



## **Fighting Strategy COVID-19**

### **Austria**

#### **1. What is the COVID-19 fighting strategy of your government (National, local)?**

Step I.: Lockdown to limit infections and evaluate the situation, while supermarkets and essential businesses (delivery systems, pharmacy, public-transport) are still open with restrictions. Step II.: Compulsory masks for supermarkets and co. Step III.: reopening of all businesses limited to an area of less than 400m<sup>2</sup>, except for hardware stores and gardening stores.

#### **2. What is the strategy towards the population (Mask wearing, containment ...)?**

Mask wearing is compulsory for everyone in the public, as mentioned above.

#### **3. Are there enough masks for the population in your country?**

Yes, so far there are enough. The government waited to introduce compulsory mask wearing until Austria had enough masks for now and the future.

#### **4. Are there enough masks and personal protective equipment for health professionals?**

We had problems with primary health centers and nursing homes. The nursing homes are still criticized for not being sufficiently restrictive.

#### **5. What is the biological screening strategy (Polymerase Chain Reaction – PCR, serological tests, )?**

Until now (28.04.2020) we have a total standing of approximately 240.000 tests. The aim is it to have as tests as possible. Currently Austria is not reaching its expectations in terms of the total tests. People, who are classified as a risk group, and people with severe symptoms are prioritized.

#### **6. Do you have enough biological screening tests?**

No. There could be more.

#### **7. Do you have enough beds for inpatients? (intensive care and other)**

Yes, for both intensive and other.

#### **8. Do you increase the number of intensive care beds in your country?**

No.

#### **9. Do you have enough human resources to manage the epidemic?**

For right now, yes, but the virus could cause a shortage in the future. We also had a great number of volunteering people as it is part of a program Austria has. (civil service and Austrian military)

**10. Do you have guidelines for good practices between healthcare teams and physicians in the context of the COVID-19 crisis?**

Overall, yes.

**11. What are the main challenges for hospital managers during the COVID-19 crisis?**

There are many. This is a very unclear situation and uncertainty. Everyone, including hospital managers depend on the guidelines set by the government and other institutions. For example restructuring, and implementation of restrictions, which are set by the government. Hygien measurements. Communication to authorities. Distribution of beds to patients, allocation of resources and staff. It is very difficult to continue with the day to day activities in the hospital with current conditions. Specifically, wearing masks and distancing in the hospital is a massive challenge for everyone involved (staff and patients).

**12. Other important information?**

Everyone is scared of a second wave of covid-19 infections.