

Coronavirus Disease - COVID 19

Weekly Situation Report No. 44 (18 January 2021)



This report is produced by UN Moldova in collaboration with Government and development/humanitarian partners. From 18 September 2020 programme updates will be produced at the end of the month. All past sitreps can be accessed [here](#)

Highlights – data as reported by national authorities

Data as of 17/01/2021, 18:00 p.m.

The growth in coronavirus cases gradually slowed down over the past month and stabilized last week. The average number of daily cases over a seven-day period now stands at 495, which is only slightly less compared to the same figure registered during the previous week. Overall, 152,854 cases have been reported since the beginning of the pandemic;

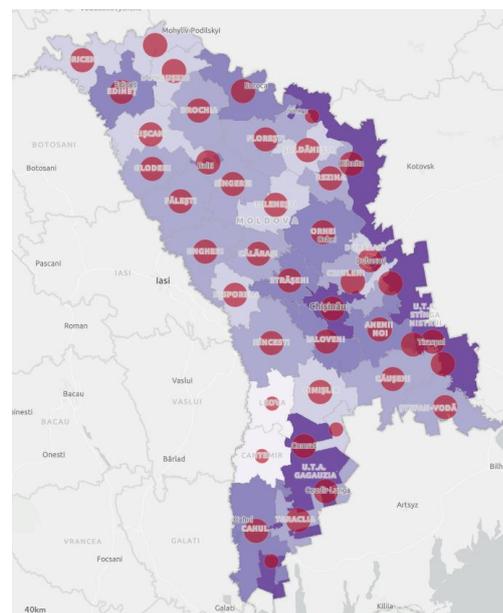
The total number of active cases has also decreased over the past weeks and now stands at 6,454. This is 1,358 cases less compared to the week prior. The proportion of active cases in the total number of registered cases stands at 4.2%. The number of patients with coronavirus treated in hospitals is 2,277, out of which 226 are in very serious condition;

The overall crude cumulative incidence of cases per 100,000 is 4,400. The crude cumulative incidence of cases over the last seven days is 100 and over the last 14 days is 201, with the former figure remaining stable and the latter registering a decrease over the past week;

At the same time, the average number of daily deaths over a seven-day period increased to 15.86 (from 14.57 the week prior). The total number of deaths now stands at 3,250. The case fatality rate remained stable at 2.1%. The average age of patients who have died from the disease stands at 67.1. Nearly 95% of all deaths have been reported in patients 50 years of age and older;

The number of patients who have recovered from the disease is 143,150. This represents 93.7% of all cases and 1 p.p. more compared to last week;

Weekly figures reflect some mixed developments regarding the evolution of the pandemic in the country. The weekly number of new cases decreased by 1.6% last week and stands at 3,463, which is the lowest since September. The weekly number of recoveries also decreased, but remained higher than the number of new cases, continuing to contribute to the decrease in the number of active cases. The weekly number of recoveries now stands at 4,710. The recent decrease in the number of recoveries closely follows the decrease in the number of new cases. At the same time, the weekly number of deaths increased to 111, which is 9 more compared to the week prior. The contagion rate (R0) also increased significantly from 0.82 to above 1 for the first time in five weeks and now stands at 1.13;



