

# Coronavirus Disease - COVID 19

Weekly Situation Report No. 50 (15 March 2021)

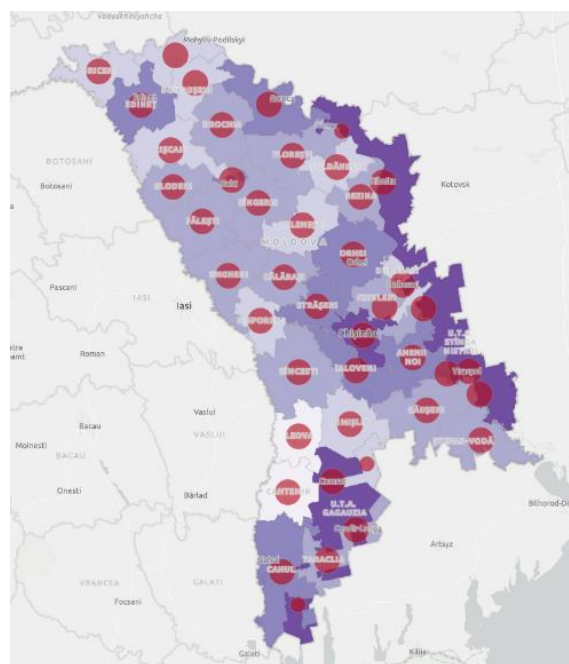


This report is produced by UN Moldova in collaboration with Government and development/humanitarian partners. The UN is producing weekly epidemiological updates followed by monthly detailed programme updates. All past sitreps can be accessed [here](#)

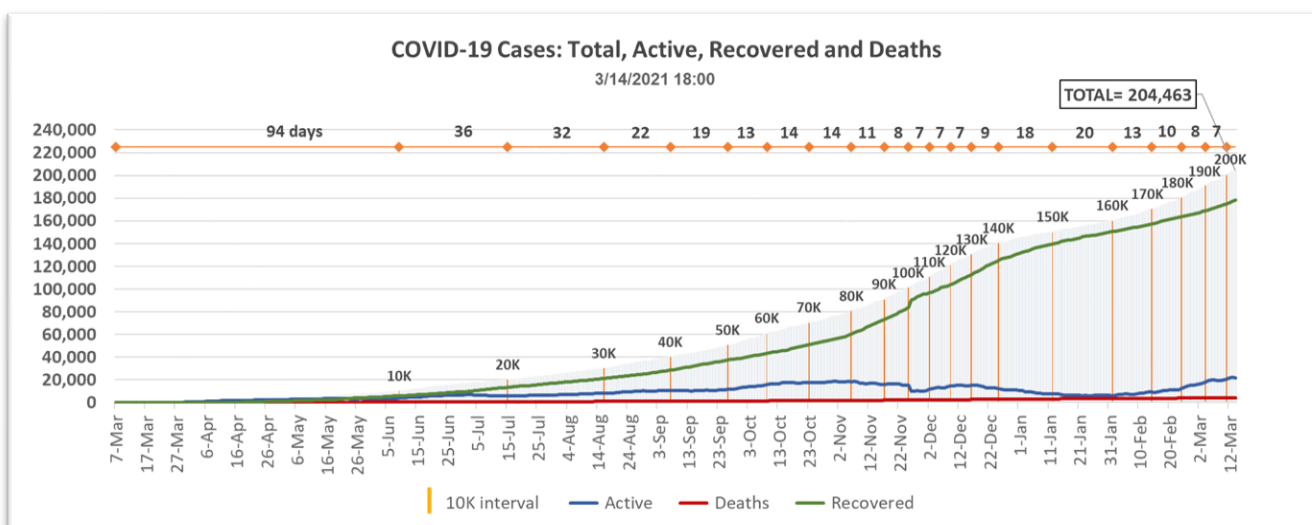
## Highlights – data as reported by national authorities

Data as at 14/03/2021, 18:00 p.m.

