

## **COVID-19 experience in Primary Paediatric Care in Hungary**

Summary of the Hungarian presentation  
Online Assembly of ECPCP, 13th February 2021.

### **The numbers (1)**

- Hungarian population: 9.77 million (2020.)
- first infected person in Hungary: 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020.
- total number of currently infected and healed persons: 388.799
- total number of persons died due to COVID-19: 13.752
- novel diagnosed cases on 14.02.2021.: 1.377 – incidence: 14.1/100.000
- total deaths as of 14.02.2021.: 46
- total number of COVID-19 patients in hospitals: 3.388
- total number of COVID-19 patients ventilated: 314
- total number of persons who received one dose of COVID-19 vaccine: 336.297 (3.44% of the population)
- total number of persons whose vaccination schedule of COVID-19 is completed: 129.339 (1,32% of the population)

### **Testing**

In Hungary, a two-step COVID-19 testing is performed. First, an antigen test is performed. If the patient is negative, directly after the antigen testing a PCR test is also performed. Tests can be done at the home of the patient, or at a testing centre. Tests are performed by the professionals of Hungarian Ambulance Service.

### **Paediatric Primary Care aspects**

#### **Telemedicine**

Telemedicine is a great success in our country. With the help of this method, diseases can be diagnosed faster, it is as efficient as personal examination, and significant reduction of unnecessary examinations could be achieved. The Hungarian Government also realized the importance of telemedicine and sanctioned it in law (2). We expect that telemedicine will remain an important tool in the hands of the Primary Care Paediatricians.

#### **Vaccination**

No mandatory vaccinations were skipped or postponed. Besides all mandatory vaccines meningococcus vaccines – recommended in Hungary - have also been administered during the pandemic. Vaccines have been administered in a joined fashion to minimize personal contacts.

#### **Annual screening, control of patients suffering in chronic disease.**

Annual screening for 2-5-year-old children have been done using tools of telemedicine unless it is for a high-risk patient or having vaccination at the same time. Planned control examinations of patients suffering from chronic disease have been postponed or done by telemedicine unless any urgency.

### **Societal aspects**

Nurseries, kindergartens, and elementary schools are open since September 2020. Body temperature is checked each day at entrance; accepted normal threshold varies locally (37.0-37.8 °C). Children learning in high schools have remote online education. For children between 10 to 14 years of age varies upon circumstances.

During the pandemic, many parents became unemployed, the number of divorces as well as social insecurity increased.

### **COVID-19 vaccination**

Administration of COVID-19 vaccines has started on the last days of December 2020 and completed by the beginning of February 2021 for healthcare professionals. It was followed by elderly people living in nursery homes and currently elderly people older than 65 years of age are vaccinated mostly by general practitioners.

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### **References**

(1) koronavirus.gov.hu (as of 15.02.2021.)

(2) 2020. évi LVIII. törvény a veszélyhelyzet megszüntésével összefüggő átmeneti szabályokról és a járványügyi készülségről