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Slovenia records first death due to coronavirus

Reuters Editorial

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LJUBLJANA (Reuters) - Slovenia has recorded its first death due to coronavirus, Health Minister Tomaz Gantar told national channel TV Slovenia on Saturday. According to TV Slovenia the victim was an elderly man with a chronic disease.

Later on Saturday the government decided to shut down public transport from Monday, national news agency STA reported.

“We are trying to reduce the spread of the coronavirus infection and are limiting contacts of larger groups of people in all areas...The decrees are necessary because since we are close to the scenario we see in neighboring Italy,” Gantar said.

The government said earlier there were 181 confirmed cases of coronavirus in the country, up from 141 reported on Friday, three of whom were in intensive care.

In recent days Slovenia has closed all schools and introduced health checks at its border with Italy. It canceled train and bus traffic with Italy and limited cargo traffic from there.

Most public events were canceled and many public institutions are closed. The foreign ministry has advised against any travel to Italy

or Spain.

The Catholic church canceled all masses from Friday to prevent the spread of the disease.

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