



European
Commission

CORONAVIRUS RESURGENCE:

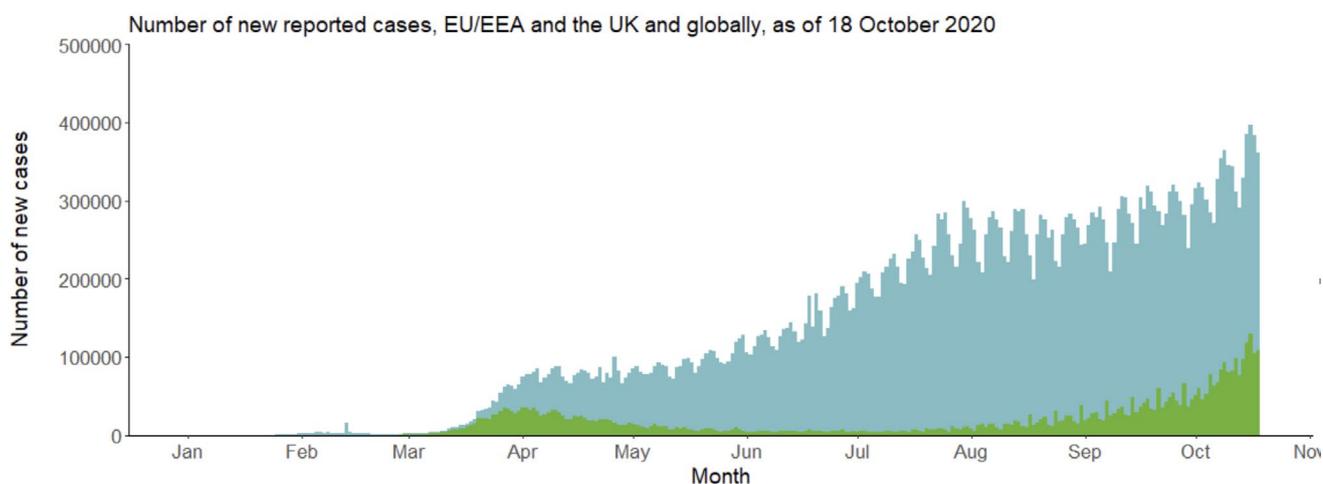
New preparedness and
response measures
across the EU

#UnitedAgainstCoronavirus
#StrongerTogether



28 October 2020

The number of COVID-19 cases is increasing sharply across Europe. Coordinated measures to stop the coronavirus from spreading are now more important than ever. The Commission is working with Member States to protect the health and lives of people across the Union and to facilitate trade and safe travel in the Union.



Source: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, 18 October 2020

Global EU/EEA and the UK

The Commission's coronavirus response measures in key areas:



INCREASED AND EFFECTIVE TESTING CAPACITY

- Issuing recommendations on well-targeted testing strategies, including the use of rapid antigen tests
- Purchasing rapid tests (budget of €100 million)
- Promoting EU-wide mutual recognition of tests and acceptance of results
- Evaluating national testing strategies



IMPROVED INFORMATION FLOW FOR BETTER DECISION-MAKING

- Sharing more data on testing, contact tracing and public health system capacity on a platform run by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) to spot surges in infection rate, gaps in capacity and improve risk assessment
- Facilitating discussion at EU level among epidemiologists and other expert governmental advisers, to coordinate national approaches



CONTACT TRACING APPS

- Supporting Member States in connecting national tracing apps to the EU interoperability gateway to enable them to 'talk to each other' across borders



VACCINATION STRATEGIES

- Reviewing and monitoring national vaccination plans to ensure all countries are ready for roll-out
- Monitoring the safety, effectiveness, and impact of vaccination once a vaccine is authorised and available



EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION TO CITIZENS

- Requiring Member States to relaunch communication campaigns adapted to the current situation
- Requiring public health authorities to tackle vaccination-related misinformation and disinformation
- Addressing citizens' 'COVID-19 fatigue'



SECURING ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES

- Procuring vaccination supplies and other medical equipment
- Prolonging current waiver on customs duties and VAT for protective and medical equipment from non-EU countries until April 2021
- Offering VAT relief for COVID-19 vaccines and testing kits



TRAVEL

- Developing a common testing protocol, starting with air travel
- Preparing a common EU approach to quarantine rules
- Offering EU guidance on travellers to be exempted from the temporary non-essential travel restrictions
- EU digital Passenger Locator Form
- Ensuring that all passengers who need to travel, for work and family related reasons, are able to do so
- Launching Re-Open EU mobile app to keep citizens informed of health and travel measures across the EU



GREEN LANES

- Extending green lanes for smooth cross-border supply of goods from road to rail, air, and water crossing points
- Ensuring that private and professional drivers can transit through a country via TEN-T transit corridors along the TEN-T network
- Helping transport staff to cross borders to exercise their essential functions, including arrangements for seafarers

