

Malta

This document is a compilation of all questions, justifications, and sources used to determine the 2021 Global Health Security Index scores for Malta. For a category and indicator-level summary, please see the Country Profile for Malta.

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Category 1: Preventing the emergence or release of pathogens with potential for international concern

1.1 ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR)

1.1.1 AMR surveillance, detection, and reporting

1.1.1a

Is there a national AMR plan for the surveillance, detection, and reporting of priority AMR pathogens?

Yes, there is evidence of an AMR plan, and it covers surveillance, detection, and reporting = 2, Yes, there is evidence of an AMR plan, but there is insufficient evidence that it covers surveillance, detection, and reporting = 1, No evidence of an AMR plan = 0

Current Year Score: 2

Malta has a national antimicrobial resistance (AMR) plan for the surveillance, detection and reporting of priority AMR pathogens. The plan, titled A Strategy and Action Plan for the Prevention and Containment of Antimicrobial Resistance in MALTA 2018-2025, was jointly published by the Ministry for Health and the Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment, and Climate Change. The document gives a detailed accounting of the status of AMR pathogens in Malta, antimicrobial consumption, relevant legislation, and extant and planned measures for surveillance, detection, and control. For surveillance, these measures include regular specimen-taking at the Mater Dei Hospital (MDH, the country's main health facility). Results are stored in the MDH laboratory database. Other hospitals also report AMR epidemiology to this database, though the Strategy and Action Plan says this is done less regularly. For detection of outbreaks, the Strategy and Action Plan states that it is supported by the MDH laboratory and that it will explore and identify opportunities to increase support for research and development. On reporting, the plan also notes that it will align with international efforts and collaborate with European countries. It also notes that research initiatives on AMR are essential, and commits to coordinate national AMR research activities and share information. [1]

[1] Ministry for Health and the Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment, and Climate Change. 2018. "A Strategy and Action Plan for the Prevention and Containment of Antimicrobial Resistance in MALTA 2018-2025".

[http://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/nac/Documents/AMR%20Strategy_FINAL_EN_%20Public%20Consultation_NOV2018.pdf]. Accessed 3 September 2020.

1.1.1b

Is there a national laboratory/laboratory system which tests for priority AMR pathogens?

All 7 + 1 priority pathogens = 2, Yes, but not all 7+1 pathogens = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

There is evidence that Malta's national laboratory system tests for some priority AMR pathogens. The microbiology laboratory at Mater Dei Hospital (MDH), the country's main health facility, is the primary location for surveillance. [1] Both the Strategy and Action Plan for the Prevention and Containment of Antimicrobial Resistance in MALTA 2018-2025 and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) European Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance Network (EARS-Net) surveillance data confirm that Malta collects data for *E. coli*, *K. pneumoniae*, *S. pneumoniae*, and *S. aureus*. [1,2] A 2015 report from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) mentions that Maltese laboratories also test for *Shigella*. [3] Malta's AMR strategy states that AMR surveillance in animals is very limited. It is conducted by the National Veterinary Laboratory

and covers only Salmonella and E. Coli. [1] There is no evidence of formal sentinel sites. MDH does centralize AMR data taken from other health facilities in the country, but the AMR strategy notes that such data collecting is infrequent, and thus its accuracy questionable. [1] A 2017 Mission Report on AMR by the ECDC notes that Malta does not have a formal reference laboratory for AMR. [4] There is no additional information on AMR testing provided via the public webpages of the MDH, which are hosted on the website of the Ministry for Health. [5]

[1] Ministry for Health and the Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment, and Climate Change. 2018. "Strategy and Action Plan for the Prevention and Containment of Antimicrobial Resistance in MALTA 2018-2025".

[http://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/nac/Documents/AMR%20Strategy_FINAL_EN_%20Public%20Consultation_NOV2018.pdf]. Accessed 3 September 2020.

[2] European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). 2017. "Surveillance of antimicrobial resistance in Europe." [<https://ecdc.europa.eu/sites/portal/files/documents/AMR-surveillance-EARS-Net-2017-updated-dec-18.pdf>]. Accessed 3 September 2020.

[3] European Food Safety Authority. 2015. "Malta: Trends and Sources of Zoonoses and Zoonotic Agents in Foodstuffs, Animals and Feedingstuffs". [<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/zoocountryreport15mt.pdf>]. Accessed 3 September 2020.

[4] European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). July 2017. "Mission Report: ECDC Country Visit to Malta to Discuss Antimicrobial Resistance Issues". [<https://ecdc.europa.eu/sites/portal/files/documents/AMR-ECDC-mission-report-malta-2017.pdf>]. Accessed 3 September 2020.

[5] Ministry for Health. "Mater Dei Hospital". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/MDH/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 3 September 2020.

1.1.1c

Does the government conduct environmental detection or surveillance activities (e.g., in soil, waterways) for antimicrobial residues or AMR organisms?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Malta conducts detection or surveillance activities (e.g. in soil, waterways, etc.) for antimicrobial residues or AMR organisms. Malta's Ministry for Health or Ministry for Environment, Sustainable Development, and Climate Change (MESDC) conducts detection or surveillance activities for antimicrobial residues or antimicrobial-resistant (AMR) organisms. The Strategy and Action Plan for the Prevention and Containment of Antimicrobial Resistance in MALTA 2018-2025, a joint publication of the Ministry for Health and the MESDC, states that Malta does not conduct activities "which could monitor and address environmental aspects of AMR such as in wastewater treatment, ground water and dust", and is not compliant with EU directives requiring monitoring of water for certain substances (specifically Directive 2008/105/EC and Commission Implementing Decision 2015/495/EU 6). [1] No other relevant information is shared via a public website by MESDC, the Ministry for Health, or the government's National Antibiotic Committee. [2,3,4] There is no relevant information in the 2019 Antimicrobial Consumption and Resistance in Malta. [5] There is no evidence of other relevant studies or media reports.

[1] Ministry for Health and the Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment, and Climate Change. "A Strategy and Action Plan for the Prevention and Containment of Antimicrobial Resistance in MALTA 2018-2025".

[http://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/nac/Documents/AMR%20Strategy_FINAL_EN_%20Public%20Consultation_NOV2018.pdf]. Accessed 3 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for Environment, Sustainable Development, and Climate Change.

[<https://msdec.gov.mt/en/Pages/mdsec%20main.aspx>]. Accessed 3 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 3 September 2020.

[4] National Antibiotic Committee. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/nac/Pages/nac.aspx>]. Accessed 3 September 2020.

[5] National Antibiotic Committee. 2019. "Antimicrobial Consumption and Resistance in Malta".

[https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/nac/Documents/NAC%20Annual%20Report_2019_VH_OP_WEB_LR.PDF]. Accessed 3 September 2020.

1.1.2 Antimicrobial control

1.1.2a

Is there national legislation or regulation in place requiring prescriptions for antibiotic use for humans?

Yes = 2 , Yes, but there is evidence of gaps in enforcement = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 2

Malta has national legislation and regulations in place requiring prescriptions for antibiotic use for humans. The Malta Medicines Authority (MMA) states that medicinal products are primarily governed by EU laws, namely Directive 2001/83/EC as amended, which was transposed in the Maltese legislation as the Medicines Act (Chapter 458 of the Laws of Malta) and its subsidiary legislation. [1,2] The MMA points out that this law requires prescriptions for medicinal products that are dangerous, likely to be used incorrectly, or normally administered by injection. [3] The Strategy and Action Plan for the Prevention and Containment of Antimicrobial Resistance in MALTA 2018-2025 confirms that this legal framework means that prescriptions are required for antibiotic use in humans. [4] There is no evidence of gaps in enforcement. According to media reports and other studies, antibiotic use in Malta is high, but that is the results of a high level of prescription. A local news report in 2019 stated that 96% of antibiotics consumed in Malta are prescribed by doctors, and the 2019 National Antibiotic Committee report did not report gaps in enforcement. [5,6]

[1] Medicines Authority of Malta. "Introduction to Medicines Regulation".

[<http://medicinesauthority.gov.mt/introductionmedicinesregulation>]. Accessed 4 September 2020.

[2] Government of Malta. Act III of 2003. "Medicines Act".

[<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=8924&l=1>]. Accessed 4 September 2020.

[3] Medicines Authority of Malta. "Non-Prescription and Prescription-Only Medicines".

[<http://medicinesauthority.gov.mt/nonprescriptiononlymedicines>]. Accessed 4 September 2020.

[4] Ministry for Health and the Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment, and Climate Change. "A Strategy and Action Plan for the Prevention and Containment of Antimicrobial Resistance in MALTA 2018-2025".

[http://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/nac/Documents/AMR%20Strategy_FINAL_EN_%20Public%20Consultation_NOV2018.pdf]. Accessed 4 September 2020.

[5] Carabott, Sarah. 22 January 2019. "Resistance to antibiotics costing Malta €3m a year". Times of Malta.

[<https://timesofmalta.com/articles/view/resistance-to-antibiotics-costing-malta-3m-a-year.699882>]. Accessed 4 September 2020.

[6] National Antibiotic Committee. 2019. "Antimicrobial Consumption and Resistance in Malta".

[https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/nac/Documents/NAC%20Annual%20Report_2019_VH_OP_WEB_LR.PDF]. Accessed 3 September 2020.

1.1.2b

Is there national legislation or regulation in place requiring prescriptions for antibiotic use for animals?

Yes = 2 , Yes, but there is evidence of gaps in enforcement = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

Malta has national legislation and regulation in place requiring prescriptions for antibiotic use for animals, though there is evidence of gaps in enforcement. Regulation 60 of Subsidiary Legislation 437.47 (the Veterinary Services Act of 2001) requires prescriptions for all antimicrobial veterinary medicinal products. [1,2,3] However, the Strategy and Action Plan for the Prevention and Containment of Antimicrobial Resistance in MALTA 2018-2025 notes that, in practice, "it is known that these pharmaceuticals are also sourced from a range of sources including... other farmers, visiting veterinarians... and direct personal imports". [1] The 2019 National Antibiotic Committee report did not report gaps in enforcement, and also noted that amount of antimicrobial veterinary medicinal products sold in Malta (121 mg per population correction unit [PCU]) was below the European Union average (124.6mg/PCU). [3] Nevertheless, local media reports have described concern about over the counter antibiotic sales for animals. [4]

[1] Ministry for Health and the Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment, and Climate Change. "A Strategy and Action Plan for the Prevention and Containment of Antimicrobial Resistance in MALTA 2018-2025".

[http://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/nac/Documents/AMR%20Strategy_FINAL_EN_%20Public%20Consultation_NOV2018.pdf]. Accessed 3 September 2020.

[2] Government of Malta. Act XXIII of 2001. "Veterinary Services Act".

[<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=8903&l=1>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[3] Government of Malta. Legal Notice 469 of 2004. "Subsidiary Legislation 437.47".

[<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=10983&l=1>]. Accessed 3 September 2020.

[3] National Antibiotic Committee. 2019. "Antimicrobial Consumption and Resistance in Malta".

[https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/nac/Documents/NAC%20Annual%20Report_2019_VH_OP_WEB_LR.PDF]. Accessed 3 September 2020.

[4] Carabott, Sarah. 22 January 2019. "Resistance to antibiotics costing Malta €3m a year". Times of Malta.

[<https://timesofmalta.com/articles/view/resistance-to-antibiotics-costing-malta-3m-a-year.699882>]. Accessed 4 September 2020.

