Coronavirus Covid-19:
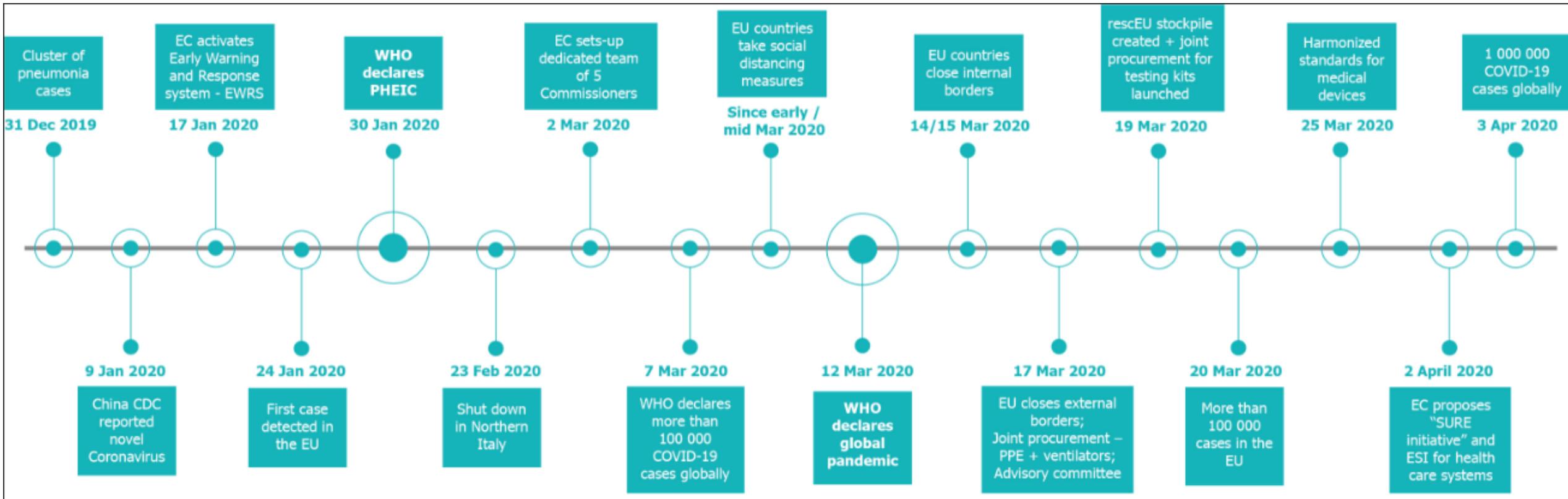# How the Commission supports Member States

Ingrid Keller

European Commission

Health and food safety

3 April 2020

Timeline

EU health security framework – Decision 1082/2013/EU

- Preparedness framework (regular reporting)

- The Early Warning and Response System: member states/commission exchange info on alerts and measures

- Health Security Committee

  - Responsible for coordination of measures

  - Health Security Committee's Communicators' network.

- Joint procurement

The Health Security Committee

- coordinates public health preparedness and response to the outbreak – 12 meetings so far on COVID-19

- discusses: epidemiological situation, risk assessment, capacities (public health and health care, laboratories, medical countermeasures), response measures and recommendations

- New: sub-network on clinical management

- EU role is to complement and support and to assist with EU policies and actions e.g. joint procurement