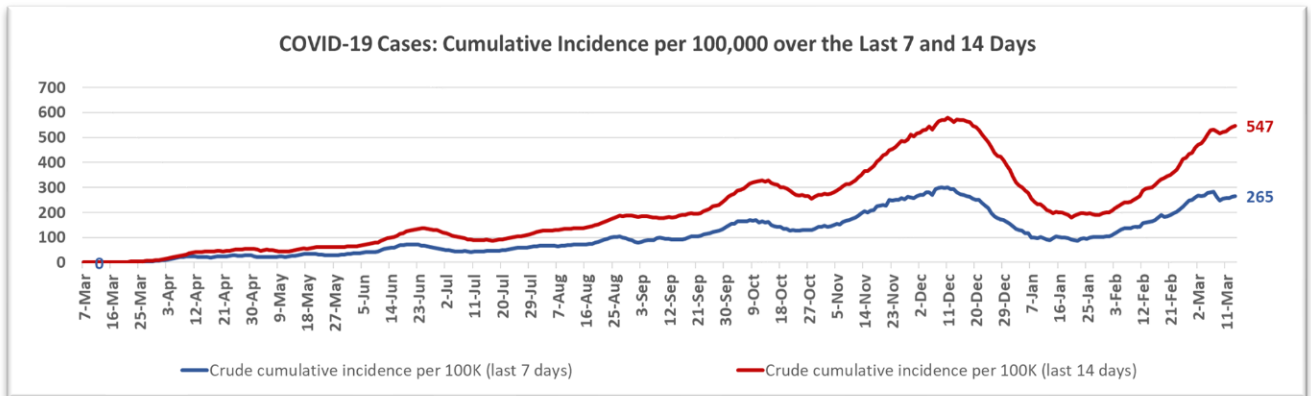
The pace of growth in coronavirus cases decreased slightly after six consecutive weeks of acceleration. The average number of daily cases for the past week was 1,316, representing a 6% decrease in cases compared to the previous period. Thus, to date, a total of 204,463 cases have been reported. There are presently 21,811 active cases in the country, which is the second-highest number since the start of the pandemic. Among the currently hospitalized patients, 336 are in a very serious condition. In addition, after a 36% increase in the weekly number of recoveries, the total number of recoveries now stands at 178,322.



The average number of COVID-19-associated daily deaths over a seven-day period increased and now stands at 31.3. A total of 4,330 deaths have been registered in the country since the beginning of the pandemic. The case fatality rate has remained stable at 2.1%.