1.2 ZOOONOTIC DISEASE

1.2.1 National planning for zoonotic diseases/pathogens

1.2.1a

Is there national legislation, plans, or equivalent strategy documents on zoonotic disease?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is insufficient evidence to conclude that Malta has a national, plan, guideline, or law on zoonotic disease. There is evidence of a Salmonella National Control Programme. However, available documentation for this programme suggests it is narrowly focused on the regulation of the poultry industry. Although it acknowledges that salmonella is a zoonotic disease, there is no substantive discussion of human health. [1] The 2013 Communicable Disease Control Strategy for Malta contains situation assessments of certain zoonoses, such as brucellosis and salmonella, but does not contain a plan or strategy for specifically addressing these diseases. [2] Malta issued rules, under the Veterinary Services Act, for the control Newcastle Disease in 2019, but the rules do not include considerations for human health. [3] No other relevant legislation is listed in the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations' FAOLex database. [4] There is no additional relevant information shared by the Ministry for Health, the Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment, and Climate Change, or its

Secretariat for Agriculture. [5,6,7] There is no evidence of other relevant studies or media reports.

[1] Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment, and Climate Change. 25 June 2019. "Salmonella National Control Programme". [<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/vrd/Documents/poultryLago/salmonellaNCP.pdf>]. Accessed 5 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for Health. 2013. "Communicable Disease Control Strategy for Malta".

[https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Documents/National-Health-Strategies/CDCS_EN.pdf]. Accessed 5 September 2020.

[3] Government of Malta. 2019. "Measures for the Control of Newcastle Disease Rules, 2019 (L.N. 80 of 2019)".

[<http://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC189523>]. Accessed 5 September 2020.

[4] Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO). "FAOLEX: Malta". [<http://www.fao.org/faolex/country-profiles/general-profile/en/?iso3=MLT>]. Accessed 5 September 2020.

[5] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[6] Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment, and Climate Change.

[https://meae.gov.mt/en/Public_Consultations/MSDEC/Pages/Home.aspx]. Accessed 5 September 2020.

[7] Secretariat for Agriculture. [<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx>]. Accessed 5 September 2020.

1.2.1b

Is there national legislation, plans or equivalent strategy document(s) which includes measures for risk identification and reduction for zoonotic disease spillover events from animals to humans?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is insufficient evidence to conclude that Malta has national legislation, plans or equivalent strategy document(s) which includes measures for risk identification and reduction for zoonotic disease spillover events from animals to humans. The 2013 Communicable Disease Control Strategy for Malta contains situation assessments of certain zoonoses, such as brucellosis and salmonella, but does not contain measures for risk identification and reduction for zoonotic disease spillover events from animals to humans, beyond stating that notified cases of zoonoses and foodborne illnesses should be investigated "as soon as possible in order to minimise the spread of illness". [1] Other plans dealing with specific diseases with the potential for spillover from animals to humans do not deal with human health. For example, Malta has a Salmonella National Control Programme, but available documentation for this programme suggests it is narrowly focused on the regulation of the poultry industry. Although it acknowledges that salmonella is a zoonotic disease, there is no substantive discussion of human health. [2] In another example, Malta issued rules, under the Veterinary Services Act, for the control Newcastle Disease in 2019, but the rules do not include considerations for human health. [3] No other relevant legislation is listed in the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations' FAOLex database. [4] There is no additional relevant information shared by the Ministry for Health, the Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment, and Climate Change, or its Secretariat for Agriculture. [5,6,7] There is no evidence of other relevant studies or media reports.

[1] Ministry for Health. 2013. "Communicable Disease Control Strategy for Malta".

[https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Documents/National-Health-Strategies/CDCS_EN.pdf]. Accessed 5 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment, and Climate Change. 25 June 2019. "Salmonella National Control Programme". [<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/vrd/Documents/poultryLago/salmonellaNCP.pdf>]. Accessed 5 September 2020.

[3] Government of Malta. 2019. "Measures for the Control of Newcastle Disease Rules, 2019 (L.N. 80 of 2019)".

[<http://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC189523>]. Accessed 5 September 2020.

[4] Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO). "FAOLEX: Malta". [<http://www.fao.org/faolex/country-profiles/general-profile/en/?iso3=MLT>]. Accessed 5 September 2020.

[5] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 5 September 2020.

[6] Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment, and Climate Change.

[https://meae.gov.mt/en/Public_Consultations/MSDEC/Pages/Home.aspx]. Accessed 5 September 2020.

[7] Secretariat for Agriculture. [<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx>]. Accessed 5 September 2020.

1.2.1c

Is there national legislation, plans, or guidelines that account for the surveillance and control of multiple zoonotic pathogens of public health concern?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is insufficient evidence to conclude that Malta has a national, plan, guideline, or law that accounts for the surveillance and control of multiple zoonotic pathogens of public health concern. There is evidence of a Salmonella National Control Programme. However, available documentation for this programme suggests it is narrowly focused on the regulation of the poultry industry. Although it acknowledges that salmonella is a zoonotic disease, there is no substantive discussion of human health. [1] The 2013 Communicable Disease Control Strategy for Malta contains situation assessments of certain zoonoses, such as brucellosis and salmonella, but does not contain a plan or strategy for specifically addressing these diseases. [2] Malta issued rules, under the Veterinary Services Act, for the control Newcastle Disease in 2019, but the rules do not include considerations for human health. [3] No other relevant legislation is listed in the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations' FAOLex database. [4] There is no additional relevant information shared by the Ministry for Health; the Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning; or the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [5,6,7] There is no evidence of other relevant studies or media reports.

[1] Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment, and Climate Change. 25 June 2019. "Salmonella National Control Programme". [<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/vrd/Documents/poultryLago/salmonellaNCP.pdf>]. Accessed 5 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for Health. 2013. "Communicable Disease Control Strategy for Malta".

[https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Documents/National-Health-Strategies/CDCS_EN.pdf]. Accessed 5 September 2020.

[3] Government of Malta. 2019. "Measures for the Control of Newcastle Disease Rules, 2019 (L.N. 80 of 2019)".

[<http://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC189523>]. Accessed 5 September 2020.

[4] Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO). "FAOLEX: Malta". [<http://www.fao.org/faolex/country-profiles/general-profile/en/?iso3=MLT>]. Accessed 5 September 2020.

[5] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 5 September 2020.

[6] Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning.

[<https://environment.gov.mt/en/Pages/mdsec%20main.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[7] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [<https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

1.2.1d

Is there a department, agency, or similar unit dedicated to zoonotic disease that functions across ministries?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that there is a Maltese department, agency, or similar unit dedicated zoonotic disease that functions across ministries. Neither the Ministry for Health, the Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning, the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights (including its Veterinary Regulation Division) shares information via a public website that would indicate they have a mandate to deal with zoonotic disease in a way that functions across ministries. More broadly, none of the above entities describes on a public website any details about activities conducted to

categorically address zoonotic disease. [1,2,3] There is no evidence of studies or media reports that share relevant information.

[1] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning.

[<https://environment.gov.mt/en/Pages/mdsec%20main.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [<https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[4] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "Veterinary Regulation Division".

[<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/vrd/Pages/home.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

1.2.2 Surveillance systems for zoonotic diseases/pathogens

1.2.2a

Does the country have a national mechanism (either voluntary or mandatory) for owners of livestock to conduct and report on disease surveillance to a central government agency?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is insufficient evidence to confirm that Malta has a national mechanism (either voluntary or mandatory) for owners of livestock to conduct and report on disease surveillance to a central government agency. The Veterinary Services Act of 2001 stipulates that owners of live animals must "declare and notify to the veterinary services of any suspected outbreak of any contagious diseases listed" in the various schedules of the law, including those "which are subject to a national programme of eradication". [1] However, there is no information shared via the publicly available websites of the Ministry for Health; the Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment, and Climate Change; or its Secretariat for Agriculture (including the Veterinary Regulation Division of the Secretariat) of a specific mechanism for accomplishing this reporting. There is no evidence of a phone number/hotline, designated point person for reporting, or online form. [2,3,4] There is no evidence of relevant media reports or academic studies.

[1] Government of Malta. Act XXIII of 2001. "Veterinary Services Act".

[<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=8903&l=1>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning.

[<https://environment.gov.mt/en/Pages/mdsec%20main.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[3] Secretariat for Agriculture. [<https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[4] Secretariat for Agriculture. "Veterinary Regulation Division". [<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/vrd/Pages/home.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

1.2.2b

Is there legislation and/or regulations that safeguard the confidentiality of information generated through surveillance activities for animals (for owners)?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Malta has laws or guidelines that specifically safeguard the confidentiality of information generated through surveillance activities for animals. The Data Protection Act of 2018 provides general protections for the confidentiality

of information, including that collected as part of a filing system. However, it contains no mention of health, animals, the government bodies involved in animal health surveillance, or property protections. [1] Neither the Ministry for Health, the Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment, and Climate Change, nor its Secretariat for Agriculture (including the Veterinary Regulation Division of the Secretariat) shares additional relevant information via a public website. [2,3,4,5]

[1] Government of Malta. Act XX of 2018. "Data Protection Act".

[<http://justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=12839&l=1>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning.

[<https://environment.gov.mt/en/Pages/mdsec%20main.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[4] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [<https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[5] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "Veterinary Regulation Division".

[<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/vrd/Pages/home.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

1.2.2c

Does the country conduct surveillance of zoonotic disease in wildlife (e.g., wild animals, insects, other disease vectors)?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Malta conducts surveillance of zoonotic disease in wildlife. Neither the Ministry for Health; the Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning; the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights (including its various subdivisions, such as the Veterinary Regulation Division or the Wild Birds Regulation Unit) shares relevant information via a public website. [1,2,3,4,5] (The Wild Birds Regulation Unit deals mainly with regulations of hunting and live capture of birds, and not with avian diseases.) [5] There is no evidence of relevant studies or media reports.

[1] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning.

[<https://environment.gov.mt/en/Pages/mdsec%20main.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [<https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[4] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "Veterinary Regulation Division".

[<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/vrd/Pages/home.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[5] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "Wild Birds Regulation Unit".

[<https://mgoz.gov.mt/en/Pages/WBRU/Wild-Birds-Regulation-Unit.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

1.2.3 International reporting of animal disease outbreaks

1.2.3a

Has the country submitted a report to OIE on the incidence of human cases of zoonotic disease for the last calendar year?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2019

OIE WAHIS database

1.2.4 Animal health workforce

1.2.4a

Number of veterinarians per 100,000 people

Input number

Current Year Score: 39.19

2018

OIE WAHIS database

1.2.4b

Number of veterinary para-professionals per 100,000 people

Input number

Current Year Score: 5.37

2018

OIE WAHIS database

1.2.5 Private sector and zoonotic

1.2.5a

Does the national plan on zoonotic disease or other legislation, regulations, or plans include mechanisms for working with the private sector in controlling or responding to zoonoses?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence of a national law, plan, or equivalent strategy document, on zoonotic disease in general, and thus no evidence of provisions for coordinating such a plan with the private sector. The Communicable Disease Control Strategy for Malta, a 2013 document, mentions the participation of private facilities in Malta's laboratory surveillance strategy. However, the document does not amount to a plan on zoonotic diseases. [1] Neither the Ministry for Health; the Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning; the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights; or the latter's various subdivisions (such as the Wild Birds Regulation Unit, the Veterinary Regulation Division, or the Animal Health Unit, or the National Veterinary Health Laboratory) shares relevant information via a public website. [2,3,4,5,6,7,8] The microbiology laboratory at Mater Dei Hospital (MDH), the country's main health facility in the national laboratory network, also does not share relevant information via a public website. [9] There is no evidence that Malta has a national public health institute, though there is an independent organization called the Malta Association of Public Health Medicine (MAPHM); the MAPHM does not share any relevant information via a public website. [10] Neither is there any other evidence of relevant studies or media reports.

