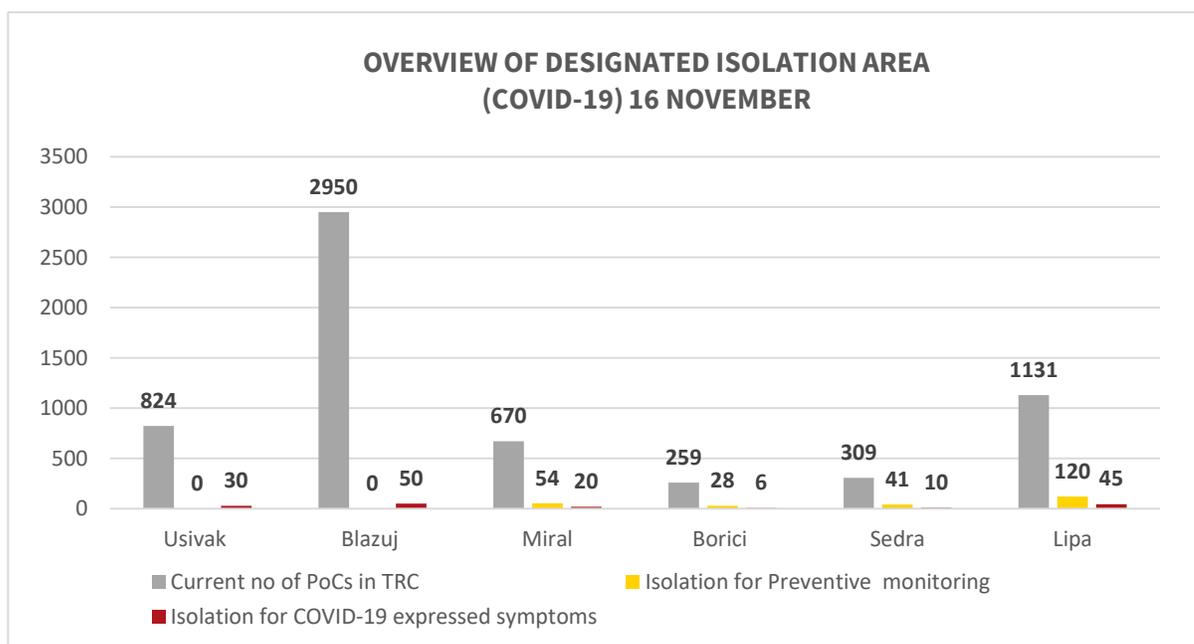
- **Outreach response:**

- PoCs in out-of-site locations are provided with medical assistance by DRC and RC teams visiting the sites, delivering First Aid and doing medical screening of PoCs on COVID-19 symptoms on the spot. Referrals have been maintained for emergency medical cases, however there have been no patients with detected COVID-19 symptoms for urgent response. Quick, on-the-spot health awareness advisory is provided for PoCs at a large number of informal locations.

OPERATIONAL PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

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

- Capacities for preventive and symptomatic isolation in TRCs/ETC in USC remain stable. At the moment, a total of **243 beds** in TRCs/ETC in USC are available for preventive isolation, and a total of **161 beds** for POCs with COVID-19 symptoms.
- In Sarajevo Canton, as per recommendations of the Public Health Institute FBiH, only symptomatic isolation premises are in use. A total of **80 beds**, **30** in TRC Usivak and **50** in TRC Blazuj, are available for isolation of PoCs with COVID-19 symptoms.



- **Coordination with authorities and health actors:**

- DRC held a meeting with the Public health institute of USC providing direct support in development of protocols regarding management of COVID-19 positive cases among population of migrants and asylum seekers inside the public health system.
- “Guidelines for management of COVID-19 infectious waste in the Temporary Reception Centers (TRCs) of Una-Sana Canton”, developed and drafted by DRC, were sent to the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Policy and Public Health Institute of USC for validation prior to implementation.
- The Danish Refugee Council, through the implementation of the “Response to health needs of migrants and general population in relation to COVID-19 outbreak” project, funded by the Government of Switzerland, supported Primary Health Center Stari Grad Mostar and Cantonal Hospital “Safet Mujić” Mostar with specialized medical equipment for COVID-19 management: defibrillator, centrifuge and infrared thermometers, necessary for diagnostic and treatment purposes.

- **Measures related to humanitarian staff:**

- IOM and DRC continue implementing obligatory screening for all staff arriving for duty, including measuring of body temperature and identifying other possible symptoms of COVID-19.
- Camp Coordination and Camp Management Meetings and other large scale gatherings are recommended to be organized through online platforms (Microsoft Teams, Zoom, Skype, etc.), following the recommendations of the Federal Public Health Institute and DRC.
- **Humanitarian staff working in the reception centers should continuously self-monitor².** 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.**
- The DRC Medical Advisor, in communication with the Public Health Institute, keeps monitoring the situation and providing direct counseling and instructions to services deliverers and beneficiaries in TRCs – to reduce risks of COVID-19 spread.