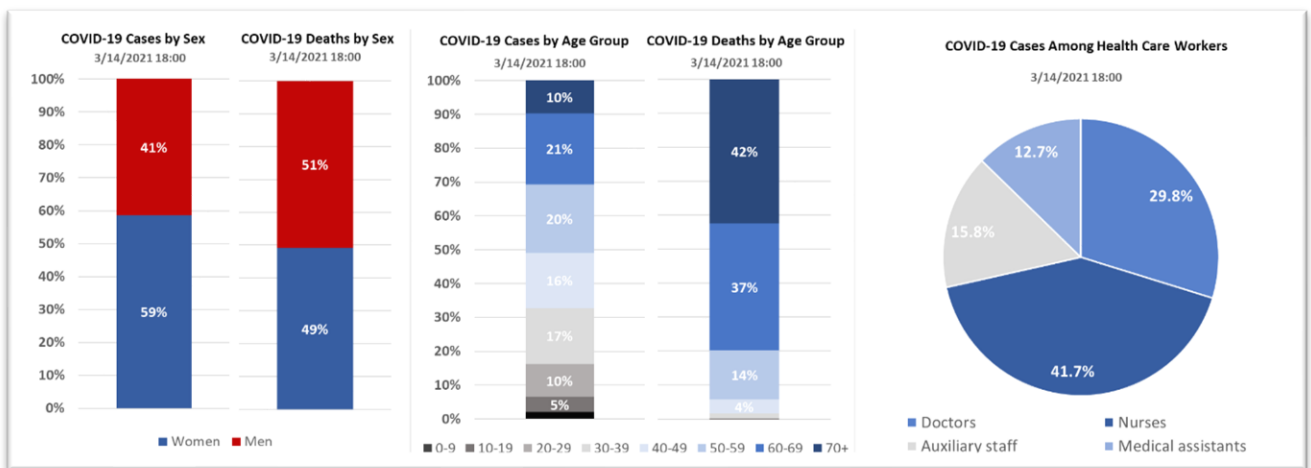


The overall crude cumulative incidence of cases per 100,000 is 5,886. The crude cumulative incidence of cases is 265 and 547 for the last 7 and 14 days, respectively. Both figures mark a slight decrease compared to the previous week.

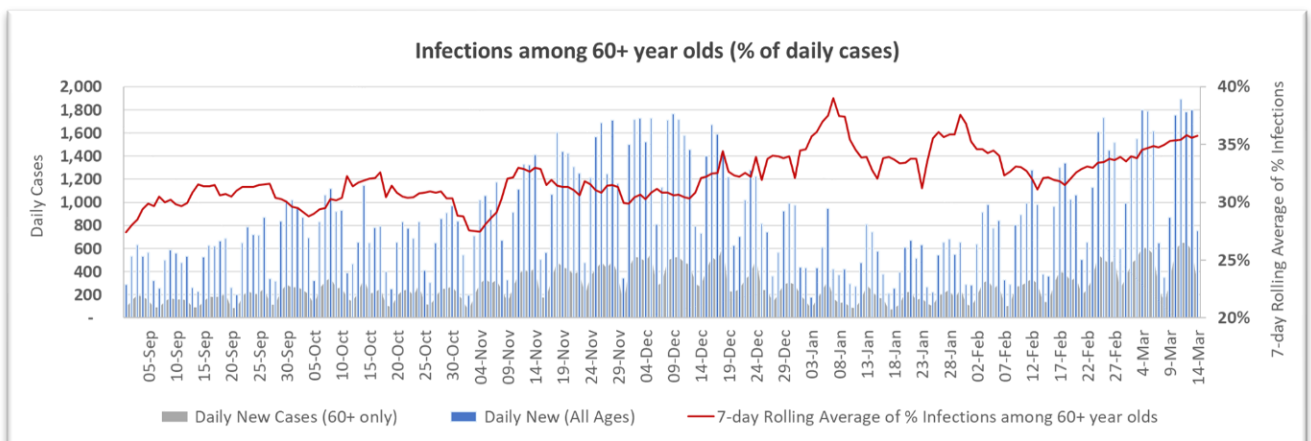


Fifty-nine percent of all cases have been reported among women and 41% among men. However, men account for a higher proportion (51%) of all deaths than women.

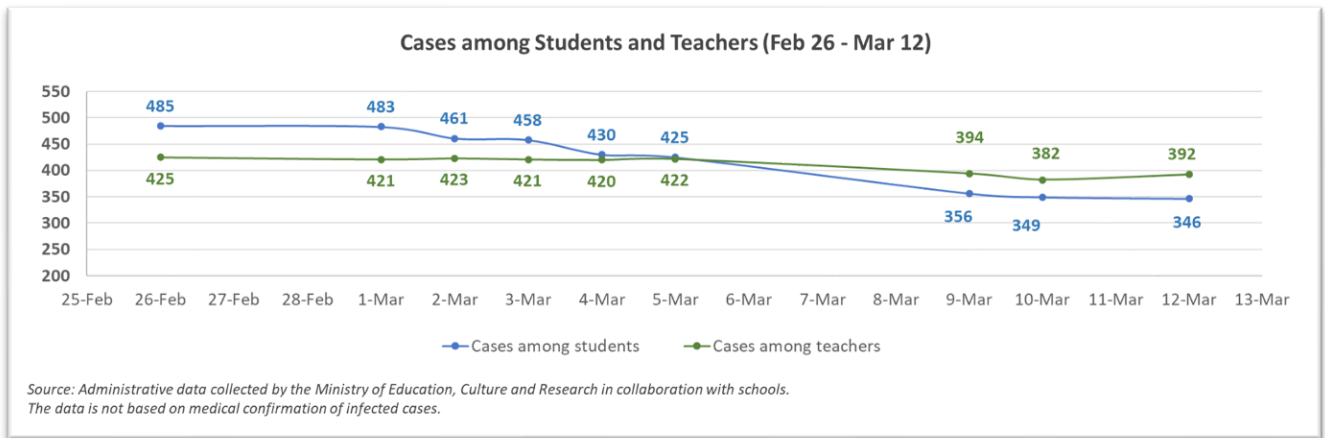
Though they account for 51% of all cases, over 93% of all deaths have been registered among people aged 50 and over. However, the mortality burden for this group has decreased by about two percentage points compared to the last week's value (95%).