- [1] Ministry for Health. 2013. "Communicable Disease Control Strategy for Malta". [https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Documents/National-Health-Strategies/CDCS_EN.pdf]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [2] Ministry for Health. [https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [3] Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning. [https://environment.gov.mt/en/Pages/mdsec%20main.aspx]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [4] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [5] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "Veterinary Regulation Division". [https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/vrd/Pages/home.aspx]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [6] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "Wild Birds Regulation Unit". [https://mgoz.gov.mt/en/Pages/WBRU/Wild-Birds-Regulation-Unit.aspx]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [7] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "Animal Health Unit". [https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/vrd/Pages/animalHealth.aspx]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [8] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "National Veterinary Laboratory". [https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/nvl/Pages/nvl.aspx?IsPrintPrev=1]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [9] Ministry for Health. "Mater Dei Hospital". [https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/MDH/Pages/Home.aspx]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [10] Malta Association of Public Health Medicine. [https://maphm.org/]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

1.3 BIOSECURITY

1.3.1 Whole-of- government biosecurity systems

1.3.1a

Does the country have in place a record, updated within the past five years, of the facilities in which especially dangerous pathogens and toxins are stored or processed, including details on inventories and inventory management systems of those facilities?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Malta publicly shares an up-to-date record of facilities in which especially dangerous pathogens and toxins are stored or processed. There is no mention of such a record on the websites of the Ministry for Health; the Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning; the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights; or the latter's various subdivisions (such as the Wild Birds Regulation Unit, the Veterinary Regulation Division, or the Animal Health Unit, or the National Veterinary Health Laboratory); the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security; or the Malta Council for Science and Technology, a public body that advises the government on policy. (Malta does not have a ministry of research.) [1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8] The microbiology laboratory at Mater Dei Hospital (MDH), the country's main health facility in the national laboratory network, also does not share relevant information via a public website. [9] There is no evidence that Malta has a national public health institute. Neither is there any other evidence of relevant studies or media reports. Although Malta is a party to the Biological Weapons Convention and submits Confidence Building Measures on an annual basis, access to the reports is restricted to the public, and it is unknown if they contain relevant information. [10] No relevant legislation is listed in the VERTIC Biological Weapons Convention Database. [11]

[1] Ministry for Health. [https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning.

[https://environment.gov.mt/en/Pages/mdsec%20main.aspx]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

- [3] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [<https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [4] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "Veterinary Regulation Division". [<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/vrd/Pages/home.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [5] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "Animal Health Unit". [<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/vrd/Pages/animalHealth.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [6] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "National Veterinary Laboratory". [<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/nvl/Pages/nvl.aspx?IsPrintPrev=1>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [7] Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. [<https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [8] Malta Council for Science & Technology. [<http://mcst.gov.mt/>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [9] Ministry for Health. "Mater Dei Hospital". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/MDH/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [10] United Nations. "Confidence Building Measures". [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/malta>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [11] VERTIC. "Biological Weapons Convention Legislation Database". [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/m/>]. Accessed 5 September 2020.

1.3.1b

Does the country have in place legislation and/or regulations related to biosecurity which address requirements such as physical containment, operation practices, failure reporting systems, and/or cybersecurity of facilities in which especially dangerous pathogens and toxins are stored or processed?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Malta has in place legislation or regulations related to biosecurity which address requirements such as physical containment, operation practices, failure reporting systems or cybersecurity of facilities in which especially dangerous pathogens and toxins are stored or processed. Indeed, there is no evidence that Malta has facilities in which especially dangerous pathogens and toxins are stored or processed. There is no mention of such facilities on the websites of the Ministry for Health; the Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning; the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights; or the latter's various subdivisions (such as the Wild Birds Regulation Unit, the Veterinary Regulation Division, or the Animal Health Unit, or the National Veterinary Health Laboratory); the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security; or the Malta Council for Science and Technology, a public body that advises the government on policy. (Malta does not have a ministry of research.) [1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8] The microbiology laboratory at Mater Dei Hospital (MDH), the country's main health facility in the national laboratory network, also does not share relevant information via a public website. [9] The government has posted a three-page document with guidelines on biosecurity on farms to its website, but there is nothing in it about facilities that store pathogens or toxins. [10] No relevant legislation is listed in the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations' FAOLex database or in the VERTIC Biological Weapons Convention Database. [11,12] There is no evidence of relevant studies or media reports. Likewise, there is no evidence that Malta has a national public health institute. Although Malta is a party to the Biological Weapons Convention and submits Confidence Building Measures on an annual basis, access to the reports is restricted to the public, and it is unknown if they contain relevant information. [13]

[1] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning. [<https://environment.gov.mt/en/Pages/mdsec%20main.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [<https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx>]. Accessed 8

September 2020.

[4] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "Veterinary Regulation Division".

[<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/vrd/Pages/home.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[5] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "Animal Health Unit".

[<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/vrd/Pages/animalHealth.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[6] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "National Veterinary Laboratory".

[<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/nvl/Pages/nvl.aspx?IsPrintPrev=1>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[7] Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. [<https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[8] Malta Council for Science & Technology. [<http://mcst.gov.mt/>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[9] Ministry for Health. "Mater Dei Hospital". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/MDH/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[10] Secretariat for Agriculture. "How to Prevent the Introduction and Spread of Animal and Bird Disease by Following Good Hygiene and Biosecurity Standards". [<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/vrd/Documents/poultryLago/biosecurityGuidelines.pdf>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[11] Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO). "FAOLEX: Malta". [<http://www.fao.org/faolex/country-profiles/general-profile/en/?iso3=MLT>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[12] VERTIC. "Biological Weapons Convention Legislation Database". [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/m/>]. Accessed 5 September 2020.

[13] United Nations. "Confidence Building Measures". [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/malta>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

1.3.1c

Is there an established agency (or agencies) responsible for the enforcement of biosecurity legislation and regulations?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Malta has in place legislation or regulations related to biosecurity, or that it has designated any agency responsible for biosecurity. There is no mention of such legislation or agencies on the websites of the Ministry for Health; the Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning; the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights; or the latter's various subdivisions (such as the Wild Birds Regulation Unit, the Veterinary Regulation Division, or the Animal Health Unit, or the National Veterinary Health Laboratory); the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security; or the Malta Council for Science and Technology, a public body that advises the government on policy. (Malta does not have a ministry of research.) [1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8] The microbiology laboratory at Mater Dei Hospital (MDH), the country's main health facility in the national laboratory network, also does not share relevant information via a public website. [9] The government has posted a three-page document with guidelines on biosecurity on farms to its website, but there is nothing in it about biosecurity legislation. [10] No relevant legislation is listed in the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations' FAOLex database or in the VERTIC Biological Weapons Convention Database. [11,12] There is no evidence of relevant studies or media reports. Likewise, there is no evidence that Malta has a national public health institute. Although Malta is a party to the Biological Weapons Convention and submits Confidence Building Measures on an annual basis, access to the reports is restricted to the public, and it is unknown if they contain relevant information. [13]

[1] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning.

[<https://environment.gov.mt/en/Pages/mdsec%20main.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [<https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

- [4] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "Veterinary Regulation Division". [https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/vrd/Pages/home.aspx]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [5] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "Animal Health Unit". [https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/vrd/Pages/animalHealth.aspx]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [6] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "National Veterinary Laboratory". [https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/nvl/Pages/nvl.aspx?IsPrintPrev=1]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [7] Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. [https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/Pages/Home.aspx]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [8] Malta Council for Science & Technology. [http://mcst.gov.mt/]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [9] Ministry for Health. "Mater Dei Hospital". [https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/MDH/Pages/Home.aspx]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [10] Secretariat for Agriculture. "How to Prevent the Introduction and Spread of Animal and Bird Disease by Following Good Hygiene and Biosecurity Standards". [https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/vrd/Documents/poultryLago/biosecurityGuidelines.pdf]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [11] Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO). "FAOLEX: Malta". [http://www.fao.org/faolex/country-profiles/general-profile/en/?iso3=MLT]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [12] VERTIC. "Biological Weapons Convention Legislation Database". [https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/m/]. Accessed 5 September 2020.
- [13] United Nations. "Confidence Building Measures". [https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/malta]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

1.3.1d

Is there public evidence that shows that the country has taken action to consolidate its inventories of especially dangerous pathogens and toxins into a minimum number of facilities?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no public evidence that shows that Malta has taken action to consolidate inventories of especially dangerous pathogens and toxins into a minimum number of facilities, nor that that the country has such inventories. There is no mention of such facilities on the websites of the Ministry for Health; the Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning; the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights; or the latter's various subdivisions (such as the Wild Birds Regulation Unit, the Veterinary Regulation Division, or the Animal Health Unit, or the National Veterinary Health Laboratory); the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security; or the Malta Council for Science and Technology, a public body that advises the government on policy. (Malta does not have a ministry of research.) [1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8] The microbiology laboratory at Mater Dei Hospital (MDH), the country's main health facility in the national laboratory network, also does not share relevant information via a public website. [9] The government has published a three-page document with guidelines on biosecurity on farms, but there is nothing in it about inventories of dangerous pathogens or toxins. [10] No relevant legislation is listed in the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations' FAOLex database or in the VERTIC Biological Weapons Convention Database. [11,12] There is no evidence of relevant studies or media reports. Likewise, there is no evidence that Malta has a national public health institute. Although Malta is a party to the Biological Weapons Convention and submits Confidence Building Measures on an annual basis, access to the reports is restricted to the public, and it is unknown if they contain relevant information. [13]

[1] Ministry for Health. [https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning.

[https://environment.gov.mt/en/Pages/mdsec%20main.aspx]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx]. Accessed 8

September 2020.

[4] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "Veterinary Regulation Division".

[<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/vrd/Pages/home.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[5] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "Animal Health Unit".

[<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/vrd/Pages/animalHealth.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[6] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "National Veterinary Laboratory".

[<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/nvl/Pages/nvl.aspx?IsPrintPrev=1>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[7] Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. [<https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[8] Malta Council for Science & Technology. [<http://mcst.gov.mt/>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[9] Ministry for Health. "Mater Dei Hospital". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/MDH/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[10] Secretariat for Agriculture. "How to Prevent the Introduction and Spread of Animal and Bird Disease by Following Good Hygiene and Biosecurity Standards". [<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/vrd/Documents/poultryLago/biosecurityGuidelines.pdf>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[11] Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO). "FAOLEX: Malta". [<http://www.fao.org/faolex/country-profiles/general-profile/en/?iso3=MLT>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[12] VERTIC. "Biological Weapons Convention Legislation Database". [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/m/>]. Accessed 5 September 2020.

[13] United Nations. "Confidence Building Measures". [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/malta>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

1.3.1e

Is there public evidence of in-country capacity to conduct Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)–based diagnostic testing for anthrax and/or Ebola, which would preclude culturing a live pathogen?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no public evidence of in-country capacity to conduct Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)-based diagnostic testing for anthrax and/or Ebola. There is no mention of anthrax or Ebola testing on the websites of the Ministry for Health; the Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning; the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights; or the latter's various subdivisions (such as the Wild Birds Regulation Unit, the Veterinary Regulation Division, or the Animal Health Unit, or the National Veterinary Health Laboratory); the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security; or the Malta Council for Science and Technology, a public body that advises the government on policy. (Malta does not have a ministry of research.) [1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8] The microbiology laboratory at Mater Dei Hospital (MDH), the country's main health facility in the national laboratory network, also does not share relevant information via a public website. [9] A 2018 report from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control ranks Malta's general laboratory capacities as "intermediate", but does not provide additional details on specific testing capabilities. [10] Similarly, the 2013 Communicable Disease Control Strategy for Malta does not contain information on specific capabilities. [11] Webpages for virology and bacteriology in the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights' Plant Protection Directorate indicate that some PCR testing is available in Maltese laboratories, but there is no mention of anthrax or Ebola, or any comprehensive information on what types of tests may be available. [12,13] There is no evidence of other relevant studies or media reports. Likewise, there is no evidence that Malta has a national public health institute.

