



UNION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS SPÉCIALISTES EUROPEAN UNION OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS

Association internationale sans but lucratif

International non-profit organisation

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Covid-19 update from the UEMS

Healthcare workers are currently working very hard during this Covid-19 outbreak. Not only medical specialists, but also GPs, nurses and many other healthcare professionals. This is a very difficult situation for them, as the number of cases increases by the day in the context of a lack of protective equipment in health facilities, shortages of staff and work overload.

UEMS REMAINS ACTIVE

UEMS chose to cancel all of its events from the beginning of March until the end of May 2020. This is not only because doctors are currently busy in their hospitals, but also to ensure that everyone stays safe. The CME Conference, the UEMS Council, the CESMA meetings and all Sections' meetings, EU examinations and preparatory courses have been either cancelled or postponed. We will keep you informed in due time regarding new dates for the postponed events.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us. The UEMS headquarters are currently closed, but the staff is working from home. We indeed encourage favouring online work rather than face-to-face meetings.

Live educational events have been cancelled or postponed in Europe. But CPD/CME should continue and is becoming ever more important due to the new challenges that doctors have to face every day. We would like to inform you that EACCME® also accredits online events and not only live ones and we will help providers to assure that they will continue to offer high quality of accredited education; please contact the EACCME office and we would be delighted to help you.

PROTECTION MEASURES

Health authorities release advice and regulations for the population on daily basis. The main message which has been spread to help health workers, is to not get sick. For that, the five main tips are the following:

- **Stay home** as much as possible.
- **Wash your hands** regularly, preferably with soap or with hand sanitizer.
- **Cough in your elbow** and not your hands.
- **Avoid touching your face**, especially your eyes, nose and mouth.



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- **Keep your distance** and maintain at least 1 metre (3 feet) between yourself and the persons around you.
- **Wear personal protective equipment** when dealing with symptomatic or suspected of infection patients.
- **Follow your local regulations and guidelines.**
- **Stay home when you have symptoms of respiratory infection** unless your local regulations foresee specific procedure for healthcare workers.
- **If your symptoms become severe report to healthcare facilities promptly.**

BE INFORMED

This global pandemic is spreading by the day and it is important to not spread false information, particularly about prevention and treatment methods.

There are several links in which you can find official and credible information:

- The **World Health Organization's** website has several sections dedicated to Covid-19. Among others, they provide [guidance for health workers](#) as well as their [main page](#) in which you will find all kind of information (Questions & Answers; country guidance; latest news...).
- The **European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control** keeps track of all developments and informs us of the current risk assessment as well as the daily situation update worldwide. Their data are available on their [dedicated page](#) as well.
- The **European Commission** also has a [Coronavirus response](#) section, in which you can find information on the Covid-19 impact on mobility or the economy, and what measures are being taken at the EU level.

Note that countries are taking specific measures as well. For instance, several European countries (e.g. Italy, Spain, France, Belgium) implemented confinement measures. We kindly invite you to refer to your respective governments' websites for more information.

LEARN

This pandemic is an opportunity for global medical community to learn how to prepare for future pandemics and to implement appropriate readiness measures when current pandemic subsides. Keep accurate medical records, make note of shortages and shortcomings, of special problems like



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most vulnerable groups, most exposed staff. We should make sure that our response to future pandemics will be efficient and evidence based.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

We at UEMS are most grateful and proud of friendship, cooperation and support from so many Colleagues from all EU countries and beyond. We face unusual challenge these days and staying together we will overcome it. Our thoughts and best wishes go to all of you.