

Ministry of Health  
Republic of Latvia

# **Latvia's Response to COVID-19**

## **WHO Member States Information Session**

**Dr. Jurijs Perevoščikovs**  
Chief Epidemiologist

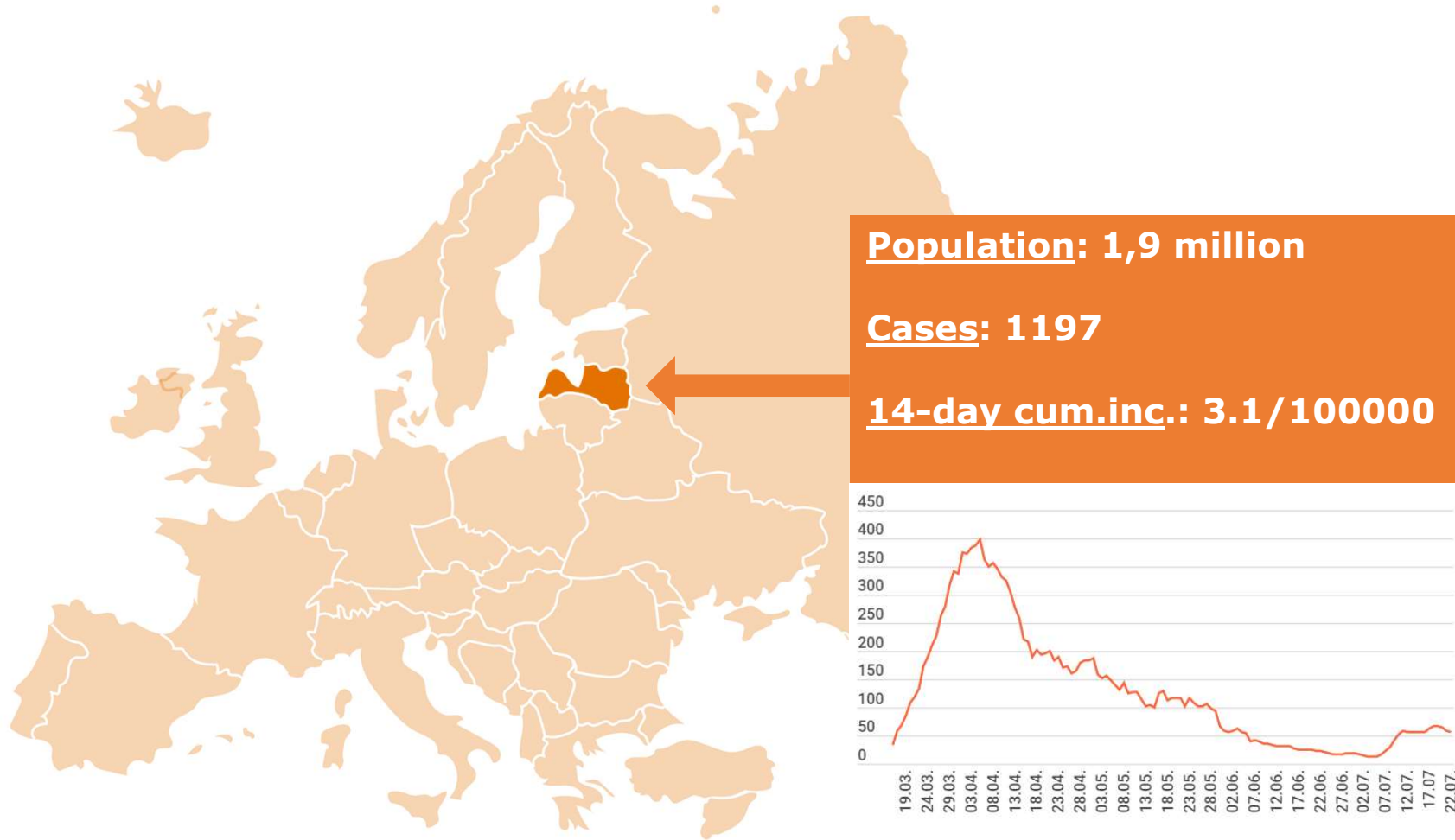
July 23, 2020





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# Epidemiological situation in Latvia as of July 22, 2020