[1] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning.

[<https://environment.gov.mt/en/Pages/mdsec%20main.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

- [3] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [<https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [4] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "Veterinary Regulation Division". [<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/vrd/Pages/home.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [5] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "Animal Health Unit". [<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/vrd/Pages/animalHealth.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [6] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "National Veterinary Laboratory". [<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/nvl/Pages/nvl.aspx?IsPrintPrev=1>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [7] Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. [<https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [8] Malta Council for Science & Technology. [<http://mcst.gov.mt/>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [9] Ministry for Health. "Mater Dei Hospital". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/MDH/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [10] European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. April 2018. "Technical Report: EU Laboratory Capability Monitoring System (EULabCap)". [https://ecdc.europa.eu/sites/portal/files/documents/EULabCap_report-for-2016_0.pdf]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [11] Ministry for Health. 2013. "Communicable Disease Control Strategy for Malta". [https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Documents/National-Health-Strategies/CDCS_EN.pdf]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [12] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "Plant Protection: Bacteriology". [<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/phd/Pages/bacteriology.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [13] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "Plant Protection: Virology". [<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/phd/Pages/virology.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

1.3.2 Biosecurity training and practices

1.3.2a

Does the country require biosecurity training, using a standardized, required approach, such as through a common curriculum or a train-the-trainer program, for personnel working in facilities housing or working with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, or biological materials with pandemic potential?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no public evidence that Malta requires biosecurity training, using a standardized, required approach, such as through a common curriculum or a train-the-trainer program, for personnel working in facilities housing or working with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, or biological materials with pandemic potential. Indeed, there is no public evidence that Malta has such facilities. There is no mention of such facilities or biosecurity training on the websites of the Ministry for Health; the Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning; the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights; or the latter's various subdivisions (such as the Wild Birds Regulation Unit, the Veterinary Regulation Division, or the Animal Health Unit, or the National Veterinary Health Laboratory); the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security; or the Malta Council for Science and Technology, a public body that advises the government on policy. (Malta does not have a ministry of research.) [1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8] The microbiology laboratory at Mater Dei Hospital (MDH), the country's main health facility in the national laboratory network, also does not share relevant information via a public website. [9] The government has published a three-page document with guidelines on biosecurity on farms, but there is nothing in it about inventories of dangerous pathogens or toxins. [10] No relevant legislation is listed in the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations' FAOLex database or in the VERTIC Biological Weapons Convention Database. [11,12] There is no evidence of relevant studies or media reports. Likewise, there is no evidence that Malta has a national public health institute. Although Malta is a party to

the Biological Weapons Convention and submits Confidence Building Measures on an annual basis, access to the reports is restricted to the public, and it is unknown if they contain relevant information. [13]

- [1] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [2] Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning. [<https://environment.gov.mt/en/Pages/mdsec%20main.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [3] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [<https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [4] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "Veterinary Regulation Division". [<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/vrd/Pages/home.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [5] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "Animal Health Unit". [<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/vrd/Pages/animalHealth.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [6] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "National Veterinary Laboratory". [<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/nvl/Pages/nvl.aspx?IsPrintPrev=1>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [7] Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. [<https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [8] Malta Council for Science & Technology. [<http://mcst.gov.mt/>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [9] Ministry for Health. "Mater Dei Hospital". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/MDH/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [10] Secretariat for Agriculture. "How to Prevent the Introduction and Spread of Animal and Bird Disease by Following Good Hygiene and Biosecurity Standards". [<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/vrd/Documents/poultryLago/biosecurityGuidelines.pdf>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [11] Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO). "FAOLEX: Malta". [<http://www.fao.org/faolex/country-profiles/general-profile/en/?iso3=MLT>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [12] VERTIC. "Biological Weapons Convention Legislation Database". [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/m/>]. Accessed 5 September 2020.
- [13] United Nations. "Confidence Building Measures". [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/malta>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

1.3.3 Personnel vetting: regulating access to sensitive locations

1.3.3a

Do regulations or licensing conditions specify that security and other personnel with access to especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, or biological materials with pandemic potential are subject to the following checks: drug testing, background checks, and psychological or mental fitness checks?

Personnel are subject to all three of these checks = 3, Personnel are subject to two of these checks = 2, Personnel are subject to one of these checks = 1, Personnel are not subject to any of these checks = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no public evidence that regulations or licensing conditions specify that security and other personnel in Malta with access to especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, or biological materials with pandemic potential are subject to drug testing, background checks, and psychological or mental fitness checks. Indeed, there is no public evidence that Malta has facilities that are equipped to house such materials. There is no mention of such facilities on the websites of the Ministry for Health; the Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning; the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights; or the latter's various subdivisions (such as the Wild Birds Regulation Unit, the Veterinary Regulation Division, or the Animal Health Unit, or the National Veterinary Health Laboratory); the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security; or the Malta Council for Science and Technology, a public body that advises the government on policy. (Malta does not have a ministry of

research.) [1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8] The microbiology laboratory at Mater Dei Hospital (MDH), the country's main health facility in the national laboratory network, also does not share relevant information via a public website. [9] The government has published a three-page document with guidelines on biosecurity on farms, but there is nothing in it about inventories of dangerous pathogens or toxins. [10] No relevant legislation is listed in the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations' FAOLex database or in the VERTIC Biological Weapons Convention Database. [11,12] There is no evidence of relevant studies or media reports. Likewise, there is no evidence that Malta has a national public health institute. Although Malta is a party to the Biological Weapons Convention and submits Confidence Building Measures on an annual basis, access to the reports is restricted to the public, and it is unknown if they contain relevant information. [13]

- [1] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [2] Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning. [<https://environment.gov.mt/en/Pages/mdsec%20main.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [3] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [<https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [4] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "Veterinary Regulation Division". [<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/vrd/Pages/home.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [5] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "Animal Health Unit". [<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/vrd/Pages/animalHealth.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [6] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "National Veterinary Laboratory". [<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/nvl/Pages/nvl.aspx?IsPrintPrev=1>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [7] Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. [<https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [8] Malta Council for Science & Technology. [<http://mcst.gov.mt/>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [9] Ministry for Health. "Mater Dei Hospital". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/MDH/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [10] Secretariat for Agriculture. "How to Prevent the Introduction and Spread of Animal and Bird Disease by Following Good Hygiene and Biosecurity Standards". [<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/vrd/Documents/poultryLago/biosecurityGuidelines.pdf>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [11] Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO). "FAOLEX: Malta". [<http://www.fao.org/faolex/country-profiles/general-profile/en/?iso3=MLT>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [12] VERTIC. "Biological Weapons Convention Legislation Database". [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/m/>]. Accessed 5 September 2020.
- [13] United Nations. "Confidence Building Measures". [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/malta>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

1.3.4 Transportation security

1.3.4a

Does the country have publicly available information on national regulations on the safe and secure transport of infectious substances (specifically including Categories A and B)?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

There is evidence that Malta has publicly available information on national regulations on the safe and secure transport of infectious substances (specifically including Categories A and B). Malta is party to the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR), which has guidance on the transport and packaging of Category A and Category B substances. [1] Otherwise, there is no information about such regulations shared via the public websites of

the Ministry for Health; the Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning; the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights; the Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure, and Capital Projects; or the Malta Council for Science and Technology, a public body that advises the government on policy (Malta does not have a ministry of research.) [2,3,4,5,6,7] There is no evidence of relevant legislation on the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations' FAOLex database; in the VERTIC Biological Weapons Convention Database; or the Ministry for Justice, Culture, and Local Government's online index of the Laws of Malta. [8,9,10] There is no evidence of relevant studies or media reports. Likewise, there is no evidence that Malta has a national public health institute. Although Malta is a party to the Biological Weapons Convention and submits Confidence Building Measures on an annual basis, access to the reports is restricted to the public, and it is unknown if they contain relevant information. [11]

- [1] United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). 2007. "Malta joins the ADR". [https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/press/pr2007/07trans_n08e.htm] Accessed 24 June 2021
- [2] Ministry for Health. [https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [3] Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning. [https://environment.gov.mt/en/Pages/mdsec%20main.aspx]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [4] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [5] Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. [https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/Pages/Home.aspx]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [6] Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure, and Capital Projects. [https://mtip.gov.mt/en/Pages/Main%20en.aspx]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [7] Malta Council for Science & Technology. [http://mcst.gov.mt/]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [8] Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO). "FAOLEX: Malta". [http://www.fao.org/faolex/country-profiles/general-profile/en/?iso3=MLT]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [9] VERTIC. "Biological Weapons Convention Legislation Database". [https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/m/]. Accessed 5 September 2020.
- [10] Ministry for Justice, Culture, and Local Government. "Laws of Malta". [http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/LOM.aspx?pageid=24]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [11] United Nations. "Confidence Building Measures". [https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/malta]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

1.3.5 Cross-border transfer and end-user screening

1.3.5a

Is there legislation and/or regulations in place to oversee the cross-border transfer and end-user screening of especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, and pathogens with pandemic potential?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

There is evidence of legislation and/or regulations in place to oversee the cross-border transfer and end-user screening of especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, and pathogens with pandemic potential. For Malta, end-user screening is mandated by the EU's Regulation No 428/2009 Setting up a Community Regime for the Control of Exports, Transfer, Brokering and Transit of Dual-Use Items. In its list of items covered by the term "dual-use", the regulation includes 91 pathogens and toxins: 32 human viruses, 17 animal viruses, 4 rickettsiae, 15 bacteria, 19 toxins, 2 fungi and 2 mycoplasmas. [1] Among others, this includes the pathogens and toxins associated with plague, cholera, encephalitis, Ebola, dengue fever, anthrax, salmonellosis, brucellosis, shigellosis, yellow fever and botulism. However, the list omits pathogens and toxins associated with some major infectious diseases, such as influenza and tuberculosis. The regulation states that export authorization is subject to

identification of the end-user and intended use [1]. It further states that dual-use items may not be exported when the exporter is informed by member state authorities that they are intended for the production of weapons of mass destruction, or for military use more broadly where the destination country is subject to an arms embargo imposed by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) or United Nations Security Council. [1] Regulations issued by the European Council are legally binding legislative acts in all EU member states. [2]

[1] European Council. 2009. "Council Regulation (EC) No 428/2009 of 5 May 2009 setting up a Community regime for the control of exports, transfer, brokering and transit of dual-use items". EUR-Lex. [<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:32009R0428>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[2] European Union. "Regulations, Directives and Other Acts." Europa.eu. [https://europa.eu/european-union/eu-law/legal-acts_en]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

1.4 BIOSAFETY

1.4.1 Whole-of-government biosafety systems

1.4.1a

Does the country have in place national biosafety legislation and/or regulations?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence of national biosafety legislation and/or regulations in Malta. In 2006 Malta published a National Biosafety Framework. However, this framework deals with biosafety exclusively in the sense of threats to biodiversity and the regulation of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), and not pathogens, toxins, or pandemics. [1] There is no information about such regulations shared via the public websites of the Ministry for Health; the Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning; the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights; the latter's various subdivisions (such as the Wild Birds Regulation Unit, the Veterinary Regulation Division, or the Animal Health Unit, or the National Veterinary Health Laboratory); or the Malta Council for Science and Technology, a public body that advises the government on policy (Malta does not have a ministry of research.) [2,3,4,5,6,7,8] The microbiology laboratory at Mater Dei Hospital (MDH), the country's main health facility in the national laboratory network, also does not share relevant information via a public website. [9] There is no evidence of relevant legislation on the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations' FAOLex database; in the VERTIC Biological Weapons Convention Database; or the Ministry for Justice, Culture, and Local Government's online index of the Laws of Malta. [10,11,12] There is no evidence of relevant studies or media reports. Although Malta is a party to the Biological Weapons Convention and submits Confidence Building Measures on an annual basis, access to the reports is restricted to the public, and it is unknown if they contain relevant information. [13]

[1] United Nations Environment Programme. December 2006. "National Biosafety Framework for Malta". [<https://bch.cbd.int/database/record.shtml?documentid=7195>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning. [<https://environment.gov.mt/en/Pages/mdsec%20main.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[4] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [<https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[5] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "Veterinary Regulation Division". [<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/vrd/Pages/home.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[6] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "Animal Health Unit".