Member States are responsible for health policies and health actions
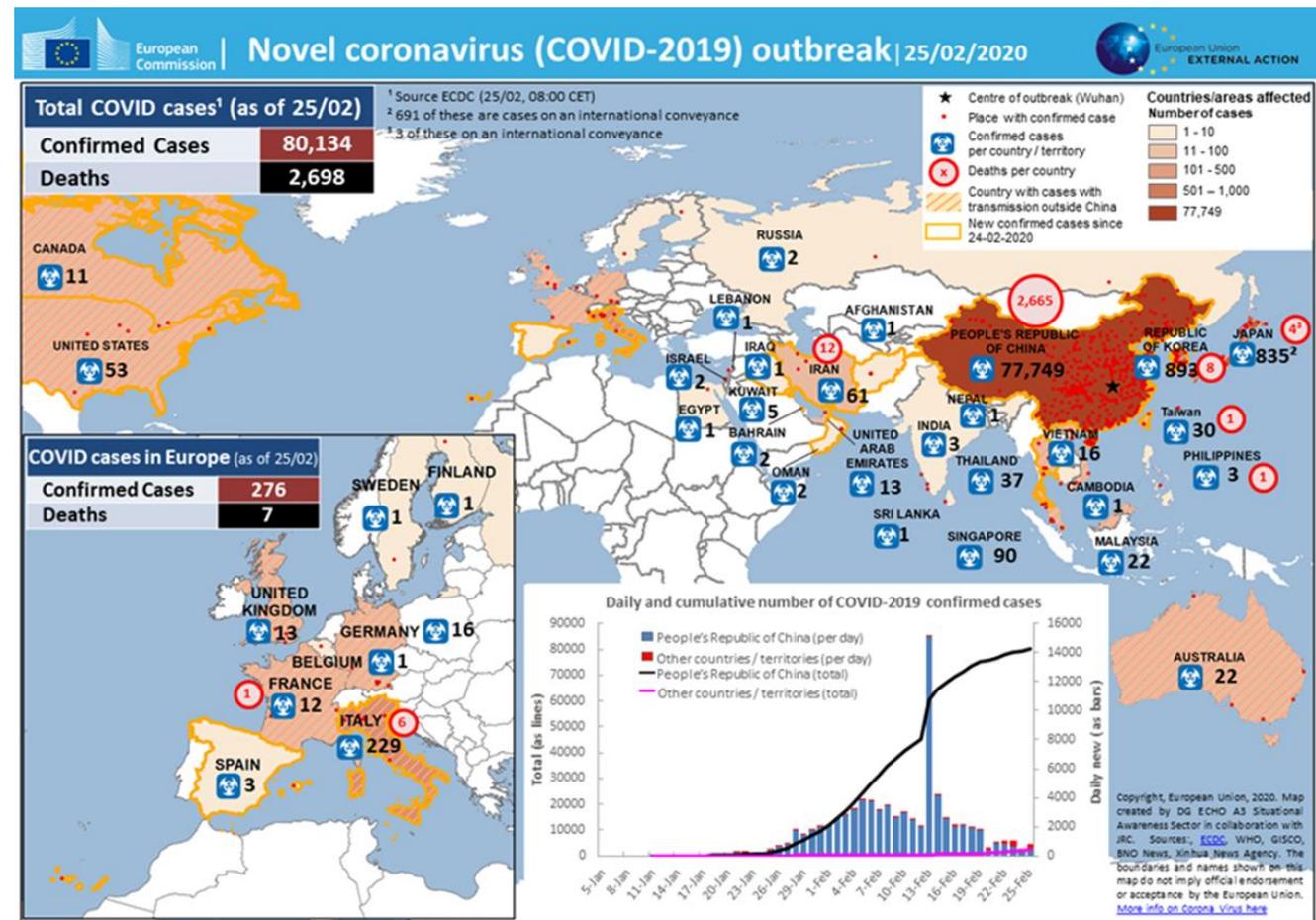
European Response Team

Early European response

- Activation of EU/Member State/Agencies Integrated Political Crisis Response – European Council – EU Presidency

- Commission's Emergency Response Coordination Centre monitoring the outbreak

- Member States reporting cases: EWRS

- EU Civil Protection Mechanism: repatriation of citizens from China, Iran, cruise-ships

Measures by the Commission

- The Commission set out a European coordinated response to counter the economic impact of the COVID-19 outbreak (13 March).

  - Corona Response Investment Initiative

- Guidelines to Member States for health-related border management measures (16 March)

- European team of scientific experts to strengthen EU coordination and medical response (17 March)

- Three extraordinary Health Ministers Council meetings have been convened so far

Ramping up production of personal protective equipment (PPE)

- EC assesses:

  - available stock of PPE

  - production capacity

  - anticipated needs

- Discussion: industry to convert production lines

- Exports of PPE outside EU ➡ export authorization by MS

Joint procurements

Launch of 4 joint procurements of PPE with Member States:

- 28 February: a call for PPE

- 17 March:

  - face masks, gloves, goggles, face-shields, surgical masks, overalls

  - ventilators

- 19 March: a call for testing kits

- Offers received – contracts in the making

- New: EU's RescEU stockpile of medical equipment – building – up

Border and mobility

Bone-marrow, organs for transplantation, blood and tissues...