MEASURES ANNOUNCED BY BIH AUTHORITIES

Due to the worsening epidemiological situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Federal Ministry of Health issued an order, imposed from 11th of November, limiting the number of people gathering outdoors and indoors to 30 people. Additionally, complete lockdown is imposed from 11PM until 5AM, meaning all movements are forbidden during this time period:

http://vladausk.ba/v4/files/media/pdf/5faba10df1b3a4.37586961_naredba10112020.pdf

MEDIA REPORTING

1. Bosnia reports 733 coronavirus cases and 74 fatalities

Bosnian health officials reported 733 new Covid-19 cases on Monday, along with record 74 virus-related fatalities. The country's Federation entity reported 430 new cases. The entity's Public Health Institute said they recorded 47 deaths caused by the virus. The Republika Srpska region said they registered 296 new cases. This entity also reported having 26 fatalities over the last 24 hours. The hardest-hit city is Sarajevo once again with a total of 276 confirmed cases. Brcko District health officials said they recorded seven new coronavirus case along with one fatality. According to the state Civil Affairs Ministry, Bosnia so far recorded 72,689 cases of Covid-19, of which 36,473 recovered and 1,973 had died. The Ministry added that there are currently 34,243 active cases in the country.

² 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/>

<http://ba.n1info.com/English/NEWS/a487400/Bosnia-reports-733-coronavirus-cases-and-74-fatalities.html>

2. Entity Health Minister: FBiH health system at the brink of breakdown

The situation is extremely serious and worrying, but despite all the appeals, the people are holding parties, the measures are not being respected - all this is now the result of such behavior. And I think there is no point in appealing, there is no police, no one is doing anything, nightclubs are not closing - some are appealing to close everything, others are saying let the people live and that this is all made up, warned Bosnia's Federation (FBiH) entity Minister of Health, Vjekoslav Mandic on Monday, in an interview with N1.

<http://ba.n1info.com/English/NEWS/a485505/Entity-Health-Minister-FBiH-health-system-at-the-brink-of-breakdown.html>

3. Assistant Minister of Public Health announces new measures

The Assistant Minister of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Goran Čerkez said that a measure restricting movement from 11 pm to 5 am would be introduced in the Federation of BiH as of tomorrow, as well as limiting the number of citizens present at rallies, 30 indoors and 30 outdoors, respecting hygienic-epidemiological measures.

"It is not a 'curfew' but a restriction of movement. Every citizen who is working in this period will have the opportunity to move, everyone else will have to be in their homes, because we have to stop night parties and disco clubs," said Čerkez.

<https://fena.ba/article/1182813/cerkez-ban-on-movement-from-11-pm-to-5-am-as-of-tomorrow-in-fbih>

4. Bosnia's FBiH entity urgently provides 10 mil marks for the health system

The Government of Bosnia's Federation (FBiH) entity provided 10 million Bosnian marks to the Health Ministry, during Tuesday's emergency session, saying the funds will be paid from the entity's current reserves and the 2020 budget.

<http://ba.n1info.com/English/NEWS/a485785/Bosnia-s-FBiH-entity-urgently-provides-10-mil-marks-for-the-health-system.html>

5. Ministry: Bosnia will be among first to procure vaccines against COVID-19

Bosnia and Herzegovina will be among the first countries in the world to acquire vaccines against COVID-19 thanks to a contract the country signed with Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance, the Ministry of Civil Affairs said on Thursday. Bosnia has ordered 1,232,000 doses of the potential vaccine for 20 percent of the population with an average cost of US\$ 10.055, the ministry said.

<http://ba.n1info.com/English/NEWS/a486295/Ministry-Bosnia-will-be-among-first-to-procure-vaccines-against-COVID-19.html>

6. State of Natural Disaster in the Federation of BiH will not be declared

At the session of the Federal Staff of Civil Protection, headed by the Minister of Finance of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Jelka Milicevic, deputies discussed the declaration of a state of natural disaster in the

Federation of BiH at the proposal of the Crisis Staff of the Ministry of Health of FBiH, **Vijesti.ba** writes. After a discussion focusing on the responsibility of the cantons, members of the Federal Civil Protection Staff agreed that no proposal would be sent to the Federal Government to declare a state of emergency in the FBiH. The reason for that, as Avaz finds out, is that only one canton has so far declared a state of emergency, West Herzegovina, while the other nine have not done so.

<http://www.sarajevotimes.com/state-of-natural-disaster-in-the-federation-of-bih-will-not-be-declared/>

7. Final Year Students to volunteer in COVID Departments in Clinical Centre Republika Srpska

More than 50 final year students of the Medical Faculty in Banja Luka volunteered to help in the work in all COVID-19 departments of the University Clinical Center of Republika Srpska, it was announced from that medical institution.

“Final students of the Medical Faculty in Banja Luka have joined their future colleagues, doctors and other medical staff of the UCC of Republika Srpska, in the fight against the coronavirus,” the statement reads.

<http://www.sarajevotimes.com/final-year-students-to-volunteer-in-covid-departments-in-clinical-centre-republika-srpska/>

8. Eighteen new ventilators installed at the Tuzla Clinical Center

The FBiH Civil Protection Administration today delivered 18 ventilators to the University Clinical Center Tuzla, installed for use by the company “Dre Medical”. The engineer in charge, Aleksandar Nikić said that the ventilators were manufactured in accordance with European standards, that they had a CE certificate and that they were “absolutely safe”.

<https://www.fena.news/bih/eighteen-new-ventilators-installed-at-the-tuzla-clinical-center/>

9. Izetbegović: The ventilators we received will be of great help

Sixteen new ventilators have been installed today at the Clinical Center of the University of Sarajevo. The general manager, professor dr. Sebija Izetbegović told FENA that the 16 ventilators will be of great help for their day-to-day functioning.

<https://www.fena.news/bih/izetbegovic-the-ventilators-we-received-today-will-be-of-great-help/>

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.