



Fighting Strategy COVID-19

Hungary

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

The government has ordered and strictly enforces curfew restrictions throughout the country. The government is devoting significant resources to procuring protective equipment, masks, respirators and tests. These devices come from China via an air bridge. Protective equipment is available primarily to hospital staff, but there are still disruptions.

The country is being prepared for the worst-case scenario of a pandemic. 50% of the capacity of the hospitals has been freed up. As a result, there have unfortunately been problems with proper home care for repatriated patients.

The curfew has been shown to be effective. The number of diseases is not rising drastically. The number of tests performed is low. To improve this, nearly 20,000 people will be tested over the next two weeks under the professional guidance of medical universities.

The number of confirmed infections is close to 3,000. Nearly 1,000 patients are cared for in a hospital. Of these, 50 receive mechanical ventilation. The number of dead is 300.

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

Communication about wearing a mask was not clear in the first period. Today, these rules have been clarified. Great emphasis is placed on social distance. Groupings and, of course, public events are prohibited. Hotels and restaurants are not allowed to receive guests. The restaurants only serve takeaway food in full compliance with hygiene rules.

Starting this week, you can only travel on public transport in big cities in masks.

Public awareness of defense is not strong enough. Bypassing and circumventing the rules has become a „national sport” in many places. The authorities are taking firm and consistent action against this.

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

Numerically, there are enough masks in the country. Given that this set should be provided primarily to health workers and social institutions, their availability to the public is limited.

Local governments provide masks to the population at their own expense, but this is not enough. In smaller settlements, mainly home-made masks are available.

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

The availability of protective equipment for health professionals is constantly improving. In the first period, however, there were serious supply disruptions. This is also due to the fact that more than 10% of those infected are healthcare workers. There is a serious problem in GP care.

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

The number of tests performed was low in European comparison. The government has initiated a change in strategy in this area and is significantly increasing the number of tests, in which medical universities also provide assistance. The aim is to determine the infectivity of the population on the basis of a representative sample.

6. Do you have enough biological screening tests?

An adequate amount of biological testing is currently available.

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

The government has released 50% of the available bed capacity. This is sufficient for the expected benefits even in the worst case scenario.

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

The number of intensive beds is also expected to be sufficient. Significant improvements have been made here. Several mobile hospitals have been established in preparation for the increased demands.

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

Human resource supply can be critical. Infections in hospitals quarantine workers and there are many proven infections. Physicians over the age of 65 have limited access to care. Nearly 65% of GPs are over 65 years old.

However, it is possible to redeploy staff between individual institutions as needed.

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

Yes, we have the appropriate professional protocols, primarily based on WHO guidelines.

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

Hospital managers face particular challenges. The government assigned a military hospital commander to each hospital to help provide the necessary supplies for care.

The release of hospital capacity required many professional decisions to be resolved. A key task is to provide the technical and human conditions necessary for the increased intensive capacities.

However, the professional and existential security of managers is not strong enough.

12.Other important information?

None