- [<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/vrd/Pages/animalHealth.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [7] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "National Veterinary Laboratory". [<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/nvl/Pages/nvl.aspx?IsPrintPrev=1>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [8] Malta Council for Science & Technology. [<http://mcst.gov.mt/>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [9] Ministry for Health. "Mater Dei Hospital". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/MDH/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [10] Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO). "FAOLEX: Malta". [<http://www.fao.org/faolex/country-profiles/general-profile/en/?iso3=MLT>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [11] VERTIC. "Biological Weapons Convention Legislation Database". [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/m/>]. Accessed 5 September 2020.
- [12] Ministry for Justice, Culture, and Local Government. "Laws of Malta". [<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/LOM.aspx?pageid=24>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [13] United Nations. "Confidence Building Measures". [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/malta>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

1.4.1b

Is there an established agency responsible for the enforcement of biosafety legislation and regulations?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence of relevant national biosafety legislation and/or regulations in Malta, nor of any specific established agency responsible for enforcing such measures. In 2002 Maltese law established a Biosafety Coordinating Committee to achieve an "integrated approach on biosafety". However, biosafety as defined in this law deals exclusively with threats to biodiversity and the regulation of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), and not pathogens, toxins, or pandemics. [1,2] Further, there is no evidence that this committee still exists. There is no additional relevant information shared via the public websites of the Ministry for Health; the Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning; the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights; the latter's various subdivisions (such as the Wild Birds Regulation Unit, the Veterinary Regulation Division, or the Animal Health Unit, or the National Veterinary Health Laboratory); or the Malta Council for Science and Technology, a public body that advises the government on policy (Malta does not have a ministry of research.) [3,4,5,6,7,8,9] The microbiology laboratory at Mater Dei Hospital (MDH), the country's main health facility in the national laboratory network, also does not share relevant information via a public website. [10] There is no evidence of relevant legislation on the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations' FAOLex database; in the VERTIC Biological Weapons Convention Database; or the Ministry for Justice, Culture, and Local Government's online index of the Laws of Malta. [11,12,13] There is no evidence of relevant studies or media reports. Although Malta is a party to the Biological Weapons Convention and submits Confidence Building Measures on an annual basis, access to the reports is restricted to the public, and it is unknown if they contain relevant information. [14]

- [1] Government of Malta. Legal Notice 290 of 2002. "Biosafety Coordinating Committee Regulations". [<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=11534&l=1>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [2] United Nations Environment Programme. December 2006. "National Biosafety Framework for Malta". [<https://bch.cbd.int/database/record.shtml?documentid=7195>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [3] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [4] Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning. [<https://environment.gov.mt/en/Pages/mdsec%20main.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [5] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [<https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [6] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "Veterinary Regulation Division".

[<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/vrd/Pages/home.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[7] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "Animal Health Unit".

[<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/vrd/Pages/animalHealth.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[8] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "National Veterinary Laboratory".

[<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/nvl/Pages/nvl.aspx?IsPrintPrev=1>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[9] Malta Council for Science & Technology. [<http://mcst.gov.mt/>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[10] Ministry for Health. "Mater Dei Hospital". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/MDH/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[11] Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO). "FAOLEX: Malta". [<http://www.fao.org/faolex/country-profiles/general-profile/en/?iso3=MLT>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[12] VERTIC. "Biological Weapons Convention Legislation Database". [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/m/>]. Accessed 5 September 2020.

[13] Ministry for Justice, Culture, and Local Government. "Laws of Malta".

[<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/LOM.aspx?pageid=24>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[14] United Nations. "Confidence Building Measures". [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/malta>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

1.4.2 Biosafety training and practices

1.4.2a

Does the country require biosafety training, using a standardized, required approach, such as through a common curriculum or a train-the-trainer program, for personnel working in facilities housing or working with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, or biological materials with pandemic potential?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Malta requires biosafety training, using a standardized, required approach, such as through a common curriculum or a train-the-trainer program, for personnel working in facilities housing or working with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, or biological materials with pandemic potential. Maltese law on the protection of workers from the risks related to chemical agents (Legal Notice 227 of 2003) requires employers to provide training to protect workers from occupational hazards related to chemicals. However, the law makes no mention of pathogens or biological materials with pandemic potential. [1] There is no additional relevant information shared via the public websites of the Ministry for Health; the Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning; the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights; the latter's various subdivisions (such as the Wild Birds Regulation Unit, the Veterinary Regulation Division, or the Animal Health Unit, or the National Veterinary Health Laboratory); or the Malta Council for Science and Technology, a public body that advises the government on policy (Malta does not have a ministry of research.) [2,3,4,5,6,7,8] The microbiology laboratory at Mater Dei Hospital (MDH), the country's main health facility in the national laboratory network, also does not share relevant information via a public website. [9] There is no evidence of relevant legislation on the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations' FAOLex database; in the VERTIC Biological Weapons Convention Database; or the Ministry for Justice, Culture, and Local Government's online index of the Laws of Malta. [10,11,12] There is no evidence of relevant studies or media reports. Although Malta is a party to the Biological Weapons Convention and submits Confidence Building Measures on an annual basis, access to the reports is restricted to the public, and it is unknown if they contain relevant information. [13]

[1] Government of Malta. Legal Notice 227 of 2003. "Protection of the Health and Safety of Workers from the Risks Related to Chemical Agents at Work Regulations".

[<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=10728&l=1>]. Accessed 17 January 2019.

- [2] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [3] Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning. [<https://environment.gov.mt/en/Pages/mdsec%20main.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [4] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [<https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [5] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "Veterinary Regulation Division". [<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/vrd/Pages/home.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [6] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "Animal Health Unit". [<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/vrd/Pages/animalHealth.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [7] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "National Veterinary Laboratory". [<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/nvl/Pages/nvl.aspx?IsPrintPrev=1>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [8] Malta Council for Science & Technology. [<http://mcst.gov.mt/>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [9] Ministry for Health. "Mater Dei Hospital". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/MDH/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [10] Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO). "FAOLEX: Malta". [<http://www.fao.org/faolex/country-profiles/general-profile/en/?iso3=MLT>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [11] VERTIC. "Biological Weapons Convention Legislation Database". [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/m/>]. Accessed 5 September 2020.
- [12] Ministry for Justice, Culture, and Local Government. "Laws of Malta". [<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/LOM.aspx?pageid=24>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [13] United Nations. "Confidence Building Measures". [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/malta>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

1.5 DUAL-USE RESEARCH AND CULTURE OF RESPONSIBLE SCIENCE

1.5.1 Oversight of research with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, pathogens with pandemic potential and/or other dual-use research

1.5.1a

Is there publicly available evidence that the country has conducted an assessment to determine whether ongoing research is occurring on especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, pathogens with pandemic potential and/or other dual-use research?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no publicly available evidence that Malta has conducted an assessment to determine whether ongoing research is occurring on especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, pathogens with pandemic potential, or other dual use research. No relevant information is shared via the public websites of the Ministry for Health; the Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning; the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights; the latter's various subdivisions (such as the Wild Birds Regulation Unit, the Veterinary Regulation Division, or the Animal Health Unit, or the National Veterinary Health Laboratory); or the Malta Council for Science and Technology, a public body that advises the government on policy (Malta does not have a ministry of research.) [1,2,3,4,5,6,7] The microbiology laboratory at Mater Dei Hospital (MDH), the country's main health facility in the national laboratory network, also does not share relevant information via a public website. [8] There is no evidence of relevant legislation on the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations' FAOLex database; in the VERTIC Biological Weapons Convention Database; or the Ministry for Justice, Culture, and Local Government's online index of the Laws of Malta. [9,10,11] There is no evidence of relevant studies or media reports. Although Malta is a party to the Biological Weapons Convention and submits Confidence Building Measures on an annual

basis, access to the reports is restricted to the public, and it is unknown if they contain relevant information. [12]

- [1] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [2] Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning. [<https://environment.gov.mt/en/Pages/mdsec%20main.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [3] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [<https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [4] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "Veterinary Regulation Division". [<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/vrd/Pages/home.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [5] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "Animal Health Unit". [<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/vrd/Pages/animalHealth.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [6] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "National Veterinary Laboratory". [<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/nvl/Pages/nvl.aspx?IsPrintPrev=1>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [7] Malta Council for Science & Technology. [<http://mcst.gov.mt/>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [8] Ministry for Health. "Mater Dei Hospital". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/MDH/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [9] Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO). "FAOLEX: Malta". [<http://www.fao.org/faolex/country-profiles/general-profile/en/?iso3=MLT>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [10] VERTIC. "Biological Weapons Convention Legislation Database". [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/m/>]. Accessed 5 September 2020.
- [11] Ministry for Justice, Culture, and Local Government. "Laws of Malta". [<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/LOM.aspx?pageid=24>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [12] United Nations. "Confidence Building Measures". [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/malta>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

1.5.1b

Is there legislation and/or regulation requiring oversight of research with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, pathogens with pandemic potential and/or other dual-use research?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence of a national policy requiring oversight of dual use research, such as research with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, or pathogens with pandemic potential. No relevant information is shared via the public websites of the Ministry for Health; the Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning; the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights; the latter's various subdivisions (such as the Wild Birds Regulation Unit, the Veterinary Regulation Division, or the Animal Health Unit, or the National Veterinary Health Laboratory); or the Malta Council for Science and Technology, a public body that advises the government on policy (Malta does not have a ministry of research.) [1,2,3,4,5,6,7] The microbiology laboratory at Mater Dei Hospital (MDH), the country's main health facility in the national laboratory network, also does not share relevant information via a public website. [8] There is no evidence of relevant legislation on the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations' FAOLex database; in the VERTIC Biological Weapons Convention Database; or the Ministry for Justice, Culture, and Local Government's online index of the Laws of Malta. [9,10,11] There is no evidence of relevant studies or media reports. Although Malta is a party to the Biological Weapons Convention and submits Confidence Building Measures on an annual basis, access to the reports is restricted to the public, and it is unknown if they contain relevant information. [12]

- [1] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [2] Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning.

