



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Public health, country knowledge, crisis management
Crisis management and preparedness in health

Luxembourg
SANTE.DDG1.C.3/WP

**NOTE FOR THE ATTENTION OF EWRS USERS AND THEIR NATIONAL COMPETENT
AUTHORITIES**

**Subject: Optimization of the use of EWRS in the Context of the COVID-19
outbreak**

In light of the development of the COVID-19 outbreak, the reporting of cases and updates regarding in-country situation on the Early Warning and Response System (EWRS), DG SANTE, following suggestions of Member States, would like to ask Competent Authorities and specifically EWRS users to follow the below points regarding appropriate use of the platform. Indeed, the status shows more than 60 open notifications published by countries, each including or not comments and individual updates. The following points will allow for a clear overview of the situation and avoid dispersion of information on the platform.

- DG SANTE asks EWRS users to update on their country status only on the main “master” notification published by the European Commission on the 9th of January 2020, named “Pneumonia of unknown aetiology, Wuhan, China” (commonly named the “Wuhan” notification). This notification already includes partial comments from Member States as well as Response Measures on the Incident Management module.
- DG SANTE asks EWRS users to not open any new notification with regards to COVID-19 and to provide updates only on the Wuhan notification.
- DG SANTE will proceed to the deactivation of individual notifications which will change their status to read-only. MS are asked to not reject this deactivation request. In this way, the “old” notifications will remain available but new information will be shared through the Wuhan notification.
- ECDC will proceed to IT changes to improve the usability and visibility of the Wuhan notification (adding filtering options in the comment section of the notification log). In addition, with the consistent use of the Wuhan notification, the latter will remain visible on the home page of the EWRS and easy access will be possible.

DG SANTE thanks the Competent Authorities and EWRS users for their understanding and hopes that this solution will allow for a clearer overview and understanding of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Commission européenne, 2920 Luxembourg, LUXEMBOURG - Tel. +352 5.1.2e
Office: 5.1.2e Tel. direct line +352 5.1.2e

5.1.2e @ec.europa.eu



5.1.2e

C.C.:



5.1.2e



5.1.2e