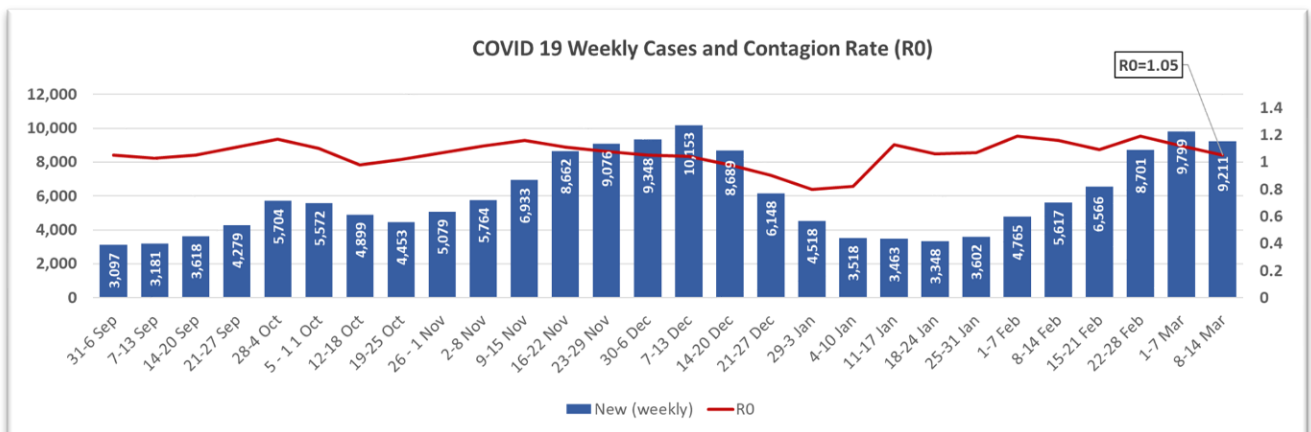
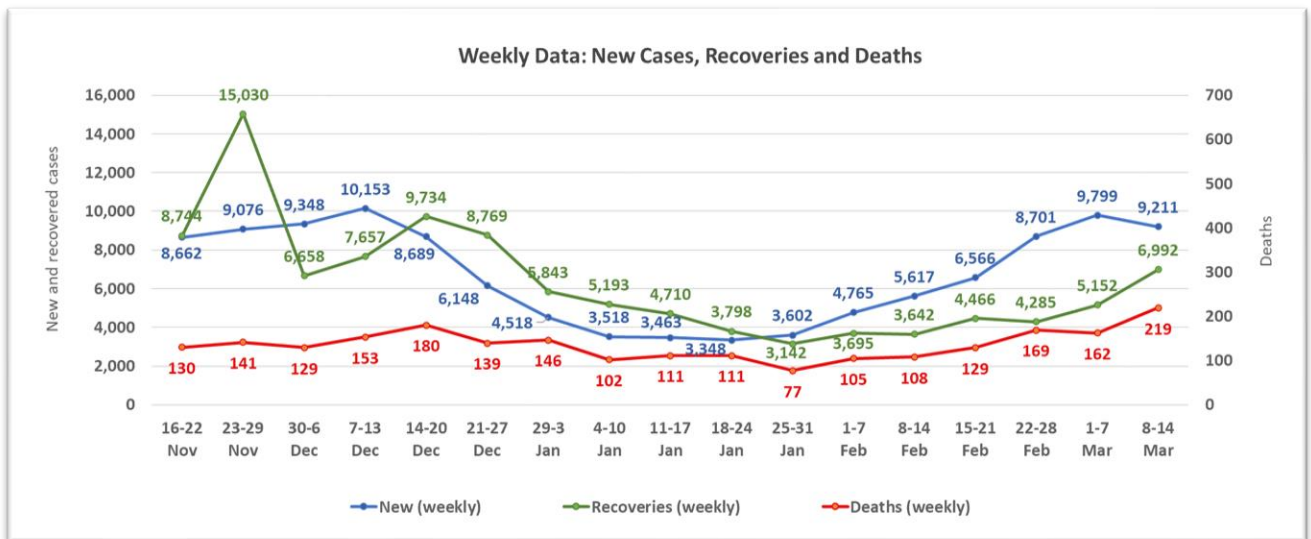
At the same time, the average proportion of new infections among the eldest population group (aged 60 and over) has increased for the fifth consecutive week and now stands at 36%, compared to 35% in the previous week.



