# Country summary: Croatia

## COVID-19 cases

Croatia recorded 15,340 COVID-19 cases and 257 deaths[[1]](#footnote-1). Data was not disaggregated by disability.

While Croatia did not report official statistics on mortality rates in care homes, media reported on 6 May that residents of care homes represented 40% of all COVID-19 related deaths (34 of 83 in June 2020)[[2]](#footnote-2).

## Emergency, lockdown, and confinement

Croatia did not declare a state of emergency, it did however introduce some restrictions of movement and special regulations[[3]](#footnote-3) .

With few exceptions, all services supporting the right of persons with disabilities to independent living were suspended.[[4]](#footnote-4) Additionally, no measures were taken to inform those living in institutions.[[5]](#footnote-5)

## Involvement of organisations of persons with disabilities

No information found.

## Communications and announcements

No information found.

## Institutions and closed settings

Aside from statistics above, no information was found.

## Health care

The Croatian Institute of Public Health issued medical guidelines and recommendations for triage. Hospitals also set out guidelines for treating patients into three priority groups - the most severe (whose health status is potentially acute life-threatening), moderate (patients whose health status is not critical, but delaying therapy for six to eight weeks could potentially affect the overall treatment outcomes), and the least difficult diagnoses (patients whose health status is stable enough that the diagnostic therapy can be delayed until the pandemic is over)[[6]](#footnote-6).

## Social Protection

No information was found on social protection measures regarding persons with disabilities.

## Other comments

On education, the Ombudswoman for Children:

* Published a Recommendation for the protection of the child’s best interest in distance learning, offering solutions for achieving equal opportunities and providing the necessary support in new educational circumstances. Briefly: the Minister should provide all necessary support to ensure successful implementation of distance learning; teachers teaching children with disabilities should receive online support.
* Issued a statement expressing concern for children’s wellbeing in the process of gradual normalization, particularly children with developmental delays and disabilities, who require close contact with learning assistants. She warned that school representatives were neither consulted nor given guidelines to ensure safe conditions for children and school employees. To avoid potential health risks for children, the Ombudswoman appealed to the government to consider extending distance learning until the end of this school year.
* Highlighted that children with developmental disabilities may face particular difficulties following distance learning as their parents return to work and called for classroom learning for this group[[7]](#footnote-7).
1. Koronavirus.hr, information updated to 23 September available at: <https://www.koronavirus.hr/en> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, Coronavirus pandemic in the EU - Fundamental Rights Implications - Bulletin 3, June 2020, available at: <https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2020/covid19-rights-impact-june-1>. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Koronavirus.hr, limited information available in English at: <https://www.koronavirus.hr/en> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, Coronavirus pandemic in the EU - Fundamental Rights Implications - Bulletin 2, available at: <https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2020-coronavirus-pandemic-eu-bulletin-may_en.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, Coronavirus pandemic in the EU - Fundamental Rights Implications - Bulletin 2, available at: <https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2020-coronavirus-pandemic-eu-bulletin-may_en.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Information available at: <https://www.hzjz.hr/sluzba-epidemiologija-zarazne-bolesti/koronavirus-najnovije-preporuke/> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. <https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2020/covid19-rights-impact-may-1> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)