Global Governmental Response to COVID-19 in accordance to WHO guidelines

Actions taken by Hellenic Republic (Greece) to prevent the spread of COVID-19 as of March 22, 2021.

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Our Organization

The UN Compliance Research Group is a global organization which specializes in monitoring the work of the United Nations (UN). Through our professional team of academics, scholars, researchers and students we aim to serve as the world's leading independent source of information on members' compliance to UN resolutions and guidelines. Our scope of activity is broad, including assessing the compliance of member states to UN resolutions and plan of actions, adherence to judgments of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines and commitments made at UN pledging conferences. We’re proud to present the international community and global governments with our native research findings on states’ annual compliance with the commitments of the UN and its affiliated agencies. Our goal as world citizens is to foster a global change towards a sustainable future; one which starts with ensuring that the words of delegates are transformed into action and that UN initiatives don’t remain ink on paper. Hence, we offer policy analysis and provide advice on fostering accountability and transparency in UN governance as well as tracing the connection between the UN policy-makers and Non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Yet, we aim to adopt a neutral path and do not engage in advocacy for issues or actions taken by the UN or member states. Acting as such, for the sake of transparency. The UN Compliance Research Group dedicates all its effort to inform the public and scholars about the issues and agenda of the UN and its affiliated agencies.
Purpose

The International Health Regulations (2005) are legally binding on 196 States Parties, Including all WHO Member States. The IHR aims to keep the world informed about public health risks, through committing all signatories to cooperate together in combating any future “illness or medical condition, irrespective of origin or source, that presents or could present significant harm to humans.” Under IHR, countries agreed to strengthen their public health capacities and notify the WHO of any such illness in their populations. The WHO would be the centralized body for all countries facing a health threat, with the power to declare a “public health emergency of international concern,” issue recommendations, and work with countries to tackle a crisis.

Although, with the sudden and rapid spread of COVID-19 in the world, many countries varied in implementing the WHO guidelines and health recommendations. While some countries followed the WHO guidelines, others imposed travel restrictions against the WHO’s recommendations. Some refused to share their data with the organization. Others banned the export of medical equipment, even in the face of global shortages. The UN Compliance Research group will focus during the current cycle on analyzing the compliance of the WHO member states to the organizations guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic.
### WHO Guidelines and Recommendations

#### School/educational institutions:
- Decision makers should consider the following if they decide to open or close schools: Current understanding about COVID-19 transmission and severity in children, Local situation and epidemiology of COVID-19 where the school(s) are located, School setting and ability to maintain COVID-19 prevention and control measures.
- Recommended to promote: Hygiene and environmental cleaning to limit exposure, Screening and management of sick students, teachers and other school staff, Communication with parents and students, Physical distancing at school, Tele-schooling and distance learning.

#### Workplaces and institutions:
- Partial closure of workplaces as of early March.
- Hand hygiene: Regular and thorough handwashing, Hand hygiene stations.
- Respiratory hygiene: Promote respiratory etiquette, Develop a policy on wearing a mask or a face covering.
- Physical distancing: less people, implementing shifts.
- Reduce and manage work-related travels.
- Regular environmental cleaning and disinfection.
- Risk communication, training, and education: Provide posters, videos, and electronic message boards.
- Management of people with COVID-19 or their contacts: introduce thermal screening.
- Take more measures when it comes to jobs at medium and high risk.

#### Public events:
- Restriction to host gatherings or events that exceed a large number of individuals. ex) sport games, religious functions, restaurants, etc.
- Planning phase: Liaison with all relevant stakeholders, Development of a preparedness and response plan, Assessment of capacities and resources.
- Operational phase: Modifications of the event, Risk communication, Surveillance of participants, aimed at detecting and managing individuals developing symptoms during the event.
- Post-event phase: Liaison between event organizers and health authorities.

#### Public Transport:
- Reduce crowding, limit access to, or close public spaces, restaurants, sporting events, 24 sports clubs, entertainment venues, places of worship, 25 or venues with limited ventilation.
- Encourage physical distancing in public places and transportation.
- Reduce mixing between individuals and households.
- Communicate to recommend wearing masks in public.
## WHO Guidelines and Recommendations

### Public Information Campaign:
- Communicate risk clearly with information on how to protect oneself and others.
- Simplify messages, encourage sharing of information.
- Engage with communities in decision-making and to strengthen engagement for public health measures.
- Identify local networks and engage communities, businesses, religious leaders, and local influencers.

