

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

## Monitoring and assessing national health systems' capacity

# Current legal framework - Regulation (EC) No 851/2004 establishing a European centre for disease prevention and control



- No specific tasks for ECDC related to health systems' capacity monitoring in the current mandate.
- Tasks currently performed by ECDC under the existing mandate directly or indirectly providing information on MS health systems' capacity:
  - ECDC conducts the Article 4 surveys every three years under the CBTH decision to provide the Commission with an update on the latest situation with regard to the MS preparedness and response planning at national level.
  - Through the EU Laboratory Capability Monitoring System bi-annual surveys ECDC assesses key public health microbiology service capabilities and capacities for EU surveillance and epidemic preparedness. These results help policymakers to identify possible areas for action and evaluate the functional impact of capacitystrengthening activities and health system reforms.
  - ECDC monitors certain indicators to support the European Commission and MS in addressing the Sustainable Development Goals in the area of HIV, TB and hepatitis.
  - ECDC collects, analyses and disseminates surveillance data on over 58 communicable diseases and related special health issues from all EU/EEA countries. Through its surveillance activities ECDC monitors trends in communicable diseases over time and across Member States to assess the present situation, respond to rises above warning thresholds and facilitate appropriate evidence-based action.

# Legal framework - Proposal for amending the ECDC Founding Regulation relating to national health systems' capacity monitoring



**Whereas (10)** The Centre should...monitor and assess the capacity of national health systems for diagnosis, prevention and treatment of communicable diseases, including in a gender-sensitive way

**Article 4 (d)** The Centre shall...monitor and assess health systems' capacity for diagnosis, prevention and treatment of specific communicable diseases as well as patients' safety;

**Article 5 b (i)** Preparedness and Response planning. The Centre shall assess health systems' capacity to detect, prevent, respond to and recover from outbreaks of communicable diseases, identify gaps and provide recommendations for the strengthening of health systems, to be implemented with Union support as appropriate;

### Key principles and objectives of national health systems' capacity monitoring to respond to CBTH



The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed shortcomings in Union mechanisms for managing public health threats, which call for a more coordinated and structured Union-level approach to future health crises.

- 1. Provide useful strategic information for both national and European level: meaningful indication of the state of preparedness (including surge capacity and resilience)
- 2. ECDC will seek guidance from relevant stakeholders on what to monitor: indicators will be developed through a consultative process with MS (NFP, AF, MB, HSC)
- **3. Remain relevant** by regularly adapting indicators to the needs in a consultative process
- 4. Minimise reporting burden
  - Prioritise use of existing data: indicators on health systems capacity should in the first instance be based upon
    existing data and indicators (WHO, Eurostat, OECD, Article 7\* CBTH)
  - Complement and not duplicate existing monitoring/reporting frameworks
  - Focus on indicators relevant to the European context

<sup>\*</sup>Art 4 of the current Decision 1082/2013.





- Indicators will likely include capacity-based and performance-based ones
- Indicators will also address health system resilience an surge capacity

#### Methods:

- Indicators will be developed and selected in consultation with the MS through the ECDC stakeholders (disease, laboratory, surveillance and preparedness networks, Advisory Forum, Management Board) and the Health Security Committee
- **Priority for indicators** will be: 1 pre-existing indicators, 2 indicators that can be compiled based upon existing data, 3 indicators that need to be reported to ECDC by the MS (e.g. via Article 7 reporting or other reporting mechanisms)
- Country visits, fact findings missions, reviews, assessments, simulation exercises are other methods through which relevant information can be obtained and assessed.

#### **Conclusion**



- The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed shortcomings in Union mechanisms for managing public health threats, which call for a more coordinated and structured Union-level approach to future health crises.
- The proposed rewording of the text focussing the monitoring of MS health systems on emergency preparedness, crisis management and capacity to respond to cross-borders health threats is in line with the overall goals of the European Health Union proposal.
- The proposed rewording of the text to reduce the health systems monitoring tasks for ECDC to "supporting" and "facilitating support" completely alters the initial meaning of the text and undermines the overall goals of the European Health Union. Such a weakened legal basis will not allow ECDC to put any meaningful monitoring system in place and will not allow addressing the shortcomings the pandemic has revealed.