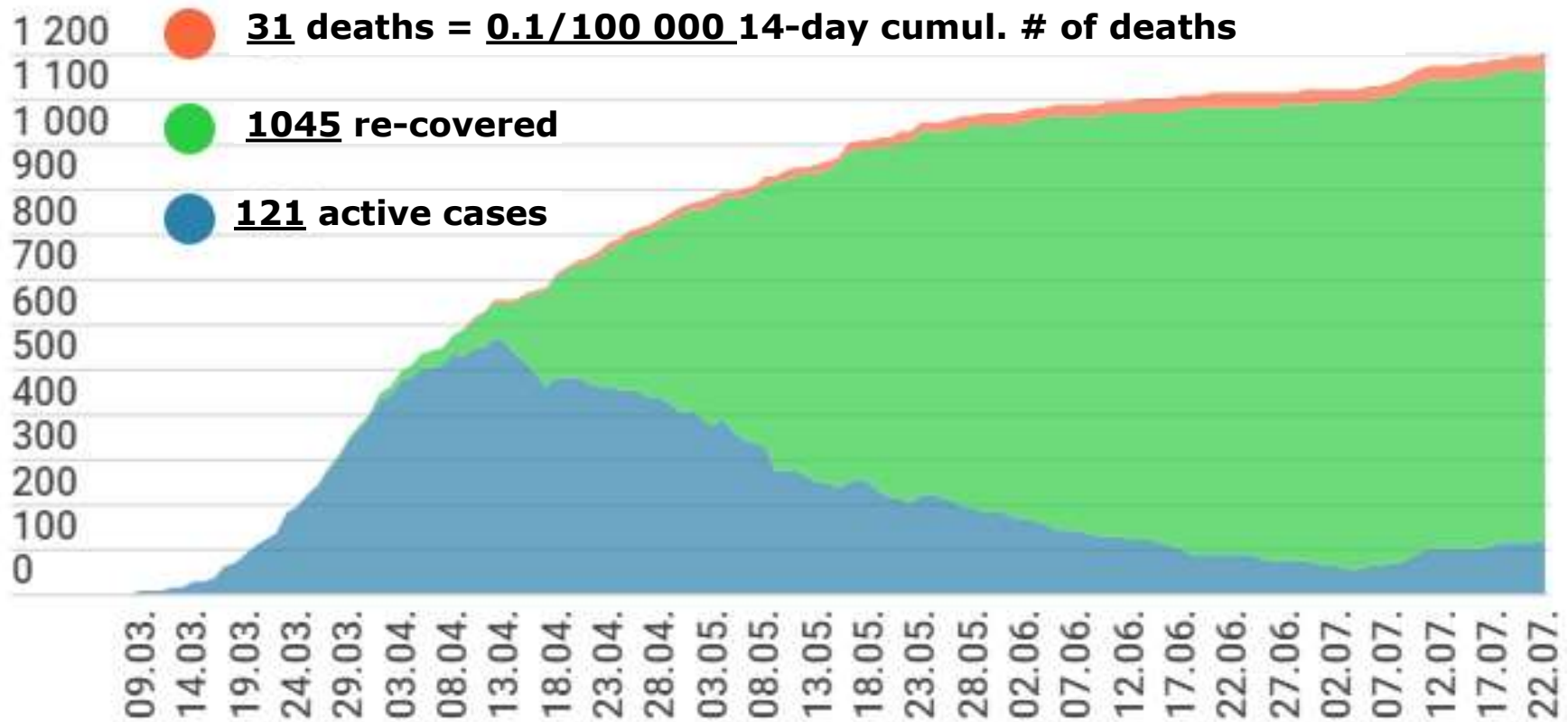


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# Epidemiological situation in Latvia on July 22



July 23, 2020



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# Latvia's response has been based on the following guiding principles

- ✓ **3 pillars:** always Test, Trace & Isolate.
- ✓ **Evidence-based decision-making:** Governmental decisions have been based on the advice of epidemiologists, medics and academics.
- ✓ **Collaboration:** All levels of Government are involved to coordinate a common response and maintain one strategic communication line.
- ✓ **A professional crisis response team:** The crisis response team on a daily base evaluated the situation and latest data sets, tailoring adequate response and swift cooperation with local hospitals, private laboratories and neighbouring countries.
- ✓ **Participation of Society:** Hackathons and various NGO's collaborated to find solutions to «hack the COVID», resulting in for example, volunteering movements and new 3D printing solutions for PPE. A notable part of society actively uses COVID tracking app «Apturi COVID».

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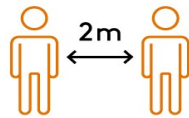
# Latvia's basic principles for public include:



**Clear info displayed** in public areas on hygiene, distancing and other restrictions



**Hygiene:** surfaces / hands should be washed/disinfected, rooms should be ventilated



**Distancing:** 2 m distancing should be observed, when ever possible



**Health status:** advising to take care and observe your health



Set **entertainment, recreation and gathering limits:** time and people



**Travelling:** based on incidence rate, observing the caution



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# COVID-19 Application – 1st of its kind

- ✓ **The Application «Apturi COVID» (Stop the COVID) has been launched in Latvia on 28 May.** It is an effective tool to break the chain of infection and reduce the further spread of the virus in the community.

The advertisement features the logos of the Ministry of Health (Veselības ministrija) and the National Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (Slimību profilakses un kontroles centrs) at the top left. The main headline reads "APTURI VĪRUSU ar TELEFONU" in large, bold, black letters. Below this, a small orange box contains the text "UZZINI VAIRĀK: apturicovid.lv". On the right side, a smartphone displays the application's logo, which consists of a stylized orange and white 'X' shape with a white circle, and the text "Apturi Covid" below it. At the bottom right, there is text in Latvian: "Lejupielādē lietotni" (Download the app), followed by icons for the App Store and Google Play.

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## Lessons learnt



- ✓ **Together:** the Government, the Parliament and experts – it has been good example of “whole of government” approach.
- ✓ **Evidence:** Reasoning and evidence provided by our epidemiologists was considered during the Government’s decision making process.
- ✓ **Intersectoral approach:** we established special crisis management teams both at the MoH and at the Governmental level and intersectoral cooperation is the key.
- ✓ **Baltics approach:** Health, Foreign and other Ministers agreed on common approaches. It helped to open up for Baltics’ travel and later on proceed with EU-wide travel.
- ✓ **Coordination across countries:** scope for improvement;
- ✓ **Community:** each member of the society matters.
- ✓ **Communication:** there is a scope for further studies on how to be better at health-communication.



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**Thank you for your  
attention!**

