

City: Riga (LV)

This series of fact sheets only includes measures taken by the above-mentioned city authorities during the first wave of the pandemic to strengthen public health security, adapt various aspects of city life to new reality, support vulnerable populations and support the local economy. The fact sheet has been prepared based on official sources and media reporting. However, given the variegated degrees of online communication efficiency from the part of various city authorities, and the risks associated with collecting information from non-standardised online sources (including media), please note that the information in the table may not be comprehensive.

Contextual information

Territory concerned by measures

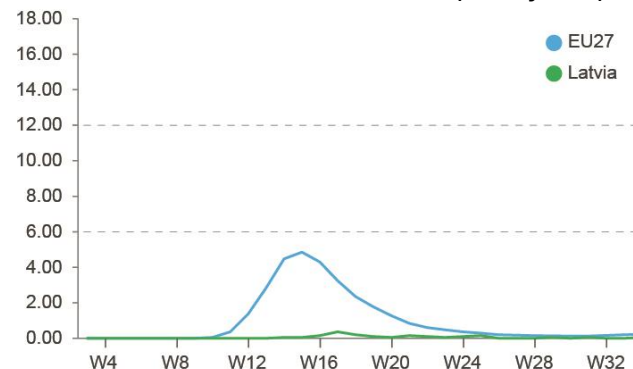
Measures described below have been taken by municipal authorities of Riga.

General information¹

Type of territory	City
City population ()	626 000
FUA population (2019)	932 000
Level of COVID-19 mortality*	Low

*COVID-19 deaths / 100 000 inhabitants shown at the corresponding national level (Latvia).

COVID-19 deaths / 100 000 inhabitants (weekly data)



Policy answers at local level - Measures²

Health security

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Daily way of life and work

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Support to vulnerable populations

	Date	Perspective ³
• Riga City Council Interim Administration decided to grant voucher cards for the purchase of food for children from disadvantaged families.	3-Apr	ST
• The distribution of hot food in Riga to nine locations for the poor and disadvantaged during the working days of the week.	9-Apr	ST
• People who do not have a fixed place of residence or in a crisis situation are admitted to three shelters in the city.	16-Apr	ST
• Financial assistance to foreign students who have remained in Latvia, due to an emergency situation.	20-Apr	ST
• Special allowance during the period of the emergency and one calendar month after the end of the emergency to a person or a family who is unable to meet their basic needs.	22-Apr	ST
• Public transport in the city of Riga applies a 100% fare reduction on weekdays from 10 am to 3 pm for the following categories of passengers: persons over 75; retirees under 75; participants (up to the age of 75) in the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant; Politically repressed people and members of the national resistance movement; orphan children; permanently living people who receive social care services.	29-May	ST

Support to economic actors & recovery

• Merchants who have a rental contract with municipal authorities will be exempt during the emergency.	9-Apr	ST
• For invoices that are not paid during the state of emergency penalties are not applied, thus mitigating as much as possible the consequences of the crisis.	23-Apr	ST

- The Tourism Development Office Riga (RTAB) has developed an action plan to mitigate the "crisis of tourism and hospitality Covid-19", which focuses on the return of leisure tourists and business in Riga (€ 780,000 is planned for tourism promotion activities). 26-May ST/ MT/ LT

Policy answers at local level - Overall strategy

	Mitigating	Compensating	Circumventing	Exploit
Health security				
Daily way of life and work				
Support to vulnerable populations	✓			
Support to economic actors & recovery	✓	✓		

¹ Data source: EUROSTAT (*urb_lpop1* and *urb_cpop1*), and ESPON COVID-19 database for mortality levels. Thresholds for COVID-19 mortality levels: low (0-6 deaths/100,000 inh.), moderate (6-12 deaths/100,000 inh.) and high (>12 deaths/100 000 inh.).

² Main sources used: <https://www.riga.lv/>

³ ST = short term, MT = medium term, LT = long term.