### Domestic/International Travel:
- **Reduction in Travel** to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- International travel should not occur unless in an emergency.
- Recommended to adhere to safety measures while travelling.
- Establish effective contingency plans and arrangements for responding to a Public Health Emergency.

### Testing Framework:
- Set up testing centers in large venues or in checkpoints.
- Require travellers to self-quarantine after being tested.
- Molecular (e.g. PCR) testing of respiratory tract samples is the recommended method for the identification and laboratory confirmation of COVID-19 cases.
- To inform WHO policy on the use of immunodiagnostic rapid tests for COVID-19.

### Contact Tracing:
- Set up relational databases linking lists of contacts to line lists of cases.
- Allow for tailored case investigation forms, contact listing forms, and contact follow-up forms to be set up.
- Used for self-checking and self-reporting of signs and symptoms by people through mobile phone apps or SMS technology.

### Lockdown/Curfew:
- Implementation of curfew hours.
- Require citizens to stay in home unless of an emergency.
- Monitor locations to abide by the curfew hours.
This report draws on the methodology developed by the G8 Research Group, which has been monitoring G7/8 compliance since 1996 (the International Organisations Research Institute at the Higher School of Economics (IORI HSE) joined this multi-year project in 2005, and Bond University participated in 2014). The use of this methodology builds cross-institutional and cross-member consistency and also allows compatibility with compliance assessments of other institutions. The methodology uses a scale from −1 to +1, where +1 indicates full compliance with the stated commitment, −1 indicates a failure to comply or action taken that is directly opposite to the stated instruments or goal of the commitment, and 0 indicates partial compliance or work in progress, such as initiatives that have been launched but are not yet near completion and whose full results can therefore not be assessed. Each member assessed receives a score of −1, 0 or +1 for each commitment. For convenience, the scores in the tables have been converted to percentages, where −1 equals 0 percent and +1 equals 100 percent.
## Scoring Guidelines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-1</td>
<td>State does not comply with the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005), nor does it comply with any of the World Health Organization's guidelines and recommendations to curb the spread of the Coronavirus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>State complies with the IHR and partially complies with the WHO recommendations on combating the Coronavirus, through implementing policies and actions which adhere to at least two commitments of the WHO guidelines on curbing the pandemic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+1</td>
<td>State fully complies with the IHR and the WHO guidelines on combating the Coronavirus, through implementing policies and actions which adhere to all nine areas of the WHO guidelines on curbing the pandemic.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>No Compliance</th>
<th>Partial Compliance</th>
<th>Full Compliance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>+1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Greece complied with the International Health Regulations (IHR) and fully complied with the World Health Organization's guidelines and recommendations on curbing the Coronavirus (COVID-19), through implementing complying policies and actions in all nine commitment features. Thus, Greece receives a compliance score of +1.
Greece