- Temporary restriction on non-essential travel to the EU (30 days)

- Guidelines on 'green lanes': speedy and continuous flow of goods across the EU important for supplies of pharma

- Guidance: support air cargo operations during the coronavirus crisis

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Promoting research

- €48.5 million for 18 projects by 140 research teams

  - Improving epidemiology and public health

  - Rapid point-of-care diagnostic tests

  - New treatment and vaccine development

- IMI call - up to €45 million from HORIZON2020 – same amount from industry

- CureVac: up to €80 million EIB loan - launch clinical testing of a vaccine by June 2020

Shortages of medicines

- Solidarity between MS is crucial: ensure patients most at need receive treatment

- Close monitoring the supply of medicines with EMA and national authorities

- Weekly EU Executive Steering Group on shortages

- Regular calls with the EU pharmaceutical industry

- Guidelines and Q&As at EU-level

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Clinical Management Support System

- a web conferencing support system for the clinical management of COVID19 patients.

- Based on existing IT structure for European Reference Networks for rare diseases

- Clinicians consult other clinicians in Europe on the more complex cases, exchange information and diagnosis

COVID-19 CLINICAL MANAGEMENT SUPPORT SYSTEM

#COVID19

Using every available euro in every way possible to protect lives and livelihoods

- new EU solidarity instrument - €100 billion - to help workers keep their income & businesses retain staff.

- ESIF - fully flexible – every € directed to

  - support public health efforts or

  - cushion the economic blow for people and businesses.

- use all available € from 2020 EU budget help respond needs of European health systems

  - €2.7 billion - Emergency Support Instrument,

  - €300 million – rescEU stockpile

European Solidarity

Snapshots of European Solidarity

France has donated 1 million masks to Italy and Germany has donated 7 tons of masks and other protective equipment, helping save lives.

Tens of thousands of European citizens have been repatriated from abroad, with most flights being intra-European.
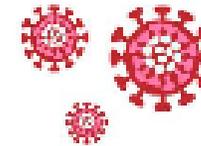
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Three specific groups in the EU Health Policy Platform

Ad-hoc WG of the Health Security Committee on clinical management of COVID-19 cases

The Working group aims to facilitate the exchange of information on best clinical practice, including diagnosis and treatment, and participation in clinical trials to coordinate relevant activities across the EU. ONLY for Members States read less ▲

COVID-19: Researchers chat

COVID-19: Researchers chat

Access to this platform is restricted to scientists working on the EU funded research response to the COVID-19 pandemic

COVID-19: Research to policy action

CoVID - Research to policy action

Access to this platform is restricted to scientists working on the EU funded research response to the coronavirus outbreak (and in addition to SANTE, ECDC & RTD staff). read less ▲

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… and so much more…

European Commission 🔵 ✓ @EU_Commission · 7h

We are working to bring Europeans back home.
✓ 4,384 EU citizens repatriated via the EU Civil Protection Mechanism
✓ Almost 100 flights planned over the next days
✓ We are proposing to boost the #EUBudget by €45 million to help repatriation efforts

EU_Health ✓ @EU_Health · 3h
5️⃣ things to know about #coronavirus

1. 🔵 takes important steps every day
2. False information is harmful
3. Hand hygiene & cough etiquette are simple but vital
4. Physical distancing protects you & those around you
5. We're all in this together

EU Medicines Agency @EMA_News · 1 Apr
EMA #COVID19 advice: ‼️ It is very important that patients & healthcare professionals only use #chloroquine & #hydroxychloroquine for authorised uses or as part of #ClinicalTrials or national emergency use programmes for the treatment of #COVID19.

EASA @EASA · 13 Mar
EASA issues safety directive mandating disinfection of aircraft flying from high risk areas to combat spread of coronavirus #COVID19 easa.europa.eu /newsroom-and-e…

EASA issues safety directive to combat spread of COVID-19 via airline travel

EU_ScienceHub ✓ @EU_ScienceHub · 1 Apr
The lack of positive control materials is among the 3 top challenges faced by labs for the reliable use of #coronavirus tests – our scientists designed a new control material that will ensure tests are working correctly 👉 europa.eu /!mV37bW #EUsolidarity

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Thank you and stay healthy!