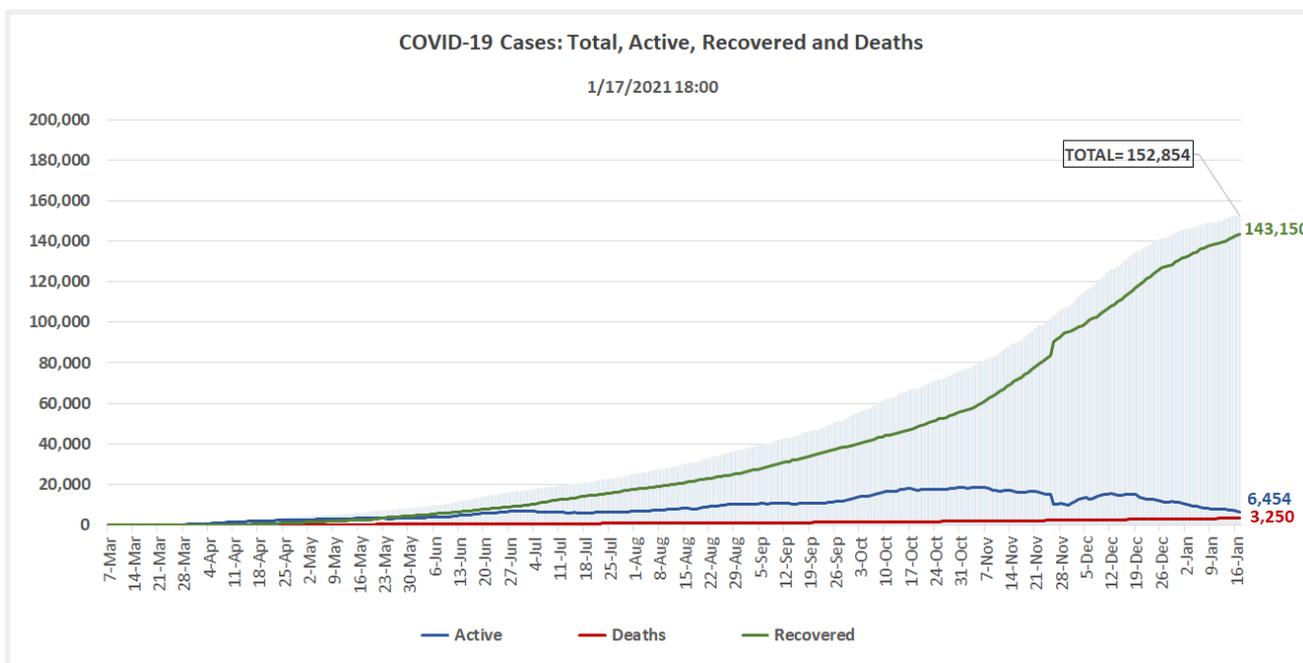
The share of health care workers in the total number of cases currently stands at around 9%. More than 14,000 doctors, nurses, medical assistants and other staff from the health care sector have been infected with the virus since the beginning of the outbreak;