- [<https://environment.gov.mt/en/Pages/mdsec%20main.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [3] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [<https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [4] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "Veterinary Regulation Division". [<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/vrd/Pages/home.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [5] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "Animal Health Unit". [<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/vrd/Pages/animalHealth.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [6] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "National Veterinary Laboratory". [<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/nvl/Pages/nvl.aspx?IsPrintPrev=1>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [7] Malta Council for Science & Technology. [<http://mcst.gov.mt/>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [8] Ministry for Health. "Mater Dei Hospital". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/MDH/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [9] Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO). "FAOLEX: Malta". [<http://www.fao.org/faolex/country-profiles/general-profile/en/?iso3=MLT>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [10] VERTIC. "Biological Weapons Convention Legislation Database". [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/m/>]. Accessed 5 September 2020.
- [11] Ministry for Justice, Culture, and Local Government. "Laws of Malta". [<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/LOM.aspx?pageid=24>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [12] United Nations. "Confidence Building Measures". [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/malta>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

1.5.1c

Is there an agency responsible for oversight of research with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, pathogens with pandemic potential and/or other dual-use research?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence of a Maltese agency specifically responsible for oversight of research with especially dangerous pathogens, pathogens with pandemic potential, or other dual use research. The Health Ethics Committee, within the Ministry for Health, gives opinions on research, but its mandate is limited to clinical trials, and there is no mention in publicly available documentation that specifically deals with dangerous pathogens or dual use research. [1] There is no additional relevant information shared via the public websites of the Ministry for Health; the Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning; the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights; the latter's various subdivisions (such as the Wild Birds Regulation Unit, the Veterinary Regulation Division, or the Animal Health Unit, or the National Veterinary Health Laboratory); or the Malta Council for Science and Technology, a public body that advises the government on policy (Malta does not have a ministry of research.) [2,3,4,5,6,7,8] The microbiology laboratory at Mater Dei Hospital (MDH), the country's main health facility in the national laboratory network, also does not share relevant information via a public website. [9] There is no evidence of relevant legislation on the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations' FAOLex database; in the VERTIC Biological Weapons Convention Database; or the Ministry for Justice, Culture, and Local Government's online index of the Laws of Malta. [10,11,12] There is no evidence of relevant studies or media reports. Although Malta is a party to the Biological Weapons Convention and submits Confidence Building Measures on an annual basis, access to the reports is restricted to the public, and it is unknown if they contain relevant information. [13]

[1] Ministry for Health. "Health Ethics Committee". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/appbodies/hec/Pages/hec.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning.

- [<https://environment.gov.mt/en/Pages/mdsec%20main.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [4] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [<https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [5] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "Veterinary Regulation Division". [<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/vrd/Pages/home.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [6] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "Animal Health Unit". [<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/vrd/Pages/animalHealth.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [7] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "National Veterinary Laboratory". [<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/nvl/Pages/nvl.aspx?IsPrintPrev=1>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [8] Malta Council for Science & Technology. [<http://mcst.gov.mt/>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [9] Ministry for Health. "Mater Dei Hospital". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/MDH/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [10] Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO). "FAOLEX: Malta". [<http://www.fao.org/faolex/country-profiles/general-profile/en/?iso3=MLT>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [11] VERTIC. "Biological Weapons Convention Legislation Database". [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/m/>]. Accessed 5 September 2020.
- [12] Ministry for Justice, Culture, and Local Government. "Laws of Malta". [<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/LOM.aspx?pageid=24>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [13] United Nations. "Confidence Building Measures". [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/malta>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

1.5.2 Screening guidance for providers of genetic material

1.5.2a

Is there legislation and/or regulation requiring the screening of synthesized DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) against lists of known pathogens and toxins before it is sold?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence of national legislation, regulation, policy, or other guidance, requiring the screening of synthesized DNA before it is sold. There is no additional relevant information shared via the public websites of the Ministry for Health; the Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning; the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights; the latter's various subdivisions (such as the Wild Birds Regulation Unit, the Veterinary Regulation Division, or the Animal Health Unit, or the National Veterinary Health Laboratory); the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security; the Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure, and Capital Projects; or the Malta Council for Science and Technology, a public body that advises the government on policy. (Malta does not have a ministry of research.) [1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9] The microbiology laboratory at Mater Dei Hospital (MDH), the country's main health facility in the national laboratory network, also does not share relevant information via a public website. [10] There is no evidence of relevant legislation on the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations' FAOLex database; in the VERTIC Biological Weapons Convention Database; or the Ministry for Justice, Culture, and Local Government's online index of the Laws of Malta. [11,12,13] There is no evidence of relevant studies or media reports. Although Malta is a party to the Biological Weapons Convention and submits Confidence Building Measures on an annual basis, access to the reports is restricted to the public, and it is unknown if they contain relevant information. [14]

[1] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning.

[<https://environment.gov.mt/en/Pages/mdsec%20main.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

- [3] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [<https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [4] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "Veterinary Regulation Division". [<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/vrd/Pages/home.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [5] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "Animal Health Unit". [<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/vrd/Pages/animalHealth.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [6] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "National Veterinary Laboratory". [<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/nvl/Pages/nvl.aspx?IsPrintPrev=1>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [7] Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. [<https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [8] Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure, and Capital Projects. [<https://mtip.gov.mt/en/Pages/Main%20en.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [9] Malta Council for Science & Technology. [<http://mcst.gov.mt/>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [10] Ministry for Health. "Mater Dei Hospital". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/MDH/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [11] Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO). "FAOLEX: Malta". [<http://www.fao.org/faolex/country-profiles/general-profile/en/?iso3=MLT>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [12] VERTIC. "Biological Weapons Convention Legislation Database". [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/m/>]. Accessed 5 September 2020.
- [13] Ministry for Justice, Culture, and Local Government. "Laws of Malta". [<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/LOM.aspx?pageid=24>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [14] United Nations. "Confidence Building Measures". [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/malta>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

1.6 IMMUNIZATION

1.6.1 Vaccination rates

1.6.1a

Immunization rate (measles/MCV2)

Immunization rate (measles/MCV2), 95% or greater = 2, 80-94.9% = 1, Less than 80%, or no data = 0

Current Year Score: 2

2019

World Health Organization

1.6.1b

Are official foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) vaccination figures for livestock publicly available through the OIE database?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

2020

OIE WAHIS database

Category 2: Early detection and reporting for epidemics of potential international concern

2.1 LABORATORY SYSTEMS STRENGTH AND QUALITY

2.1.1 Laboratory testing for detection of priority diseases

2.1.1a

Does the national laboratory system have the capacity to conduct diagnostic tests for at least 5 of the 10 WHO-defined core tests?

Evidence they can conduct 5 of the 10 core tests and these tests are named = 2, Evidence they can conduct 5 of the 10 core tests and the tests are not named = 1, No evidence they can conduct 5 of the 10 core tests = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is insufficient public evidence to confirm that Malta's national laboratory system has the capacity to conduct diagnostic tests for at least 5 of the 10 core tests defined by the World Health Organisation (WHO). According to the website of the Ministry for Health, the microbiology laboratory at Mater Dei Hospital (MDH)—the country's main health facility in the national laboratory network—can perform 600 different tests. However, no information is provided on which tests these include. (MDH does not have its own website.) [1] Webpages for virology and bacteriology in the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights' Plant Protection Directorate indicate that some polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing is available in Maltese laboratories, but there is no mention of any of the WHO core tests. [2,3] The Ministry for Health's Prevention, Control and Management of Tuberculosis: A National Strategy for Malta, a 2012 document, provides extensive information on TB screening protocols in Malta but does not specify which tests are available in-country. [4] No other relevant information is provided via a public website by the Ministry for Health, including anything indicating that Malta has defined four country-specific tests (or any other number of such tests). [5] There is no evidence that Malta has a national public health institute. Nor is there any evidence of other relevant studies or media reports.

[1] Ministry for Health. "Mater Dei Hospital: Pathology Department".

[<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/MDH/Pages/MDH-Pathology-Department.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "Plant Protection: Bacteriology".

[<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/phd/Pages/bacteriology.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "Plant Protection: Virology".

[<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/phd/Pages/virology.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[4] Ministry for Health. March 2012. "Prevention, Control and Management of Tuberculosis: A National Strategy for Malta".

[https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/health-promotion/idpcu/Documents/tb_strategy_2012.pdf]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[5] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

2.1.1b

Is there a national plan, strategy or similar document for conducting testing during a public health emergency, which includes considerations for testing for novel pathogens, scaling capacity, and defining goals for testing?

Yes, there is evidence of a plan, and it includes considerations for testing for novel pathogens, scaling capacity, and defining goals for testing = 2, Yes, there is evidence of a plan, but there is insufficient evidence that it includes considerations for testing for novel pathogens, scaling capacity, and defining goals for testing = 1, No evidence of a plan = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Malta has a national plan, strategy or similar document for conducting testing during a public health emergency, let alone one that includes considerations for testing for novel pathogens, scaling capacity, and defining goals for testing. There is no relevant information shared via the public websites of the Ministry for Health; the Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning; the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights; the latter's various subdivisions (such as the Wild Birds Regulation Unit, the Veterinary Regulation Division, or the Animal Health Unit, or the National Veterinary Health Laboratory); or the Malta Council for Science and Technology, a public body that advises the government on policy (Malta does not have a ministry of research.) [1,2,3,4,5,6,7] The microbiology laboratory at Mater Dei Hospital (MDH), the country's main health facility in the national laboratory network, also does not share relevant information via a public website. [8] The 2013 Communicable Disease Control Strategy does not address considerations for testing of novel pathogens, scaling capacity, and defining goals for testing. [9] There is no evidence of relevant studies or media reports. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Malta established six testing centers in the country, which are described on Ministry for Health's COVID-19 information webpage. However, there is no evidence of a publicly shared national testing plan for COVID-19. [10] The government also issued a document in February 2021 called "COVID-19 – Standards on the use of Point-of-Care Rapid Antigen Tests for SARS-CoV-2". However, this document only describes when and how tests should be administered, and does not provide an overall testing strategy for COVID-19. [11]

[1] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning.

[<https://environment.gov.mt/en/Pages/mdsec%20main.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [<https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[4] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "Veterinary Regulation Division".

[<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/vrd/Pages/home.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[5] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "Animal Health Unit".

[<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/vrd/Pages/animalHealth.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[6] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "National Veterinary Laboratory".

[<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/nvl/Pages/nvl.aspx?IsPrintPrev=1>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[7] Malta Council for Science & Technology. [<http://mcst.gov.mt/>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[8] Ministry for Health. "Mater Dei Hospital". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/MDH/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[9] Ministry for Health. 2013. "Communicable Disease Control Strategy for Malta".

[https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Documents/National-Health-Strategies/CDCS_EN.pdf]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[10] Ministry for Health. "COVID-19 Menu: Getting Tested". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/health-promotion/covid-19/Pages/getting-tested.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[11] Ministry for Health. 12 February 2021. "COVID-19 – Standards on the use of Point-of-Care Rapid Antigen Tests for SARS-CoV-2". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/health-promotion/covid-19/Documents/mitigation-conditions-and-guidances/Standards-on-Use-of-POC-Rapid-Antigen-Tests-for-SARS-CoV-2.pdf>]. Accessed 2 April 2021.