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❖ On 5 March 2020, the Hellenic government announced the closure of all malls, cinemas, museums, theaters in the areas of Elis, Achaia and Zakynthos Island.
❖ On 12 March 2020, all shopping malls, gyms, restaurants, cafes, bars and non-essential businesses were ordered to shut down throughout the country.
❖ On 18 March 2020, all businesses and shops except banks, grocery stores, pharmacies, food delivery and gas stations were ordered to close nationwide. Residents of migrant camps were only allowed to move 07:00 to 19:00 daily, while only one member per family was allowed to move for essential reasons.
❖ On 19 March 2020, Greece announced the closure of all hotels and resorts across the country.
❖ On 22 March 2020, the Greek government imposed a national lockdown prohibiting all non essential movement. All marinas and park were ordered to close.
❖ On 2 April 2020, the Greek Ministry of migration announced that Ritsona refugee camp has been placed under full lockdown.
❖ On 5 April 2020, a full lockdown has been imposed on a refugee camp in Malakasa. Extension of restrictions nationwide until April 27. Those outside must show evidence of their reason to be outside or will be subjected to a fine.
❖ On 21 April 2020, the Greek government imposed a partial night curfew in Kranidi town from 20:00-08:00 daily.
❖ On 23 April 2020, the nationwide lockdown extended until May 4. Same rules apply.
❖ On 4 May 2020, some businesses such as bookstores and hair salons were allowed to re-open. The national lockdown ended.
❖ On 11 May 2020, retail stores and shops were allowed to reopen.
❖ On 25 May 2020, malls, restaurants and cafes reopened.
❖ On 1 June 2020, hotels and resorts were allowed to reopen across the country.
❖ On 24 August 2020, restaurants, cafes, entertainment facilities were not allowed to operate daily from 00:00-07:00 in Lesvos Island.
❖ On 31 August 2020, restaurants, cafes, entertainment facilities were not allowed to operate daily from 00:00-07:00 in Attica region, including Athens.
❖ On 5 October 2020, nationwide restrictions extended until October 12.
❖ On 22 October 2020, Kastoria goes on lockdown. Athens and Thessaloniki are to have curfews from 00:30 to 05:00 daily.
❖ On 31 October 2020, from 00:00-05:00 curfew restaurants, cafes, bars and cinemas are to close.
❖ On 5 November 2020, nationwide lockdown to take effect starting November 7. People may not leave their homes unless they get permission beforehand. Citizens required to leave home for an essential purpose must submit a request through SMS message stating their purpose of leaving home.
❖ On 12 November 2020, nationwide lockdown from 21:00 to 05:00 daily. Essential workers allowed to move during curfew hours.
❖ On 26 November 2020, nationwide restrictions extended until December 7.
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- On 7 December 2020, national restrictions extended until January 7.
- On 20 December 2020, shops allowed to reopen for the holidays. Night curfew hours reduced to 22:00-05:00.
- On 6 January 2021, all shops are closed nationwide. Night curfew returns to 21:00-05:00. Citizens may only leave their homes for essential reasons.
- On 9 January 2021, extension of restrictions until 21 January.
- On 16 January 2021, non-essential business allowed to reopen between 07:00 to 20:00 daily.
- On 21 January 2021, extension of existing restrictions until 4 February.
- On 4 February 2021, extension of existing restrictions until 11 February.
- On 6 February 2021, Regions of Attica, Thessaloniki and Halkidiki all impose a weekend curfew from 18:00-05:00 daily. Non-essential business to close during the weekend.
- On 9 February 2021, existing regulations extended until 15 February. Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis announced a full lockdown in Attica region including Athens. All non-essential shops are ordered to shut.
- On 13 February 2021, Regions of Achaia and Evia (Skyros is not included) implement same restrictions as Attica. Weekend curfew of 18:00-05:00 and retail stores to close.
- On 26 February 2021, Islands of Lefkada, Syros and Samos and the towns of Arta and Amphilochia and the city of Heraklion on Crete are in lockdown. Same rules as Achaia and Evia implemented.
- On 3 March 2021, Fthiotida, Argolida, Bocotia, Thesprotia, Rhodes, and Chios all go on lockdown. Shops to close.
- On 8 March 2021, Authorities extend domestic restrictions until March 16.
- On 14 March 2021, Authorities extend domestic restrictions until March 22.
- On 19 March 2021, Mykonos, Zakynthos, Amphipolis, Orestida, Kastoria, and Karditsa increase restrictions, shops close and curfew hours are implement daily from 19:00-05:00.
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**Domestic/International Travel**

- **On 17 February 2020**, all flights of Air China to Athens were suspended until March 18.
- **On 9 March 2020**, Greece suspended all flights to and from Northern Italy.
- **On 14 March 2020**, flights suspension was extended to include entire Italy until March 29.
- **On 15 March 2020**, Greece announced the closure of its land, sea, and air borders with Albania and North Macedonia. Arriving cruises from Italy were also denied entry.
- **On 16 March 2020**, all arrivals to Greece were required to quarantine for 14-days upon arrival.
- **On 18 March 2020**, Greece prohibited the entry of all non-EU citizens.
- **On 22 March 2020**, domestic travel to all Greek islands was only allowed to an island's permanent residents and commercial trucks. Individuals wishing to return from islands to the mainland were allowed.
- **On 25 March 2020**, the majority of Greece's national Aegean airlines flights were suspended.
- **On 15 April 2020**, extension of travel bans applies to Spain, Germany, Italy, Turkey, and United Kingdom.
- **On 11 May 2020**, ferry services between Greek islands and the mainland resumed.
- **On 19 May 2020**, Greece lifted the mandatory quarantine on arrivals from Bulgaria and Serbia coming for business or humanitarian reasons.
- **On 21 May 2020**, extension of ban on the entry of non-EU citizens until June 15.
- **On 15 June 2020**, Greece opened its territory to tourists from 29 countries. International flights were only allowed to land in Athens International Airport. Tourists do not require a PCR test prior to their arrival nor undergoing a quarantine.
- **On 1 July 2020**, international flights were permitted to land in all other Greek airports.
- **On 2 July 2020**, Greece reopened its borders. Arrivals to the country are required to fill an online form prior to arrival and may be subject to a 14-day quarantine upon arrival.
- **On 6 July 2020**, a ban of entry has been imposed on Serbian citizens.
- **On 21 July 2020**, Greece limited the number of land borders open for passengers entry. In addition, entering through land borders was restricted to citizens, residents, and travelers for essential purposes only.
- **On 19 November 2020**, border with Albania is closed to public. Kakavia, Evzoni and Promachonas crossing to remain open.
- **On 30 November 2020**, border closure extended until further notice.
- **On 3 December 2020**, flights to Catalonia (Spain) and Turkey are suspended. Land border closings remain in effect. Entry to Greece requires a negative COVID-19 test certificate. Entry of all non-EEA nationals that are not residents of the EU or Schengen area with few other exemptions are not allowed to enter.
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Greece