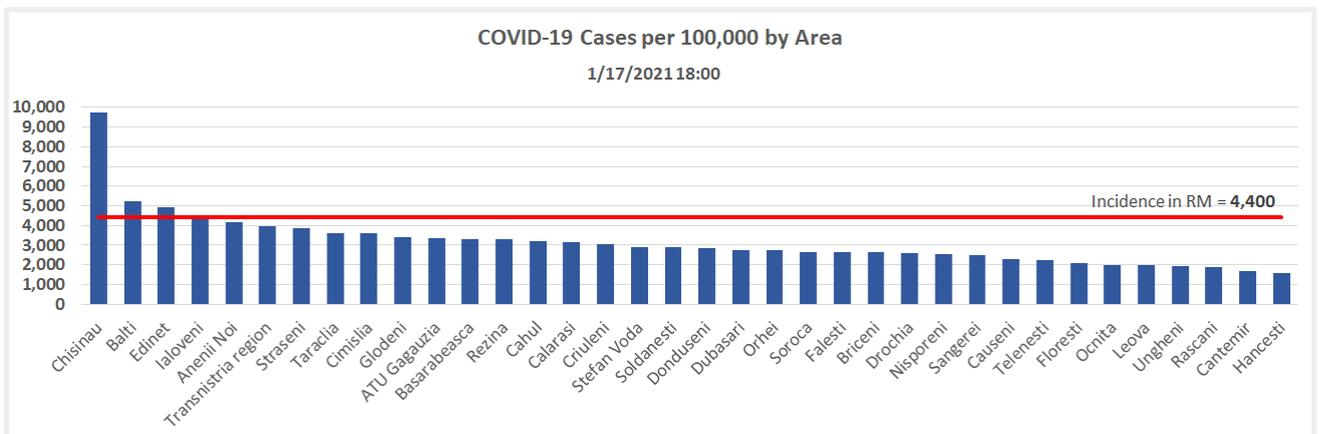
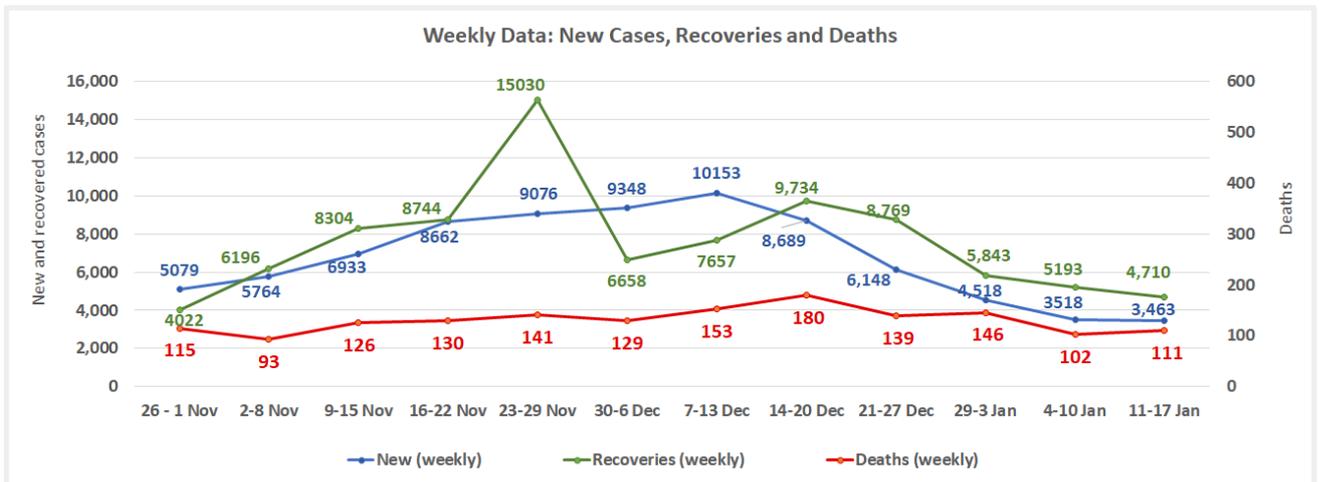
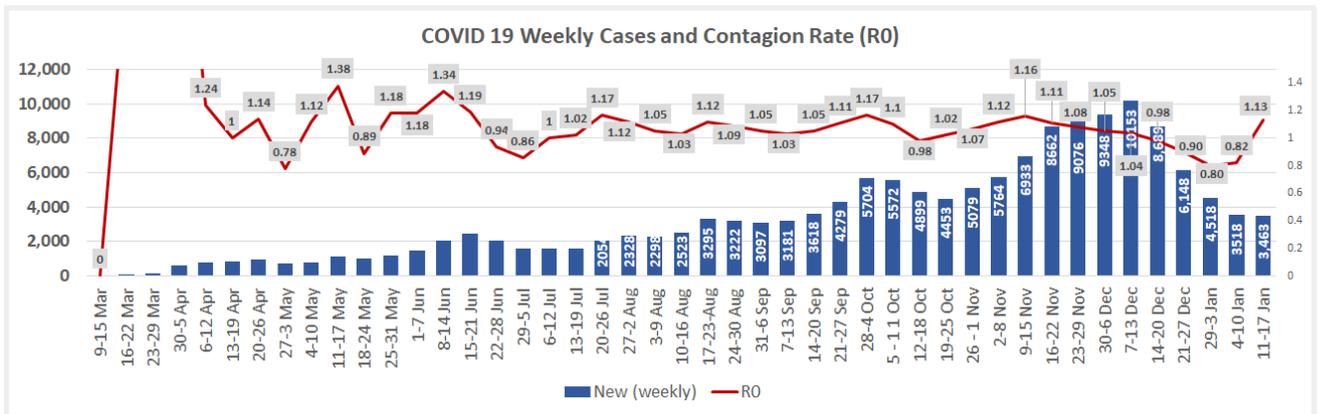
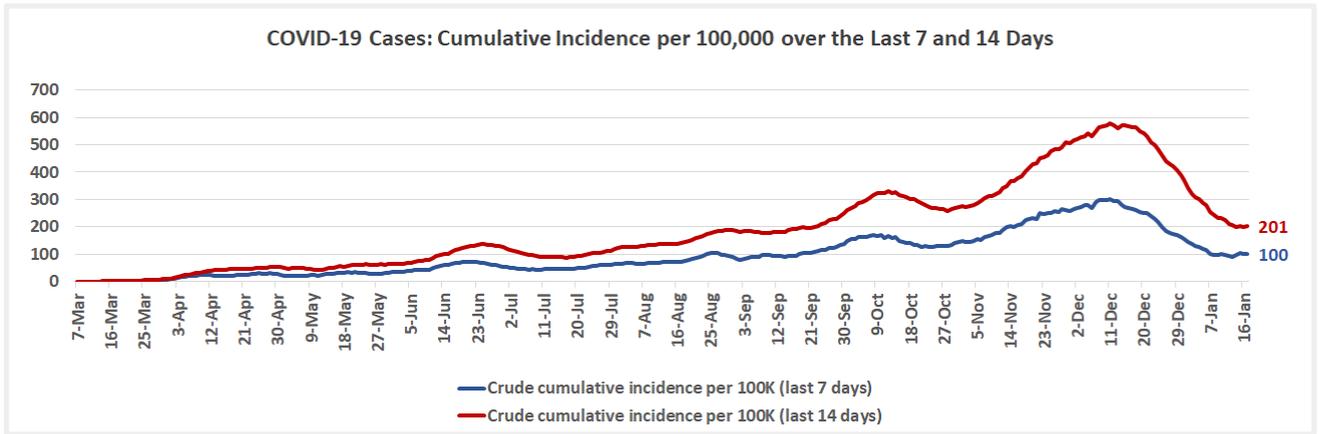
In terms of geographical distribution, Chisinau, with 42% of all confirmed cases, remains the most affected area if the number of cases is considered. With 12% of all confirmed cases, the Transnistria region follows in the list of most affected areas. Balti, ATU Gagauzia and Ialoveni account for another 3-4% of all cases each. All other areas have 2% or less of the total number of cases each. If the size of the population is considered, with 9,725 cases per 100,000, Chisinau remains the most affected area in the country. The capital city is followed by Balti, which has surpassed the 5,000-case mark per 100,000, and Edinet, which is approaching the same milestone;

