**EID Summary**

Researchers from Epigroup are currently modelling the impact of different social distancing measure (SDM) strategies on the transmission dynamics of the COVID-19 outbreak. We are exploring ways that the timing and magnitude of these SDM strategies translates into reductions in the burden of disease, in the overall population, in at-risk groups and to prevent health systems from being overwhelmed.

Mathematical models adapted from the tried and tested SIR model structure have been used to explore these questions. These models do not aim to forecast the course of the outbreak, rather they allow us to explore a wide range of possible scenarios. The results from these models help epidemiologists, public health practitioners and policy makers gain a better understanding of the role of SDMs in managing COVID-19 epidemics.