# Evidence-based communication to the public

#### **European Vaccination and Information Portal**

**EUROPEAN VACCINATION** 

INFORMATION PORTAL



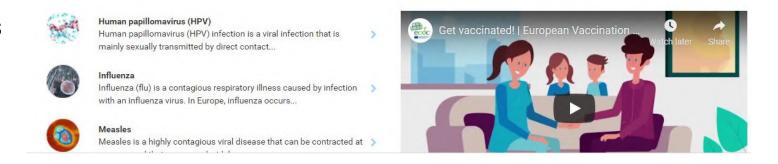
- "An initiative of the EU" (EC, ECDC, EMA) launched April 2020
- Objective, transparent and updated evidence on vaccination and vaccines, their benefits and safety, and the pharmacovigilance process
- Countering vaccine misinformation & developing tools and guidance to support countries in responding to vaccine hesitancy
- Available in all 26 EU/EEA languages



Enter your keyword(s)

Search

The main purpose of this website is to provide accurate, objective, up-to-date evidence on vaccines and vaccination in general. It also provides an overview of the mechanisms in place in the European Union (EU) to ensure that available vaccines conform to the highest standards of safety and effectiveness. Read more **About us**.



#### **European Antibiotic Awareness Day (EAAD)**



- A European health initiative coordinated by ECDC.
- Launched in 2008 with support from the European Commission, European Parliament, EU Member States and non-governmental health stakeholders across the EU.
- European Antibiotic Awareness Day is marked across Europe on 18 November.
- The campaign builds on successful national campaigns to raise awareness about the threat to human health of antibiotic resistance and communicate about prudent use of antibiotics.



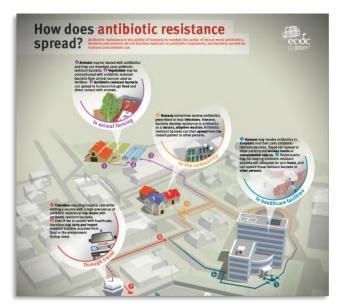


#### #KeepAntibioticsWorking: join us on social media!

As a healthcare professional, what can you do to keep antibiotics working? What can a patient association do to contribute? What can policymakers do at European level? What can a parent do? Everyone can join the campaign on European Antibiotics Awareness Day-posting his/her own message, picture or video using the #KeepAntibioticsWorking hashtag. Tell the world what you do, in your professional or personal life, at individual or collective level, to use antibiotics responsibly and #KeepAntibioticsWorking!

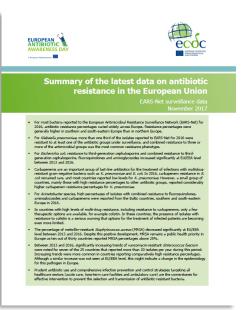
Read about the #KeepAntibioticsWorking campaign

Communication about prudent use of antibiotics and antibiotic resistance - EAAD





- Events and social media campaigns
- Infographics, patient stories, videos
- Website in all EU languages
- Communication toolkits
- Press briefings
- Easy-to-understand summaries of recent data









### Communicating to the general public: translating the expert outputs to lay language



By maintaining a presence on a range of channels (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube especially), ECDC reaches audiences of a couple million EU citizens, making it possible for them to get their hands on the epidemiological pulse of Europe, getting the messages in an understandable form (for those who do not have any background in epidemiology).

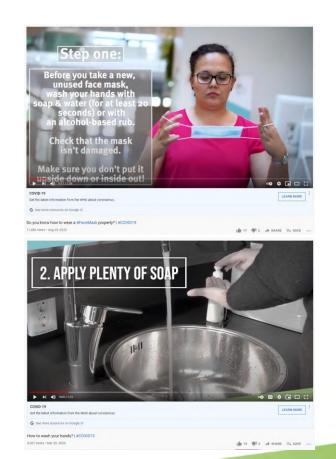
As the content needs to be interactive, interesting and eye-catching, we try to produce as much audiovisual content as possible. Best working examples so far are shown below:

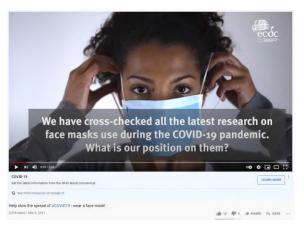


Animations explaining needed behaviour or behaviour change.