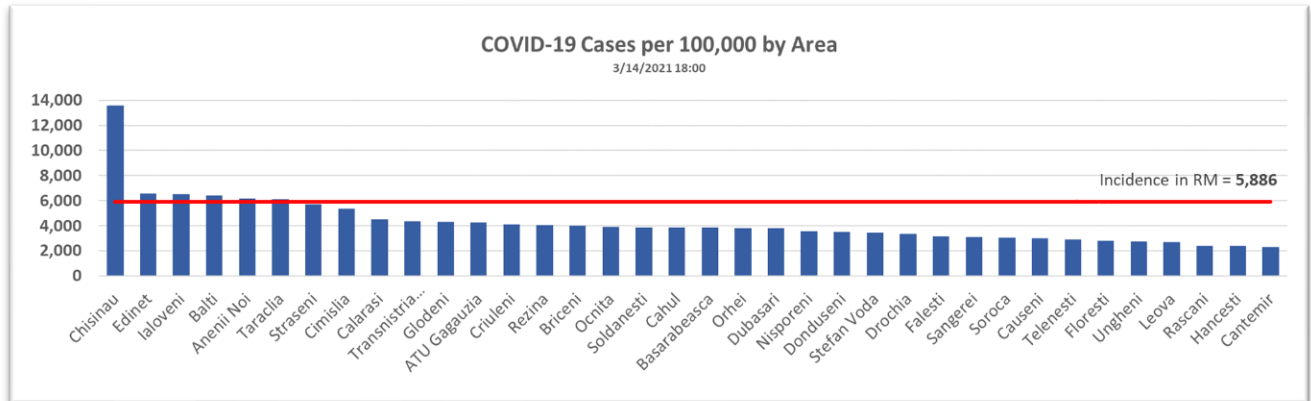
Cases reported from the general education system have decreased in the first two weeks of March compared to the end of February. Confirmed infections among students have decreased by 29%, while among teachers the decrease has been around 8%. Based on the latest data, the number of students who have tested positive for the virus is 346 (0.1%), and the number of teachers is 392 (1.46%).



The weekly number of new cases has decreased by 6% and is now 9,211. Given the steady increase in new cases over the previous weeks, the weekly number of recoveries has also increased. It now stands at 6,992. The total number of deaths registered in the last week is 219, which represents a substantial increase over the previous period. The contagion rate (R0) decreased for a third week in a row but remained above one, registering a value of 1.05 last week.



Chisinau, with 44% of all confirmed cases, remains the most affected district in the country. The Transnistria region (10%), Balti (3%), Ialoveni (3%), and ATU Gagauzia (3%) follow. Each of the remaining areas accounts for 2% or less of the total number of cases. After considering the relative size of cities/districts' populations, Chisinau remains the most affected area with more than 13,500 cases per 100,000 population. Seven other areas (Edinet, Ialoveni, Balti, Anenii Noi, Taraclia, Straseni, and Cimislia) have also passed the 5,000 cases per 100,000 population mark.