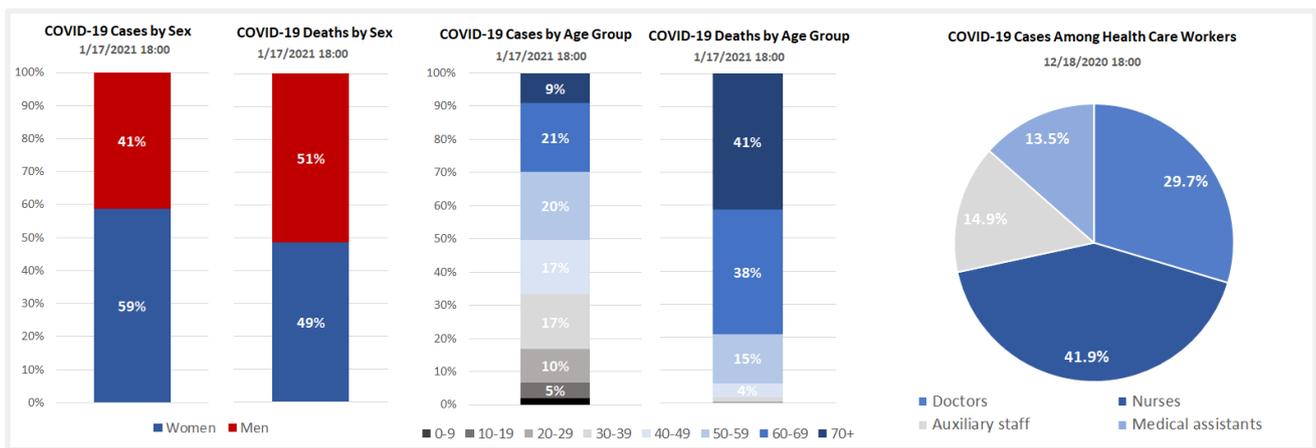
The contagion rate ranges between 0.6 and 1.4 across districts, with Donduseni registering the lowest rate in the country (0.6) and Briceni and Taraclia - the highest (1.4). Falesti, Soroca, Soldanesti, Rezina, Ialoveni and Stefan Voda also have relatively high contagion rates, which range between 1.2 and 1.3. The contagion rate in Chisinau stands at 1.0;

More women continue to be infected with the virus than men, 59% vs. 41%. However, the percentage of men who have died from the disease continues to be slightly higher than that of women, 51% vs. 49%. The case fatality rate among men also continues to be higher than among women, 2.6% vs. 1.8%;

Real time figures and graphs can be accessed in Romanian and in Russian [here](#). This site has over 2.25 million views to date.







Overview & Announcements

- **Education system epi situation**

According to the [Ministry of Education information](#) on the epidemiological situation in the education system, as of January 11, there were no institutions activating only on-line, with only 5 classes being in self-isolation. There were 89 positive cases of COVID-19 infections among students/pupils and 817 were placed in self-isolation, 160 infections among teaching staff, with 109 people being placed in self-isolation.