Domestic/International Travel

- **On 13 December 2020**, all entering travelers must undergo a 3 day self-isolation period.
- **On 7 January 2021**, extension of existing entry restrictions. Travelers must self-isolate for 14 days.
- **On 21 January 2021**, extension of existing restrictions.
- **On 4 February 2021**, extension of existing restrictions until 11 February.
- **On 9 February 2021**, extension of existing restrictions until 22 February.
- **On 21 February 2021**, entry restrictions extended until March 8.
- **On 8 March 2021**, entry restrictions extended until March 22.
On 27 February 2020, all festivals, concerts and entertainment events were cancelled.

On 5 March 2020, all public gatherings in the areas of Elis, Achaia and Zakynthos Island. All sports and cultural events were also suspended.

On 9 March 2020, all cultural and sport events involving more than 1,000 people were banned nationwide. Gatherings at public spaces are prohibited.

On 12 March 2020, Nationwide gatherings are banned. Violators were subject to a EUR 1,000 fine.

On 16 March 2020, all collective religious practices were prohibited.

On 19 March 2020, all gatherings of more than 10 people were prohibited nationwide. Violators were subject to a EUR 1,000 fine.

On 22 October 2020, Athens and the greater Attica Region allow up to 9 people in gatherings, everywhere else up to 50 people are permitted.

On 5 March 2020, all schools in the areas of Elis, Achaia and Zakynthos Island were ordered to close.

On 9 March 2020, all school trips were suspended.

On 10 March 2020, all schools, universities and educational institutions were order to close for 14 days nationwide.

On 25 March 2020, the closure of educational institutions was extended until April 10th 2020.

On 10 April 2020, the closure of educational institutions was extended until May 10th 2020.

On 15 May 2020, final year highschool students returned to in-person class.

On 18 May 2020, all high and middle school students returned to in person schooling.

On 1 June 2020, nurseries and primary schools reopened.

On 1 September 2020, the scheduled start for the new academic year (in person) has been pushed from the 7th of September to the 14th, due to a surge in new cases.

On 31 October 2020, Universities are to operate remotely.

On 5 November 2020, High school and universities are to close while kindergartens, primary and special education schools can remain open.

On 14 November 2020, all schools are ordered to close for in-person instruction nationwide.

On 11 January 2021, Primary schools reopened.

On 1 February 2021, High Schools reopened.

On 6 February 2021, High schools in the regions of Attica, Thessaloniki and Halkidiki close.

On 9 February 2021, Attica closes all schools.

On 13 February 2021, Achaia and Evia (Skyros island not included) closes all schools.

On 26 February 2021, Islands of Lefkada, Syros and Samos and the towns of Arts and Amphilochia and the city of Heraklion on Crete are in lockdown schools close.

