

DATUM

April 24, 2020



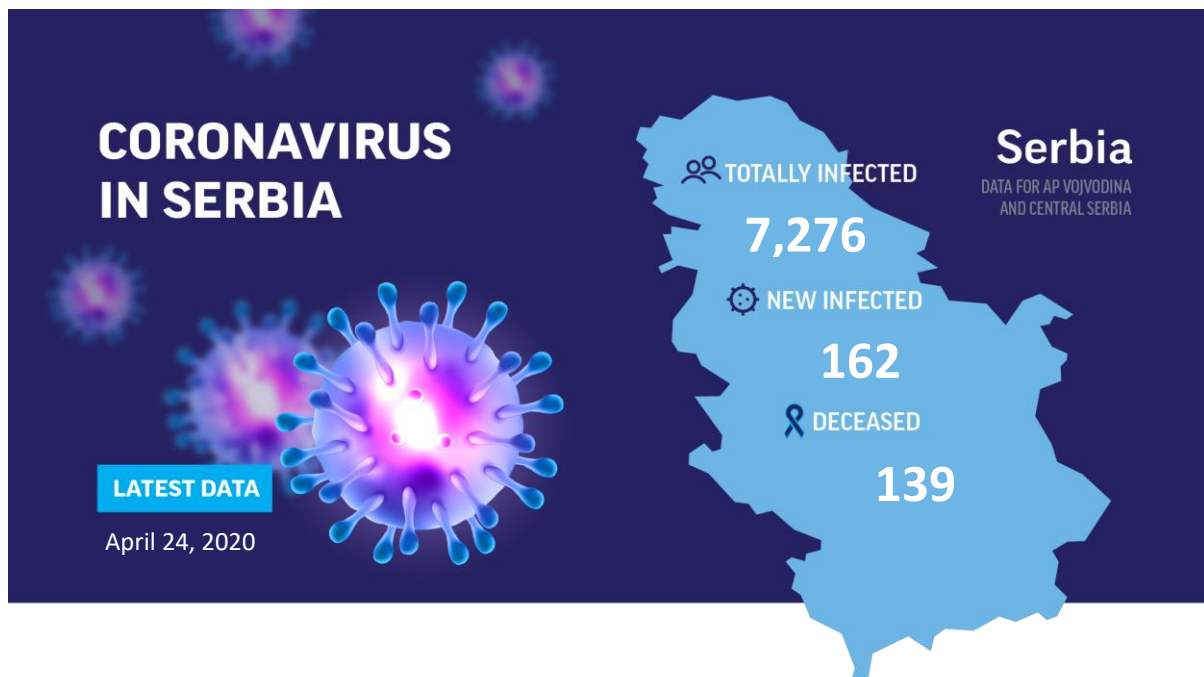
# SPECIAL REPORT CORONAVIRUS



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## 162 newly infected, 1,063 recoveries so far

### **Dnevnik**

Over the last 24 hours, 162 new cases of coronavirus infection were registered, bringing the total number to 7,276. Five more people died, four men and one woman, and the number of deaths from the coronavirus now stands at 139. So far, 3,477 patients are hospitalised, and 96 are on ventilators. Since the beginning of the epidemic, 1,064 people recovered. The total number of medical workers positive for Covid-19 is 622. 2,688 people were tested since the last report, 51,324 in total so far. Provincial Secretary of Health Dr Zoran Gojković stated during the Crisis Staff's regular press conference that the number of infected is decreasing primarily thanks to everything that was done so far, the measures implemented and active engagement of the healthcare sector in treating the infected.

## Kon: Higher risk of virus transmission on Labour Day and St George's Day

### **Tanjug**

Labour Day and St George's Day are the last dates when there is an increased risk of coronavirus transmission due to gathering of people, epidemiologist Predrag Kon stated and added that it will be decided by the Crisis Staff today whether there will be a curfew next weekend. "Personally, I think that regardless of data, that May 1 and 6 are the last dates when there is a higher risk of virus transmission due to people coming together. These are significant epidemiological events which can worsen the situation," Kon stated.