The contagion rate is also uneven across districts, with Taraclia, Cantemir, and Cahul registering some of the lowest rates in the country, all below 0.8. At the same time, Rezina, Falesti and Rascani registered the highest contagion rates in the country, all above 1.1. The contagion rate in Chisinau stands at 0.99.

Since the launch of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign and the administration of the first doses of the vaccine on March 2, a total of 12,754 persons, all health care workers, have been vaccinated. This represents around 21% of the total number of health care workers. These figures are updated daily and can be accessed [here](#).

Real-time figures and graphs can be accessed in Romanian and in Russian [here](#). This site has over 2.3 million views to date.

## Overview & Announcements

- **Meeting of the Supreme Security Council**

President Sandu [convened](#) the Supreme Security Council in an extraordinary meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup> due to harsh epidemiological situation in the country. The President and the majority of Council members recommended a series of remedy actions for the relevant authorities, as follows:

- ✓ To declare a state of emergency for two weeks, Government to draft plans and to submit to Parliament;
- ✓ Emergency appointment of the Secretaries of State to the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection and the appointment of the management of the National Agency for Public Health;
- ✓ Modification of the composition of the National Extraordinary Public Health Commission to include epidemiologists and doctors in its composition;
- ✓ Activation of the Single Command Center within the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations, consisting of representatives of all institutions with duties in crisis management;
- ✓ Accelerating the vaccination campaign and moving it to stage II and creating an online programming register for citizens for the mass vaccination stage;
- ✓ Offsetting the losses of employees, patentees, other categories, caused by the state of emergency at least 1000 lei per week;
- ✓ Developing the mechanism for delivering compensated medicines at home;

- ✓ Organizing diagnostic points for patients treated at home for proper evaluation of cases in dynamics;
- ✓ Extension of testing capacity;
- ✓ Simplification of the procedures for registering the unemployed and application status for the unemployment allowance within 3 days;
- ✓ It is recommended for state institutions to create a strategic communication cell and actively combat the promotion of fake news about the pandemic.

- **COVID-19 vaccination website launched**

To support the National Vaccination Campaign the MoHLSP launched a dedicated information website - <https://vaccinare.gov.md/>. The webpage is in two languages, contains updated information on vaccinated peoples' number, number of adverse reactions to the vaccine, vaccination phases, various news and other information materials on the vaccination campaign. The platform at this stage is not intended to be used for vaccination booking (in Romania the platform <https://vaccinare-covid.gov.ro/> is also used for booking).

- **The government allocates reserve fund for additional COVID-19 vaccine procurement**

The government has [allocated](#) 60 million Lei from its reserve fund for additional procurement of vaccines to augment those coming via the [COVAX](#) facility and bilateral donations. According to the GoM, the allocation will allow buying about 330,000 vaccine doses, which accounts for one fourth of the necessary amount of 1,386,115 doses.

## Update on restrictions\*

\*these are subject to changes and amendment and should be viewed as an overview and not as a definitive source for decision making

- The National Extraordinary Commission in Public Health issued its next [Decision - No. 50 from March 12<sup>th</sup>](#). The Decision institutes a new format of activating for educational institutions starting with March 16. Depending on the rate of incidence of cases per 100K population, the educational process will be organized as follows: 49 cases/100k- physical presence, between 50-100/100k- physical presence only for finishing school classes, the rest at distance learning, and more than 100 cases/100k- primary classes full presence, the rest - 50% presence and distance learning.
- The latest [List of countries with Red zone classification](#) was updated, which is in effect as of March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. The Commission also [updated the rules for trespassing the state border](#). Starting with March 5<sup>th</sup>, all incoming persons will fill in the epi fiche and will oblige to observe the 14 days self-quarantine. The regime also has exceptions, i.e. children under 5yo, PCR negative test availability, anti-COVID19 vaccine confirmation, bus drivers and others.