Video tutorials and explainers.

### Translating the expert outputs to lay language







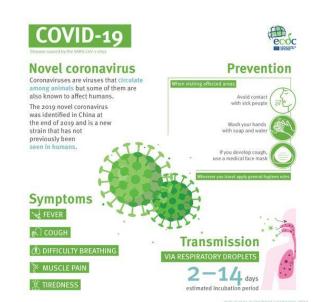


and not a replacement for established preventive practices, such as physical distancing, cough and sneeze etiquette, hand hygiene and



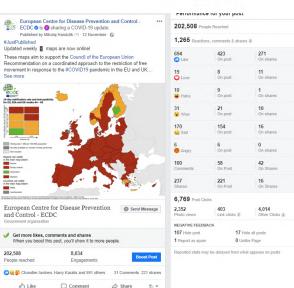


#### **Infographics**





#### Maps, data and data viz





European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control has published on the portal. Coronavirus Image by PIRO4D from Pixabay CC0

of the COVID-19 pandemic, You will find here the risk assessments, technical reports, advice and information ECDC



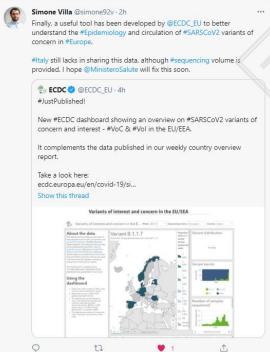


#### **Two-way communication**

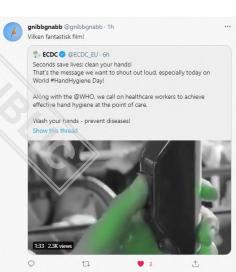
Recent comments and reactions to ECDC outputs & some of the "thank you" messages from the public.















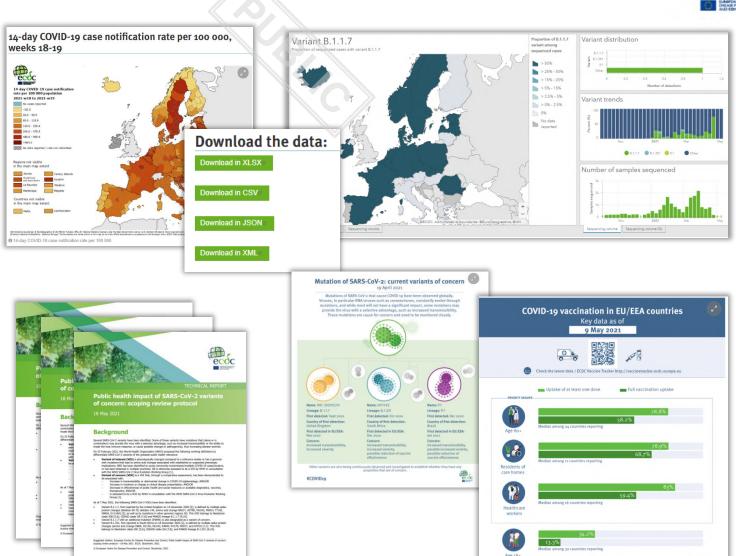


#### **COVID-19** web content



#### On the ECDC website, we publish:

- Situation updates
  - Daily and weekly updated maps, graphs and table
  - Dashboards on e.g. variants and vaccine rollout
- Downloadable datasets
- Risk assessments
- Latest evidence on e.g. the virus, transmission, treatment, immunity and diagnostic testing
- Guidance on prevention and control
- Guidance on surveillance and testing
- Questions and answers
- Infographics and videos







### Thanks for your attention