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PM Marković: First two cases of coronavirus CoVID19 confirmed in Montenegro, we successfully resisted for three months, new phase of challenge begins and we remain one team

Podgorica, Montenegro (17 March 2020) — “The laboratories of the Institute for Public Health of Montenegro today confirmed the first cases of infection with a new [coronavirus](#) CoVID19 in Montenegro. The patients are female – born in 1948 and 1973 respectively and both have resided in epidemic-affected areas, during the previous period. They are housed in a special ward of the [Clinical](#) Centre and both patients are stable in health for the time being,” Prime Minister **Duško Marković** noted.

Addressing the public at a press conference, which several Montenegrin media transmitted live, the Prime Minister stressed that the Clinical Centre of Montenegro has adequate facilities, equipment and highly trained staff to provide proper and separate care to diseased patients, while fully protecting other patients and

their [employees](#).

“In addition, the Institute of Public Health has already begun implementing measures to limit the spread of the virus, as well as identifying all contacts, which diseased persons made, during the period of infection, in order to determine the potential exposure of others and their isolation. All suspicious cases will be promptly adequately handled, isolated, to [minimise](#) the risk of human-to-human transmission,” the Prime Minister stated.

Prime Minister Marković said that at this moment, a new phase in tackling this health and social challenge is beginning for our country.

“It is clear that the first case, or cases of new coronavirus disease (CoVID19), were not unexpected, and it is very likely that new cases will be detected in the coming period, given the epidemiological characteristics of the virus. However, there is no room for panic or unreasonable and uncontrollable concern!” the Prime Minister pointed out.

The Prime Minister recalled that in recent weeks our country has taken a number of measures and activities, aimed at preventing the introduction of coronavirus into Montenegro.

“To this day, we have successfully resisted, almost three months after the first detected case in Europe. This clearly confirms that the whole health system, and with it the entire country, has been preparing for such a scenario for weeks, in line with the guidelines of the World Health Organisation and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. It is the result of all of us: the National Coordinating Body for Communicable Diseases, which analysed, monitored and undertook numerous activities around the

clock, hardworking, professional and dedicated people in our institutions, who day by day responsibly implemented and supervised the measures, the media – with which we partner function in an effort to provide timely and objective information to citizens. They were all with us together – they remain one team,” the Prime Minister noted.

At the press conference, the [Prime Minister](#) particularly highlighted the role of our citizens, who, as he said, showed awareness and discipline in already demanding conditions.

“Therefore, I am grateful to them,” Prime Minister Duško Marković stated.

The Prime Minister noted that a new, more demanding phase is ahead of us, in which we must do everything to prevent the uncontrolled spread of the virus.

“So, we need even stronger discipline, even greater responsibility, even more solidarity, so that we can all adapt to new and more complex conditions,” the Prime Minister said.

At the end of his address, Prime Minister Duško Marković pointed to other aspects of the spread of coronavirus CoVID19 and to Montenegro – the last country in Europe.

“Besides the health aspects, this epidemic is already turning into a serious economic challenge, even for the most developed countries. We are aware of the problems facing both, employers and employees. We are aware of the real life needs that our citizens face on a daily basis. Therefore, we carefully analyses every aspect of this threat and prepare responses, according to the possibilities available. The budget of Montenegro is the budget of all citizens of Montenegro. That is why we plan the creation of

measures and the use of resources extremely responsibly and [domestically](#), in line with priorities. And on this [occasion](#), I urge us to be in solidarity, to be responsible, to join forces. The health of our citizens is a priority for this Government. That is why we will put all our resources in the function of achieving this goal,” Prime Minister Duško Marković concluded, at a press [conference](#).

In addition to the Prime Minister, Minister of Health Kenan Hrapović, Director of the Institute for Public Health Boban Mugoša and Director of the Clinical Centre of Montenegro Jevto Eraković answered the journalists’ questions regarding CoVID19,.

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