2.1.2 Laboratory quality systems

2.1.2a

Is there a national laboratory that serves as a reference facility which is accredited (e.g., International Organization for Standardization [ISO] 15189:2003, U.S. Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments [CLIA])?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

There is evidence that Malta has a national laboratory that serves as a reference facility that is accredited. Documents published by Malta's National Accreditation Board (NAB) state that it has awarded the country's Public Health Laboratory, the National Veterinary Laboratory, and BioDNA Laboratory Services (a private lab) ISO 17025:2017 accreditation. [1,2,3] The National Veterinary Laboratory is referred to as a reference laboratory on its website. [4] The Ministry for Health's webpages for the microbiology laboratory at Mater Dei Hospital (MDH), Malta's main health facility in the national laboratory network, do not include any information on accreditation. [5,6] The website of the Ministry for Health states that the Public Health Laboratory provides "National Reference Laboratory services for nineteen fields/parameters for food, animal feed and water", but does not provide more details. [7] No additional relevant information is shared via a public website by the Ministry for Health; Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning; or the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [8,9,10]

- [1] National Accreditation Board. 8 May 2020. "Public Health Laboratory Scope of Accreditation". [<https://nab.gov.mt/en/Documents/Accredited%20Cabs/006%20-%20PHL%20-%20Accreditation%20Scope.pdf>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.
- [2] National Accreditation Board. 5 September 2020. "National Veterinary Laboratory Scope of Accreditation". [<https://nab.gov.mt/en/Documents/Accredited%20Cabs/016%20-%20NVL%20-%20Accreditation%20Scope.pdf>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.
- [3] National Accreditation Board. 8 May 2020. "BioDNA Laboratory Services, Ltd. Scope of Accreditation". [<https://nab.gov.mt/en/Documents/Accredited%20Cabs/005%20-%20BioDNA%20-%20Accreditation%20Scope.pdf>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.
- [4] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "National Veterinary Laboratory". [<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/nvl/Pages/nvl.aspx?IsPrintPrev=1>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.
- [5] Ministry for Health. "Mater Dei Hospital". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/MDH/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.
- [6] Ministry for Health. "Mater Dei Hospital: Pathology Department". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/MDH/Pages/MDH-Pathology-Department.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.
- [7] Ministry for Health. "Public Health Laboratory". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/environmental/Pages/Public-Health-Laboratory.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.
- [8] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.
- [9] Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning. [<https://environment.gov.mt/en/Pages/mdsec%20main.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.
- [10] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [<https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

2.1.2b

Is there a national laboratory that serves as a reference facility which is subject to external quality assurance review?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is insufficient public evidence to confirm that the national laboratory that serves as reference facilities for Malta, or for that matter other national laboratories, are subject to external quality assurance (EQA) review. The Ministry for Health's webpages for the microbiology laboratory at Mater Dei Hospital (MDH), Malta's main health facility in the national laboratory network, do not include any information on accreditation. [1,2] The Public Health Laboratory, which provides "National Reference Laboratory services for nineteen fields/parameters for food, animal feed and water", does not share additional

information via a public website. [3] The National Veterinary Laboratory, which is referred to as a reference laboratory on its publicly website, also does not share any information on accreditation via a public website. [4] No additional relevant information is shared via a public website by the Ministry for Health; the Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning; or the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [5,6,7]

[1] Ministry for Health. "Mater Dei Hospital". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/MDH/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for Health. "Mater Dei Hospital: Pathology Department". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/MDH/Pages/MDH-Pathology-Department.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for Health. "Public Health Laboratory". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/environmental/Pages/Public-Health-Laboratory.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020..

[4] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. "National Veterinary Laboratory". [<https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/nvl/Pages/nvl.aspx?IsPrintPrev=1>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[5] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[6] Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning.

[<https://environment.gov.mt/en/Pages/mdsec%20main.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[7] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [<https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

2.2 LABORATORY SUPPLY CHAINS

2.2.1 Specimen referral and transport system

2.2.1a

Is there a nationwide specimen transport system?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is evidence that there is a specimen transport system available in-country, but insufficient evidence to confirm that it operates nationwide. The private company DHL offers a specimen transport service in the country. According to its website, DHL in Malta transports materials classified under 6.2 under the ADR treaty (the full English name of which is "European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road"). [1] The DHL website does not specify whether specimen transport is available nationwide or only in major urban centres, though Malta's very small size would seem to make it unusual for the private courier to exclude a portion of the country from its services. Still, nationwide coverage is impossible to prove based on available evidence. [2] There is no evidence of a public sector-provided transport service provided by the public websites of the Ministry for Health, the Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning; or the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [3,4,5] The microbiology laboratory at Mater Dei Hospital (MDH), the country's main health facility in the national laboratory network, also does not share relevant information via a public website. [5] There is no evidence that Malta has a national public health institute.

[1] UN Economic Commission for Europe. "ADR 2019 (files)".

[<http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/adr/adr2019/19contentse.html>]. Accessed 11 October 2020.

[2] DHL. "Malta: Shipping Dangerous Goods".

[https://www.dhl.com.mt/en/express/shipping/shipping_advice/dangerous_goods.html]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[4] Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning.

[<https://environment.gov.mt/en/Pages/mdsec%20main.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[5] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [<https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[6] Ministry for Health. "Mater Dei Hospital". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/MDH/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

2.2.2 Laboratory cooperation and coordination

2.2.2a

Is there a plan in place to rapidly authorize or license laboratories to supplement the capacity of the national public health laboratory system to scale-up testing during an outbreak?

Yes = 2 , Yes, but there is evidence of gaps in implementation = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Malta has a plan in place to rapidly authorize or license laboratories to supplement the capacity of the national public health laboratory system to scale-up testing during an outbreak. There is no relevant information shared via the public websites of the Ministry for Health, the Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning; or the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [1,2,3] The microbiology laboratory at Mater Dei Hospital (MDH), the country's main health facility in the national laboratory network, also does not share relevant information via a public website. [4] There is no evidence that Malta has a national public health institute. There is no evidence of relevant media reports or academic studies.

[1] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning.

[<https://environment.gov.mt/en/Pages/mdsec%20main.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [<https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[4] Ministry for Health. "Mater Dei Hospital". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/MDH/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

2.3 REAL-TIME SURVEILLANCE AND REPORTING

2.3.1 Indicator and event-based surveillance and reporting systems

2.3.1a

Is there evidence that the country is conducting ongoing event-based surveillance and analysis for infectious disease?

Yes, there is evidence of ongoing event-based surveillance and evidence that the data is being analyzed on a daily basis = 2,

Yes, there is evidence of ongoing event-based surveillance, but no evidence that the data are being analyzed on a daily basis = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no public evidence that Malta is conducting ongoing event-based surveillance and analysis for infectious disease. There is no relevant information shared via a public website by the Ministry for Health, the Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning; the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights; or the Civil Protection Department, which is responsible for responding to emergencies. [1,2,3,4] There is no evidence that Malta has a national public health institute, a national emergency or disaster planning document, or relevant legislation. [5] The Ministry for Health's

Communicable Diseases Control Strategy, published in 2013, does not mention event-based surveillance. [6]

[1] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning.

[<https://environment.gov.mt/en/Pages/mdsec%20main.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [<https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[4] Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. "Civil Protection Department". [<https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/MHAS-Departments/CPD/Pages/CPD-Home.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[5] Ministry for Justice, Culture, and Local Government. "Laws of Malta".

[<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/LOM.aspx?pageid=24>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[6] Ministry for Health. 2013. "Communicable Disease Control Strategy for Malta".

[https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Documents/National-Health-Strategies/CDCS_EN.pdf]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

2.3.1b

Is there publicly available evidence that the country reported a potential public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) to the WHO within the last two years?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no publicly available evidence that Malta reported an infectious disease which presented a potential public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) to the World Health Organization (WHO) within the last two years. The WHO Disease Outbreak News site reports no recent outbreaks of reportable diseases. [1] Likewise, the WHO country page for Malta does not share any relevant information. [2] No other relevant information is shared via a public website by the Ministry for Health. [3] The WHO and the Ministry of Health confirm that the global COVID-19 pandemic has spread to Malta, with more than 2,000 cases as of September 2020. [4,5] The data reported by the WHO and the Ministry for Health are nearly synced, and there is no evidence that Malta has failed to report COVID-19 to the WHO. [2] Other than COVID-19, however, there are no media reports within the last two years of verified disease outbreaks in the last year. The first COVID-19 cases were reported in Malta in March 2020, after COVID-19 had already been declared a PHEIC. [6]

[1] World Health Organisation (WHO). "Disease Outbreak News: Malta".

[<https://www.who.int/csr/don/archive/country/mlt/en/>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[2] World Health Organisation (WHO). "Malta". [<https://www.who.int/countries/mlt/en/>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[4] Ministry for Health. "COVID-19 Infographics". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/health-promotion/covid-19/Pages/covid-19-infographics.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[5] World Health Organization. "WHO Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Dashboard: Malta".

[<https://covid19.who.int/region/euro/country/mt>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[6] Times of Malta. 7 March 2020. "Malta's first coronavirus cases are girl and parents".

[<https://web.archive.org/web/20200307233527/https://timesofmalta.com/articles/view/first-coronavirus-case-reported-in-malta.776288>]. Accessed 2 April 2021.

2.3.2 Interoperable, interconnected, electronic real-time reporting systems

2.3.2a

Does the government operate an electronic reporting surveillance system at both the national and the sub-national level?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no public evidence that Malta operates an electronic reporting surveillance system at both the national and sub-national level. There is no mention of such a system shared via the public websites of the Ministry for Health, the Mater Dei Hospital (the country's largest), or the National Statistics Office. [1,2,3] There is no evidence that Malta has a national public health institute. In its description of influenza surveillance activities, the Infectious Disease Prevention & Control Unit of the Ministry for Health describes the use of paper forms to collect data from general practitioners in the country. This is the only substantial description of disease surveillance on the website of the Ministry for Health [4] There is no evidence of other relevant studies or media reports.

[1] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for Health. "Mater Dei Hospital". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/MDH/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[3] National Statistics Office. [<https://nso.gov.mt/en/Pages/NSO-Home.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[4] Ministry for Health. "Infectious Disease Prevention & Control Unit: Influenza Surveillance".

[<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/health-promotion/idpcu/Pages/influenza.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

2.3.2b

Does the electronic reporting surveillance system collect ongoing or real-time laboratory data?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no public evidence that Malta operates an electronic reporting surveillance system at both the national and sub-national level, let alone one that collects ongoing/real time laboratory data. There is no mention of such a system shared via the public websites of the Ministry for Health, the Mater Dei Hospital (the country's largest), or the National Statistics Office. [1,2,3] There is no evidence that Malta has a national public health institute. In its description of influenza surveillance activities, the Infectious Disease Prevention & Control Unit of the Ministry for Health describes the use of paper forms to collect data from general practitioners in the country. This is the only substantial description of disease surveillance on the website of the Ministry for Health. [4] There is no evidence of other relevant studies or media reports.

[1] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for Health. "Mater Dei Hospital". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/MDH/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[3] National Statistics Office. [<https://nso.gov.mt/en/Pages/NSO-Home.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[4] Ministry for Health. "Infectious Disease Prevention & Control Unit: Influenza Surveillance".

[<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/health-promotion/idpcu/Pages/influenza.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

2.4 SURVEILLANCE DATA ACCESSIBILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

2.4.1 Coverage and use of electronic health records

2.4.1a

Are electronic health records commonly in use?

Electronic health records are commonly in use = 2, Electronic health records are not commonly in use, but there is evidence they are used = 1, No evidence electronic health records are in use = 0

Current Year Score: 1

There is evidence that electronic health records are commonly in use in Malta, but not that they are commonly used. The Ministry for Health, in an undated webpage, says that the country has "embarked on a project to replace the existing paper-based system". [1] The webpage notes that the electronic health records upgrade is part of the government's broader CONvErGE project, an initiative announced in 2017 to upgrade the country's information, communications, and technology (ICT) infrastructure. [1,2] The Ministry for Health's description of the health records upgrade includes a map that shows the locations it has been implemented; the map indicates that some but not all of the country's health centers are using the system. [1] However, other evidence shows that there is uncertainty about the breadth of electronic health records use in the country. There is no other information about electronic records shared via a public website by the Ministry for Health or Mater Dei Hospital (MPH), the largest hospital in the country and the location of the microbiology laboratory that is the main facility in the national laboratory network. [3,4] In its description of influenza surveillance activities, the Infectious Disease Prevention & Control Unit of the Ministry for Health describes the use of paper forms to collect data from general practitioners in the country. This statement further suggests that the keeping of electronic health records is limited. The Unit also notes that most general practitioners "do not have existing registers of their patients". [5] The National Health Systems Strategy for Malta 2014-2020, a publication of the Parliamentary Secretariat for Health, recommends the establishment of "a legal framework that supports the development of a national electronic health record (NEHR) while protecting the fundamental right to privacy". [6] It is not clear if the CONvErGE project is the realization of this recommendation; there is no other information on an NEHR on government websites. Malta has a portal, called myHealth, which is supposed to be for patients to access their electronic records country-wide. However, the system is not viewable to the general public, and it is not possible to determine what portion of the Maltese health care system it actually encompasses. [7,8] There is no evidence that Malta has a national public health institute.