On 3 March 2021, Fthiotida, Argolida, Bocotia, Thesprotia, Rhodes, and Chios all go on lockdown schools close.
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**Greece**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public Info Campaign</th>
<th>Public Transportation</th>
<th>Workplace and Institutions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On 21 February 2020, the Hellenic Ministry of Health launched a national awareness campaign focusing on physical distancing and the WHO instructions on hand hygiene. The campaign was carried out through social media, the radio, TV, magazines and newspapers.</td>
<td>On 22 March 2020, public transportation services were reduced, however sufficient operation continued during daily working hours.</td>
<td>On 22 March 2020, all workers including those in non-essential jobs were able to go to work regardless of limitation of movement.</td>
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<tr>
<td>On 7 March 2020, the Ministry of Health launched the hotline (1137), operating on a 24/7 basis to answer the public inquiries on COVID-19.</td>
<td>On 2 April 2020, the Greek Ministry of transport announced that all forms of public transport will operate at a maximum 50% occupancy. One passenger was only allowed per 5 seats taxi car, and two passengers allowed in 7 seats taxi cars.</td>
<td>On 16 September 2020, Wearing of face masks at work became compulsory.</td>
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<tr>
<td>As of 10 March 2020, daily updates on COVID-19 and health guidelines were displayed on the websites of the Hellenic National Public Health Organisation respectively (<a href="https://eody.gov.gr/">https://eody.gov.gr/</a>) and the Ministry of Health (<a href="https://www.moh.gov.gr/">https://www.moh.gov.gr/</a>).</td>
<td>On 9 April 2020, 70 additional buses have been deployed to morning zone routes and 45 buses to evening zone routes, in order to decrease crowdedness during rush hours.</td>
<td>On 22 September 2020, obligatory teleworking for 40% of employees in the private and public sectors in Attica region was announced by the government. Rotation system in workplace remains a possibility. Decision is set to run until 4 October 2020.</td>
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<tr>
<td>On 11 March 2020, holders of smartphones across Greece were sent an emergency alert on COVID-19 updates by the the General Secretariat for Civil Protection. A similar alert was also sent on the 17th and 22nd of March.</td>
<td>As of 16 June 2020, all passengers were required to wear a face mask when onboard public transport or waiting in a station. Boarding buses using the front door was also prohibited.</td>
<td>On 4 October 2020, the extension of teleworking in Attica was extended until December 31st.</td>
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<tr>
<td>On 23 March 2020, Greece released COVID-19 Checker app which informed people of virus symptoms as well as providing information of qualified doctors for further assistance.</td>
<td>On 22 October 2020, Taxis are limited to a maximum of 3 passengers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>On 27 June 2020, Greece launched the awareness campaign “Enjoy your stay- Stay safe” to raise the awareness of tourists on health guidelines they should follow during their visit to the country. Posters and flyers in English, French and German were distributed to arriving tourists in seaports and airports.</td>
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<td>On 2 October 2020, the government launched a new TV campaign to raise awareness on limiting the spread of COVID-19 virus. The campaign costs EUR2 million and will be carried out on all TV nationals nationwide.</td>
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### Greece

#### Testing Framework
- **On 11 May 2020**, 500 mobile testing units were deployed across the country targeting PCR and antibodies test to elderlies and persons in closed communities such as prisons and care homes.
- **As of 5 June 2020**, Greece had a daily testing capacity of 5,500 COVID-19 tests per day. Greece approved the use of antigen tests, obtaining more than 1 million testing kit.
- **As of 7 August 2020**, Greece was conducting 9,000 COVID-19 tests daily at its entry points.
- **On 10 September 2020**, Greece testing capacity increased to 14,000 tests a day.
- **On 30 November 2020**, Greece was conducting 25,000 tests a day.
- **On 18 December 2020**, the Hellenic Ministry of Health launched a platform where individuals can register for free random COVID-19 test. An SMS is then sent to the registering person with the test appointment and location. 12,000 random tests will be carried out daily in 386 testing sites across the country.
- **On 7 February 2021**, Greece was conducting between 38,000-50,000 COVID-19 tests a day.
- **On 20 March 2021**, the government announced that it will begin distributing free COVID-19 self-testing kits to residents.
- **As of 14 February 2021**, Greece has conducted a total of 590,597 tests per 1 million people.

#### Contact Tracing
- **As of 25 February 2020**, contact tracing in Greece was conducted at an ad hoc basis, such as in situations where the source of infection has not been previously identified in the community.
- **On 1 March 2020**, among newly confirmed cases one was traced back to returning from Italy. Contacts were reached out and tested by medical teams. The National Public Health Organization set a contact tracing protocol, where the 10 closest contact of a positive case are tested. If a positive case is discovered within the tested contacts then another 10 close contacts of the new case are also tested and so on.
- **On 10 June 2020**, Greece announced that the close contacts of any tourist who tests positive while staying in a hotel will be mandatory quarantined by the health authorities.
- **Government mentioned that contact tracing applications are under development, while no clear timeline available.**

#### Vaccine
- **On 24 December 2020**, Greece received its first batch of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. Frontline workers to be the first to be vaccinated under the mass campaign to begin on the 27 of December.
- **On 13 January 2021**, the first batch of the Moderna vaccine arrived to Greece.
- **On 16 January 2021**, Vaccinations on eldery begins using the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. 75,000 healthcare workers have been vaccinated.
- **On 9 February 2021**, Next age group to be vaccinated those aged 60-79. Greece received first batch of AstraZeneca-Oxford vaccine.
- **On 23 February 2021**, Greece issued digital vaccination certificates to all vaccinated citizens.
- **On 13 March 2021**, A total of 855,151 have received the first vaccine dose since the start of the campaign. Johnson & Johnson vaccine approved as part of the EU wide approval.
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Sources