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## Measures to be lifted when less than 5% test positive

### **Tanjug**

Epidemiologist Predrag Kon stated that lifting of measures will be considered once less than 5% test positive. Even though Serbia will end the state of epidemic, he reiterated that the end of the pandemic will be declared once the WHO does so. He stated that no measures were relaxed, and that the fact those older than 65 were allowed to go outside, and that some businesses were opened, is not considered as major relaxation by experts. The only possible threat he sees is the "importation of cases" after the borders are reopened, and that is why it is necessary to make a good strategy before they reopen.

## Vučić: We cannot relax, even though the epidemic is weakening

### **Politika**

Even though the epidemic is weakening, we cannot relax, which is why, in accordance with recommendations by doctors, the curfew from 6 pm on Friday to 5 am on Monday will be imposed this weekend as well, President of Serbia Aleksandar Vučić stated yesterday. According to him, even though some measures were eased, experts said that we cannot relax for at least two more weeks. Vučić stated that we have a better result today due to good weekends the past two weeks. Answering questions by journalists, he stated that he is very proud of the procurement of ventilators, and that the information about how they were procured and at what price will be published once the procurement process is completed.

## Epidemiologist: No major hotbeds, situation is still the worst in the south and Pomoravlje region

### **Beta**

Epidemiologist Predrag Kon stated that there are almost no major coronavirus infection hotbeds left in Serbia, but that the situation is still the gravest around Niš, Jagodina, Čuprija, Paraćin and Prokuplje. "But those hotbeds are also slowly dying down. There are no major hotbeds left, it is 15% everywhere, and 10% in the majority of areas. Overall, numbers are going down in entire Serbia, numbers in Vojvodina are decreasing, and in Belgrade as well, it is about 6%. It is about 6% on the level of the entire country. We are thinking where there could theoretically be a new outbreak, and we are not seeing any reason for concern at the moment," Dr Kon stated. He added that this means that potentially opening borders and lifting travel bans should be seriously considered, when the time comes.

## Three newly infected in North Kosovo, four recoveries, one patient on ventilator

### **kossev.info**

Over the last 24 hours, three new cases of coronavirus infection were registered in North Kosovo, four recovered, while two people who were retested are positive again, epidemiologist from Kosovska Mitrovica Aleksandar Antonijević stated. One patient is in serious condition and is on a ventilator. Infectologist Danica Radomirović stated that there are currently 15 patients at the Infectious Diseases Ward in the Kosovska Mitrovica hospital. However, two of them will be released soon. She also stated that the majority of patient transported to medical institutions in central Serbia were cured. So far, 86 people were infected in total, 31 recovered and 5 died, all of them from North Kosovo.

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## [Retirement homes still under quarantine](#)

### **Večernje novosti**

It seems that residents in retirement homes in Serbia will have to wait the longest for the relaxation of measures for the elderly. Večernje novosti daily reports that allowing family visits is not even being considered, nor the possibility to send them food, medication and other provisions. Residents in public and private retirement homes have been under quarantine since before the state of emergency was declared, that is, early March. According to the Minister of Labour Zoran Đorđević, this will remain so until epidemiologists decide differently and give a green light for the life in these institutions to return to normal.

## [Army sets up 5,252 beds for the infected](#)

### **Politika**

Military Medical Centre Karaburma in Belgrade has a new building after several decades. A decrepit warehouse, which was an eyesore, became a modern hospital for treating those infected with the coronavirus. The opening ceremony of the new hospital was attended by President Aleksandar Vučić yesterday. With the usual security measures, health measures were also abided by – all reporters entering MMC Karaburma had to throw away their masks and gloves and were given new ones on the spot. The President was welcomed by Minister of Defence Aleksandar Vulin, Minister of Health Zlatibor Lončar, Chief of the General Staff General Milan Mojsilović and Mayor of Belgrade Zoran Radojičić. They toured the new building together, chatting with the employees.

## [University of Kragujevac working on a software for tracking the virus](#)

### **Tanjug**

In cooperation with their colleagues from Harvard, Serbian scientists are working on predicting the movement of the coronavirus infection with a computer simulation. Head of the Bioengineering Centre and Rector of the University of Kragujevac Nenad Filipović stated that the goal is to predict individual treatment and help doctors with the process of treating patients. “We have a direct link between medicine and engineering, in the sense that we use the latest algorithm and computer simulation technologies in order to predict how the disease is evolving, and if we manage to do that, we will be able to prevent negative consequences,” Filipović stated.

