**EID Summary**

Mathematical modellers from Epigroup are currently exploring the effect of different social distancing measure (SDM) strategies on impacting the transmission dynamics of the COVID-19 outbreak. We are particularly interested in exploring how the timing and magnitude of these SDM strategies can meaningfully reduce the burden of disease on 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 specific questions. These models do not aim to forecast the course of the outbreak, rather they help to explore the effectiveness of these SDM measures in a hypothetical context. The outputs from these models can then be used to influence decision-making in more complex predictive models and to help guide public health policy. Much of this work has already been translated into briefing notes for SPI-M and the CMO-S.