# lITHUANIA

## COVID-19 cases

On 1st September 2020 there were 2,929 registered COVID-19 cases and 86 deaths in the overall population.[[1]](#endnote-1) To our knowledge, data on COVID-19 cases, deaths, job-loss, and poverty were not disaggregated by disability.

## Emergency, lockdown, and confinement

The state of emergency in Lithuania started on 26th February 2020 and ended on 16th June 2020.[[2]](#endnote-2) Many disability related health or rehabilitation services were suspended. Lithuanian government exempted some groups of persons with disabilities from wearing masks after the end of state emergency (from August).[[3]](#endnote-3) Municipalities had the obligation to organize care for children and persons with disabilities if care was not possible at home.[[4]](#endnote-4)

## Involvement of organisations of persons with disabilities

DPOs were not included in task forces or the development of national policy during or after the state of emergency. The Lithuanian Disability Forum has conducted a survey of DPOs on their experiences and reflection after COVID-19 and its results are forthcoming.[[5]](#endnote-5)

## Communications and announcements

All government press conferences on COVID-19 were available with sign language interpreters. Easy-to-read information was mainly provided by NGOs. Lithuanian Deaf Union developed videos about the most important decisions and information for their community in sign language. These NGO resources were disseminated to municipalities and suggested as information material.[[6]](#endnote-6)

## Institutions and closed settings

There have been 10 COVID-19 cases and 7 deaths in institutions and closed settings. Out of 196 social care institutions operating in Lithuania, COVID-19 cases and deaths were recorded only in 1 care institution.[[7]](#endnote-7) Policy on institutions and closed settings included restricted visits, sanitary requirements, staff had to provide other opportunities for clients to communicate with relatives - by phone or video, and there were several regulation regarding the health of the staff.[[8]](#endnote-8) After state emergency these the measures lost their force, except safety requirements for staff.[[9]](#endnote-9)

## Healthcare

The Minister of Health of the Republic of Lithuania “Description of the procedure for sorting victims (patients), emergencies and emergencies” (2013 May 16th, no. V-523) states that triage procedure are in accordance with the International Standard for Preparedness and Assistance for Major Incident Medical Management and Support. When sorting victims, the health professional must assess only patients state of health (age, gender and other criteria are not considered).[[10]](#endnote-10)

## Social protection

The Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania passed the package of legislative changes that compensate employed persons looking after children or persons with disability while in quarantine by paying them sickness benefits.[[11]](#endnote-11) Employees receiving sickness benefits for looking after their children or/persons with disabilities were not eligible to other benefits that were otherwise applicable to employees. These compensations were stopped after the end of state emergency.[[12]](#endnote-12) There was a single pay-out of €200 for those receiving child benefits (payable for children with disabilities, low-income families, and large families).[[13]](#endnote-13) Decisions on disability, working capacity and special needs that expire during quarantine were automatically renewed throughout the quarantine period and for a further 3 months after the end of quarantine.[[14]](#endnote-14)

1. Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania, COVID-19 data, available at: https://sam.lrv.lt/lt/naujienos/koronavirusas [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Information provided by EDF. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania, Exceptions for people with disabilities due to wearing masks, available at: <http://sam.lrv.lt/lt/naujienos/zmonems-su-negalia-isimtys-del-kaukiu-devejimo> [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. Government official website for COVID-19 related news, Where necessary, municipalities must provide care for children and the disabled, available at: <https://koronastop.lrv.lt/lt/naujienos/prireikus-savivaldybes-turi-uztikrinti-vaiku-ir-neigaliuju-prieziura> [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. Information provided by Lithuanian Disability Forum, 27 August 2020. [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. Information provided by Lithuanian Disability Forum, 27 August 2020. [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania, Coronavirus in care institutions, Available at: <https://socmin.lrv.lt/lt/naujienos/koronavirusas-globos-istaigose-visa-informacija-interaktyviame-zemelapyje> [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
8. Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania, Coronavirus in care institutions, Available at: https://socmin.lrv.lt/lt/naujienos/koronavirusas-globos-istaigose-visa-informacija-interaktyviame-zemelapyje [↑](#endnote-ref-8)
9. Information provided by Lithuanian Disability Forum, 27 August 2020. [↑](#endnote-ref-9)
10. The Minister of Health of the Republic of Lithuania Order regarding the approval of the description of the procedure for the sorting of victims (patients), emergencies and emergencies, available at: https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/TAR.3AE7B7EA1503 [↑](#endnote-ref-10)
11. Coronavirus pandemic in the EU - Fundamental Rights Implications - Bulletin 1, available at: <https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2020/covid19-rights-impact-april-1> [↑](#endnote-ref-11)
12. Information provided by Lithuanian Disability Forum, 27 August 2020. [↑](#endnote-ref-12)
13. Eurofound (2020), A lump sum payment for children on top of child benefit, case LT-2020-24/917 (measures in Lithuania), COVID-19 EU PolicyWatch, Dublin, available at: http://eurofound.link/covid19eupolicywatch [↑](#endnote-ref-13)
14. Government official website for COVID – 19 related news, available at: https://koronastop.lrv.lt/lt/naujienos/visi-sprendimai-del-neigalumo-darbingumo-ir-specialiuju-poreikiu-galios-dar-3-menesius-po-karantino-pabaigos [↑](#endnote-ref-14)