## [Even if we had a vaccine, it takes years to vaccinate everyone](#)

### **Večernje novosti**

WHO failed to adequately respond to the crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Since it failed the test, new modes of international cooperation need to be found when it comes to health. We need to review many things, and rewrite national strategies for fighting dangers such as the one we have been fighting for months, and which has claimed so many lives. Prof Dr Frank Ulrich Montgomery, President of the Standing Committee of European Doctors and Chairman of the Council of World Medical Association stated this, warning that challenges posed by this pandemic cannot be ignored.

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## [EU donates 100 oxygen concentrators to Serbia](#)

**Beta**

As part of EU's assistance package for Serbia, 100 oxygen concentrators arrived, which should help lower the fatality rate among those infected with the coronavirus, Serbian Government stated. Since the health crisis began, European Union has been providing assistance to Serbia on a daily basis, including financing transport of medical equipment, in total value of EUR 7 million, carried out by the UNDP, as well as procurement of medical equipment worth close to EUR 5 million, in partnership with UNOPS.

## [MPs to debate the state of emergency](#)

**Večernje novosti**

A session of the Serbian Parliament, the first since the state of emergency was declared due to the coronavirus, will take place on Tuesday. MPs are to debate the state of emergency, as well as Government measures imposed in past days – curfew, travel ban, prohibiting those older than 65 to leave the house, ban on gatherings...

## [People living close to the border can now cross it](#)

**danas.rs**

Serbian and Hungarian citizens who are living 50 km from the border, and have farmland in the neighbouring country, can now cross the border, it was confirmed at a meeting between the Minister of Foreign Affairs Ivica Dačić and his Hungarian counterpart Peter Szijjarto. It was stated during the meeting at the Horgoš border crossing, in addition to that crossing, Serbian and Hungarian citizens can also use the Kelbija and Tompa border crossings. Dačić stated that the two countries are preparing "for the day after, the months after or the years after" the pandemic in the economic sphere.

## [Digital Serbia: Due to the pandemic, lower sales, income and salaries in the digital industry](#)

**Beta**

The majority of start-ups, digital companies and freelancers in Serbian IT sector is already experiencing the negative consequences of the coronavirus pandemic, reflected in lower sales, income and salaries, and half of them think the situation will worsen further, a poll about the effects of the coronavirus pandemic on the domestic digital ecosystem conducted by the NGO Digital Serbia shows. So far, over 300 representatives of the domestic digital economy, i.e. Serbian and foreign companies operating in Serbia, start-ups and freelancers, as well as digital projects in traditional industries, have participated in the poll, but data is still being collected, so results would be updated regularly.

## [Serbia does not need help from the IMF](#)

**Dnevnik**

Minister of Finance Siniša Mali stated that Serbia does not need help from the IMF, "because our public finances are healthy and stable, and we do not need large loans." "We are not on the list, because we do not need help," Mali said on Wednesday for the B92. "Our public finances are healthy and stable, and as President Aleksandar Vučić already stated, we do not need such large loans, especially short-term, neither from the EU nor the IMF." European Commission adopted a proposal on macrofinancial support in the amount of EUR 3 billion for ten partners from the EU enlargement and neighbourhood process, the Tanjug reported earlier.



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## Economy the most important in the Balkans

### **Dnevnik**

Strengthening regional economic integration and cooperation, faster construction of a unified Western Balkan area and deeper integration of the region into the European Union's single legal and economic system are crucial for the recovery of regional economies and overcoming the consequences of the coronavirus pandemic. This was concluded in a telephone conversation between the President of the Serbian Chamber of Commerce (PKS) and the Chamber of Investment Forum, Marko Čadež, with the US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State and US Special Envoy for the Western Balkans, Matthew Palmer. All of this would also be significantly helped by the creation of a special fund to support activities to strengthen co-operation in the region, an initiative discussed by the interlocutors, the PKS said.

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