



Министерство на  
Здравеопазването

# BULGARIA'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19

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# Bulgaria's Approach to Novel Coronavirus

- First case on March 8, State of Emergency declared on March 13
- Crises Management Task Force and Logistics Coordination Center established with representatives from key sectors (Health, Foreign and Internal Affairs) - responsible for the analysis and coordination of the measures taken to address the virus
- Whole-of-Government approach
- Measures taken to prevent healthcare system from collapse and strengthen it to manage the COVID-19 flow burden, essential health services package ensured
- Strengthening laboratory capacity – 36 laboratories for PCR testing established in-country
- Closure of schools and public places, travel restrictions, vigilant border control
- Strict physical distancing, mask wearing and hygiene measures
- Distant education and work

# The Bulgarian Strategy

- Protecting the elderly (facilitated access for people over 60 yrs. in grocery stores)
- Measures towards outbreak slowdown to strengthen the healthcare system to cope with COVID-19, manageable disease burden
- Increased laboratory capacity, critical contribution of the Regional Health Inspectorates
- Increased testing, quick identification of cases, tracing contacts
- Restricting the spread of the virus with timely lockdowns/ quarantine of clusters
- Full transparency of the response, daily briefings of the CMTF, building trust in the response given by the Government
- Community engagement –volunteer initiatives of NGOs, local authorities to help elderly, lonely and disabled people
- Managing the gaps of PPE procurement; bilateral contracts, quick restructuring of domestic enterprises

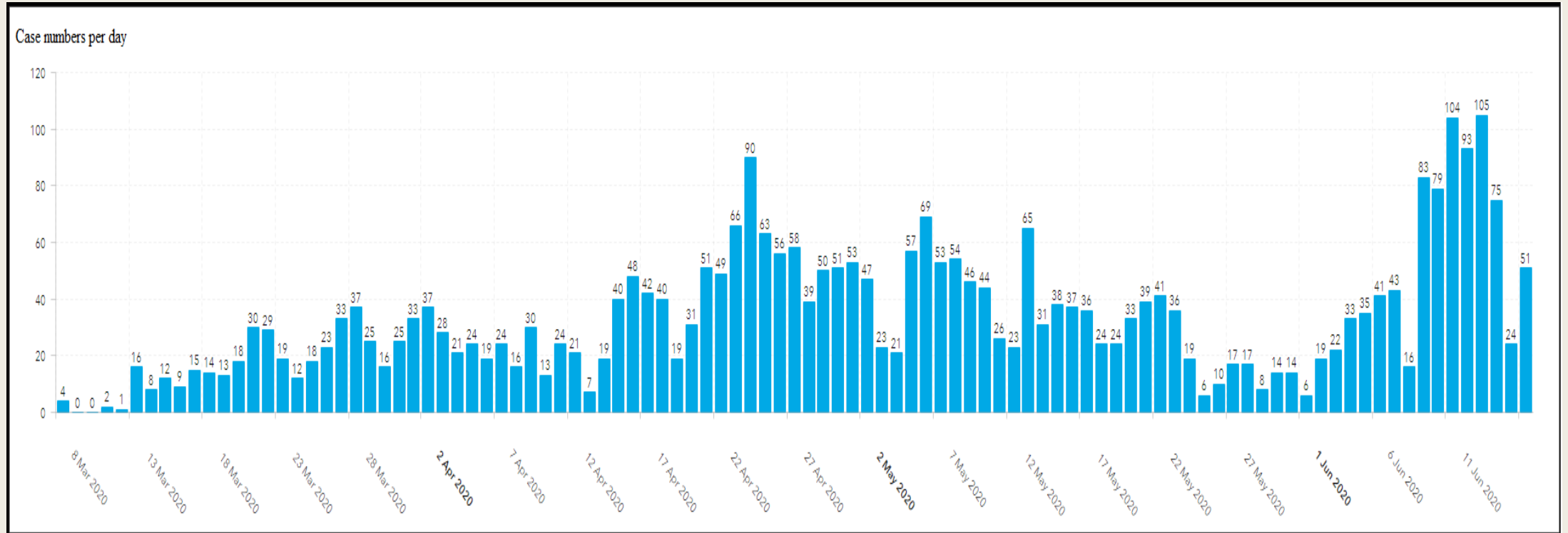
# Current Situation

- Population 7 million
- As of June 16 - 3,341 confirmed cases, 1,381 active cases, 1,784 recovered, 176 deaths – total incidence 47,73 cases per 100, 000 population
- 253 patients in hospital, 14 of them in ICU
- Total number of tests done – 106, 280 PCR tests
- Daily average number of tests – 1,012

# Lifting of Measures

- Mindful approach – gradual prioritized lifting of the measures, choosing the right moment for gradual de-escalation, carefully assessing the epidemic situation and keeping control on the spread of the virus
- Pursue balance between health, economic and social considerations
- Ministerial orders issued by the MoH introducing the control measures and organizing safe work environment under pandemic circumstances
- Crucial contribution of health mediators to protect the health of vulnerable groups
- Gradual lifting of travel restrictions
- Gradual restart of commercial, economic, social, sports and cultural activities

# Case distribution 8 March-16 June 2020



# Collaboration

- National – all stakeholders involved, governmental stewardship of the response, involvement of regional and local authorities, NGOs and volunteers
- International cooperation – WHO, ECDC, EC –important role in leading and coordinating the response on global and regional level
- Together we stand strong (the National Assembly logo) – the Bulgarian age-proved formula of Solidarity - the only way out in this situation

Thank you for your attention