

## **UPDATE May 14:**

Number of confirmed coronavirus cases in Lithuania: 1511\*

Deaths: 54

Recovered: 934

Number of tests performed yesterday: 7989

A total of samples tested in relation to the suspected coronavirus to date: 208 253

\*The number of confirmed infection cases. Until 28 April, information has been provided on positive laboratory test results rather than on positive cases (people).

Based on the latest statistics, 934 people are considered to have recovered, 517 are still ill with COVID-19, and 260 are in isolation.

Lithuania continues to ease the current restrictions including cross-border and domestic movement. As of 11 May, the entry of the Polish nationals is allowed when travelling for the purpose of work, business or studies. Transportation of passengers will be allowed by the ferries running on the routes between Kiel – Rostock – Travemünde and Klaipėda, where passengers are not picked up at intermediate ports and where the minimum contact with bystanders is ensured at the intermediate ports during the change of ferries. As of 15 May, the entry of all the Estonian and Latvian nationals will be allowed, a decision that creates the first Travel Bubble among the European Union countries. *'We have succeeded together to give an early effective response to the outbreak of the virus. We are typically modest as a nation. But this time I believe we should put this feature aside: we happen to be one of the few countries in the world that have succeeded to give a timely response to the outbreak. The whole country and each individual have taken the threat seriously and done everything required to prevent the potential crisis. Now it is time to learn to live with the new virus and to make ourselves ready to face it in the future. The Baltic Travel Bubble is an opportunity for businesses to reopen, and a glimmer of hope for the people that life is getting back to normal. We hope Poland and Finland soon follow suit',* said Prime Minister Saulius Skvernelis.

### **What are the current restrictions?**

The Government of Lithuania has agreed to extend the lockdown until 31 May. However, some other restrictions, apart from the agreement with Poland and Baltic neighbours, continue to lift. German airline Lufthansa resumed regular service between Vilnius and Frankfurt on Wednesday, becoming

the first airline to resume flights from Vilnius following a break of almost two months. Major cities of Lithuania have given their streets and open spaces to bars, restaurants and cafés, thus helping the catering industry to recover, while ensuring that social distancing rules are complied with. Nurseries and pre-school groups will soon reopen, events will resume. It has been decided to lift the ban of the dentist services and beauty parlours.

### **How will safety be ensured?**

Persons who have returned or arrived from foreign countries shall fall subject to 14 days' isolation, with an exception of the citizens of Poland (returning or arriving for the purpose of work, business or studies) and all citizens of Estonia and Latvia. Nor will the 14 days' isolation be mandatory for the Lithuanian nationals returning from Poland (when travelling for the purpose of business, work or studies), and Latvia or Estonia. Other exceptions remain the same, 14 days' isolation is not mandatory to:

- the crew members, who are employed in Lithuanian companies engaged in international commercial transportation, or who carry out international commercial transportation by all the means of transport;
- health professionals arriving for the provision of transplant services;
- members of official delegations, diplomats and special couriers working on transit trains;
- citizens of foreign countries transiting through the Republic of Lithuania with compulsory escort (convoy) to the country of their residence, who have no COVID-19 (coronavirus infection) symptoms.

Most importantly, a COVID-19 management strategy has been drawn up to contain, over the short term, the risk of the spread of the coronavirus and to equip for an effective response to a potential outbreak of the virus in the future. The strategy aims to pool the efforts and initiatives of all the central and local authorities, medical professionals, socio-economic partners and of all the people, with a view to containing the spread of the virus and to mitigating the risk of adverse effects.

### **The implementation of the strategy will rest on the following five fundamental principles:**

- protection of vulnerable people;
- proactive pinpointing of infection cases and immediate response;
- prompt and objective public information;
- evidence and facts-based decision-making;

- international cooperation, particularly at the level of the European Union.

**The four priorities are as follows:**

- development of an effective virus response monitoring mechanism (Ministry of Health);
- ensuring the preparedness of the health system and strengthening the physical and psychological (emotional) health of the society (Ministry of Health);
- imposing quarantine regime in response to epidemiological situation in the country (Ministry of Health);
- ensuring stability across social and economic sectors and their adaptation to new conditions (Ministry of Finance).