- **National anti-COVID-19 immunization Plan approved**

The National Extraordinary Commission in Public Health through its [Decision No. 41 from January 13](#), approved the **National anti-COVID-19 Immunization Plan**. The Plan is structured into several parts and stipulates the legal and regulatory framework for the vaccine approval, describes the capacity of the national health system to implement the Plan, its financing, monitoring of the Plan implementation and other aspects of the immunization process.

- **Update on economic indicators: inflation, trade, transportation**

✓ According to the NBS the **annual inflation** rate went down from 0.93% in November to 0.39% in December 2020, out of which 1.66% was for food products, -0.49% for non-foods and -0.30% for services provided to the population. The average consumer prices in December compared to November 2020 increased by 0.32%, which is twice less than in the same period of 2019. Average price increase in December 2020 was caused by growth of prices for food (with 51%) and for non-food products (with 0.37%). Prices for services provided to the population went down by 2.1% in December versus November 2020 only on gas supplies to households, while prices for car insurance went up by 14.9%, external tourism services prices increased by 4.2%, airfare prices grew by 1.9% and hotel services went up by 1.7%. It shall be noted that annual inflation rate fell below the NBM target reaching 0.39% in 2020 compared to 7.54% in 2019. The annual inflation sharp decline was stipulated by a reduction in prices for some fruits and vegetables, fuel (coal and gas), and energy. However, some non-food products prices went up, specifically for automobiles (+8.8%), for sanitation items (+7.6%), car insurance (+25.7%), airfare (+12.6%), foreign language training (+12.7%). Similarly, prices for some food increased in December 2020 versus 2019, inter alia for beans (+22.5%), sunflower (+18.8%), eggs (+12.2%), flour (+7.1%).

- ✓ According to the NBS, **exports** in November 2020 grew by 5.1% against the previous month, however it was still by 1.7% less than exports in November 2019. Total exports during January–November 2020 was by 11.5% lower than for the same period of 2019. Noteworthy that exports of entirely domestically produced goods that account for 76.9% of all exports declined by only 4.4%. Export to the EU during January–November 2020 declined by 7.1% versus 2019, while the decline in exports to the CIS was twice as big (15.9%). Moldova’s top 5 key export partners remained the same: Romania (28.4%), Germany (9.2%), Russia (8.7%), Italy (8.6%), Turkey (6.6%). However, Belarus and Ukraine reduced their imports from Moldova while Czech Republic and Hungary emerged as new trade partners. In terms of export structure, dominating product categories are automotive equipment and devices (23%), food and livestock (21.6%), various processed products (20.7%), non-food raw materials (10.5%), beverages and tobacco (7.5%), manufactured goods (7%). On the import side, the share of imported goods fell by 8.6% during January–November 2020 versus the same period of 2019. Out of this, the decline of imports from EU-27 was 14.1% while that from CIS – by 7.4%. Import by countries of origin is dominated by China (11.8%), followed by Romania (11.7%), Russia (10.9%), Ukraine (9.9%), Germany (8.4%), Turkey (7.%) and Italy (6.4%). Despite substantial decline in import from many European countries, the EU remains Moldova’s main trade partner which accounts for 67.1% of total exports and 45.5% of total imports, while CIS has a share of only 15% of all exports and 24.4% in total imports. As a result of export-import dynamics, the trade balance deficit despite being still negative, reduced by 5.8% versus the same period of 2019.
- ✓ According to the NBS, the number of passengers that used **public transportation** declined by 46.7% between January and November 2020 versus the same period of 2019. Furthermore, the share of those travelling by airplane reduced with 76.3%, by road transport – with 46.4%, by railway – by 40%. Partially as a result of reduced movement of people, the remittances in favour of individuals residing in Moldova went up (NBM) during quarter III 2020. If compared to 2019, the amount and value of remittances received by individuals in Moldova went up by 34.5% in Q3’2020 versus the same period of 2019, while the average value of remitted transfers were \$US 511.3.

Update on Restrictions*

***these are subject to changes and amendment and should be viewed as an overview and not as a definitive source for decision making**

The state of emergency in public health was prolonged through 15 February 2021 by the [Decision No. 42](#) of the National Extraordinary Commission in Public Health. The Decision among others, approves a new set of restrictions for the border crossing into the Republic of Moldova (Annex 1). In this context, the MoHLSP will have to update the list of countries with red and green classifications and travel from the Red Zone to be stopped. The activity of restaurants and public catering will activate in the same parameters as previously (from 7:00 to 22:00) and the night clubs will remain closed.