[1] Ministry for Health. "Electronic Patient Records". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/phc/Pages/Services/Electronic-Patient-Records/Electronic-Patient-Records.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[2] Malta Information Technology Agency. 15 May 2017. "CONvErGE: €40 million investment to strengthen Government's ICT systems". [<https://www.mita.gov.mt/en/News/Pages/2017/CONvErGE-%E2%82%AC40-million-investment-to-strenghten-Government%E2%80%99s-ICT-systems.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[4] Ministry for Health. "Mater Dei Hospital". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/MDH/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[5] Ministry for Health. "Infectious Disease Prevention & Control Unit: Influenza Surveillance". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/health-promotion/idpcu/Pages/influenza.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[6] Parliamentary Secretariat for Health. "National Health Systems Strategy for Malta 2014-2020". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Documents/National-Health-Strategies/NHSS-EN.pdf>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[7] European Commission. February 2014. "Overview of the national Laws on Electronic Health Records in the EU Member States: National Report for Malta". [https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/ehealth/docs/laws_malta_en.pdf]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[8] Government of Malta. "myHealth". [<https://myhealth-ng.gov.mt/>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

2.4.1b

Does the national public health system have access to electronic health records of individuals in their country?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is insufficient evidence that Malta's national public health system has access to electronic health records of individuals in the country. The Ministry for Health, in an undated webpage, says that the country has "embarked on a project to replace the existing paper-based system". [1] The webpage notes that the electronic health records upgrade is part of the government's broader CONvErGE project, an initiative announced in 2017 to upgrade the country's information, communications, and technology (ICT) infrastructure. [1,2] The National Health Systems Strategy for Malta 2014-2020, a publication of the Parliamentary Secretariat for Health, recommends the establishment of "a legal framework that supports the development of a national electronic health record (NEHR) while protecting the fundamental right to privacy". [3] However, it is not clear if the CONvErGE project is the realization of this recommendation, or even if it is, what type of access to records it affords to the national public health system. Further, there is no other information on an NEHR on government websites. Malta has a portal, called myHealth, which is supposed to be for patients to access their electronic records country-wide. However, the system is not viewable to the general public, and it is not possible to determine what portion of the Maltese health care system it actually encompasses. [4,5] Aside from the lack of evidence that the national public health system has the technical ability to access electronic health records, there is uncertainty about the breadth of such records' use in general. The Ministry for Health's description of the health records upgrade includes a map that shows the locations it has been implemented; the map indicates that some but not all of the country's health centers are using the system. [1] However, other evidence shows that there is uncertainty about the breadth of electronic health records use in the country. There is no other information about electronic records shared via a public website by the Ministry for Health or Mater Dei Hospital (MPH), the largest hospital in the country and the location of the microbiology laboratory that is the main facility in the national laboratory network. [6,7] In its description of influenza surveillance activities, the Infectious Disease Prevention & Control Unit of the Ministry for Health describes the use of paper forms to collect data from general practitioners in the country. This statement further suggests that the keeping of electronic health records is limited. The Unit also notes that most general practitioners "do not have existing registers of their patients". [8] There is no evidence that Malta has a national public health institute.

[1] Ministry for Health. "Electronic Patient Records". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/phc/Pages/Services/Electronic-Patient-Records/Electronic-Patient-Records.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[2] Malta Information Technology Agency. 15 May 2017. "CONvErGE: €40 million investment to strengthen Government's ICT systems". [<https://www.mita.gov.mt/en/News/Pages/2017/CONvErGE-%E2%82%AC40-million-investment-to-strengthen-Government%E2%80%99s-ICT-systems.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[3] Parliamentary Secretariat for Health. "National Health Systems Strategy for Malta 2014-2020". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Documents/National-Health-Strategies/NHSS-EN.pdf>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[4] European Commission. February 2014. "Overview of the national Laws on Electronic Health Records in the EU Member States: National Report for Malta". [https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/ehealth/docs/laws_malta_en.pdf]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[5] Government of Malta. "myHealth". [<https://myhealth-ng.gov.mt/>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[6] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[7] Ministry for Health. "Mater Dei Hospital". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/MDH/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[8] Ministry for Health. "Infectious Disease Prevention & Control Unit: Influenza Surveillance".

[<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/health-promotion/idpcu/Pages/influenza.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

2.4.1c

Are there data standards to ensure data is comparable (e.g., ISO standards)?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is insufficient evidence to confirm that patient health data used by Malta's national public health system is comparable or adheres to consistent standards. There is evidence that Malta has begun adopting electronic health records, but it remains unclear how broad this adoption is or what standards it adheres to. The Ministry for Health, in an undated webpage, says that the country has "embarked on a project to replace the existing paper-based system". [1] The webpage notes that the electronic health records upgrade is part of the government's broader CONvErGE project, an initiative announced in 2017 to upgrade the country's information, communications, and technology (ICT) infrastructure. [1,2] The National Health Systems Strategy for Malta 2014-2020, a publication of the Parliamentary Secretariat for Health, recommends the establishment of "a legal framework that supports the development of a national electronic health record (NEHR) while protecting the fundamental right to privacy". [3] However, it is not clear if the CONvErGE project is the realization of this recommendation, or even if it is, what type of standards it adheres to. Further, there is no other information on an NEHR on government websites. Malta has a portal, called myHealth, which is supposed to be for patients to access their electronic records country-wide. However, the system is not viewable to the general public, and it is not possible to determine what portion of the Maltese health care system it actually encompasses, nor what standards it may adhere to. [4,5] Aside from the lack of evidence that health data adheres to consistent standards, there is uncertainty about the breadth of electronic records' use in general. The Ministry for Health's description of the health records upgrade includes a map that shows the locations it has been implemented; the map indicates that some but not all of the country's health centers are using the system. [1] However, other evidence shows that there is uncertainty about the breadth of electronic health records use in the country. There is no other information about electronic records shared via a public website by the Ministry for Health or Mater Dei Hospital (MPH), the largest hospital in the country and the location of the microbiology laboratory that is the main facility in the national laboratory network. [6,7] In its description of influenza surveillance activities, the Infectious Disease Prevention & Control Unit of the Ministry for Health describes the use of paper forms to collect data from general practitioners in the country. This statement further suggests that the keeping of electronic health records is limited. The Unit also notes that most general practitioners "do not have existing registers of their patients". [8] There is no evidence that Malta has a national public health institute.

[1] Ministry for Health. "Electronic Patient Records". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/phc/Pages/Services/Electronic-Patient-Records/Electronic-Patient-Records.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[2] Malta Information Technology Agency. 15 May 2017. "CONvErGE: €40 million investment to strengthen Government's ICT systems". [<https://www.mita.gov.mt/en/News/Pages/2017/CONvErGE-%E2%82%AC40-million-investment-to-strengthen-Government%E2%80%99s-ICT-systems.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[3] Parliamentary Secretariat for Health. "National Health Systems Strategy for Malta 2014-2020". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Documents/National-Health-Strategies/NHSS-EN.pdf>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[4] European Commission. February 2014. "Overview of the national Laws on Electronic Health Records in the EU Member States: National Report for Malta". [https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/ehealth/docs/laws_malta_en.pdf]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[5] Government of Malta. "myHealth". [<https://myhealth-ng.gov.mt/>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[6] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[7] Ministry for Health. "Mater Dei Hospital". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/MDH/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[8] Ministry for Health. "Infectious Disease Prevention & Control Unit: Influenza Surveillance".
[<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/health-promotion/idpcu/Pages/influenza.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

2.4.2 Data integration between human, animal, and environmental health sectors

2.4.2a

Is there evidence of established mechanisms at the relevant ministries responsible for animal, human, and wildlife surveillance to share data (e.g., through mosquito surveillance, brucellosis surveillance)?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is insufficient evidence to confirm the existence of mechanisms to share data between the relevant ministries responsible for animal, human and wildlife surveillance. There is no information about such mechanisms shared via a public website by the Ministry for Health; the Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning; or the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [1,2,3] The microbiology laboratory at Mater Dei Hospital (MDH), the country's main health facility in the national laboratory network, also does not share relevant information via a public website. [4] The 2013 Communicable Disease Control Strategy for Malta, the most recent such document shared by the Ministry for Health, describes surveillance for disease among humans and animals (for example, brucellosis among goats), but does not provide any details about how this data is shared between sectors. [5] There is no evidence that Malta has a national public health institute. There is no evidence of relevant studies or media reports.

[1] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning.

[<https://environment.gov.mt/en/Pages/mdsec%20main.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [<https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[4] Ministry for Health. "Mater Dei Hospital". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/MDH/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[5] Ministry for Health. 2013. "Communicable Disease Control Strategy for Malta".

[https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Documents/National-Health-Strategies/CDCS_EN.pdf]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

2.4.3 Transparency of surveillance data

2.4.3a

Does the country make de-identified health surveillance data on infectious diseases publicly available via reports (or other format) on government websites (such as the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, or similar)?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

Malta does not make de-identified health surveillance data on disease outbreaks publicly available on government websites, except for its reporting on data from the COVID-19 outbreak. The government's COVID-19 infographic website shares de-identified health surveillance data. [1] There is no other relevant information shared via public websites by the the Ministry for Health; the Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning; or the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights; or the Mater Dei Hospital, the country's largest health facility. [2,3,4,5] At some point in the past, the Infectious Disease Prevention & Control Unit of the Ministry for Health shared lists of monthly confirmed notifiable infectious

diseases in the country. The most recent that can be found on the internet is from 2015, but there are no recent reports available. [6] There is no evidence that Malta has a national public health institute.

[1] Ministry for Health. "COVID-19 Infographics". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/health-promotion/covid-19/Pages/covid-19-infographics.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning.

[<https://environment.gov.mt/en/Pages/mdsec%20main.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[4] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [<https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[5] Ministry for Health. "Mater Dei Hospital". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/MDH/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[6] Ministry for Health, Infectious Disease Prevention & Control Unit. June 2015. "Monthly Confirmed Notifiable Infectious Diseases--June 2015". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/health-promotion/idpcu/Documents/September2015.pdf>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

2.4.3b

Does the country make de-identified COVID-19 surveillance data (including details such as daily case count, mortality rate, etc) available via daily reports (or other formats) on government websites (such as the Ministry of Health, or similar)?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

Malta makes de-identified COVID-19 surveillance data (including details such as daily case count, mortality rate, etc) available via daily reports on government websites. The "COVID-19 Infographics" webpage on the the Ministry for Health website reports the total number of cases, the age distribution of cases, the date of cases and their resolution (recovery, death, etc.), the gender distribution of cases, and other data. Although the report is not described as "daily", in practice is was updated every day during the research period. [1]

[1] Ministry for Health. "COVID-19 Infographics". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/health-promotion/covid-19/Pages/covid-19-infographics.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

2.4.4 Ethical considerations during surveillance

2.4.4a

Is there legislation and/or regulations that safeguard the confidentiality of identifiable health information for individuals, such as that generated through health surveillance activities?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

There is evidence of legislation which safeguards the confidentiality of identifiable health information for individuals. The Data Protection Act of 2018 implements the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) provisions to Maltese law, securing the protection of such sensitive personal data. [1] Health data are mentioned in part 35 of the GDPR, which states that protections extend to "personal data concerning health", which includes "all data pertaining to the health status of a data subject which reveal information relating to the past, current or future physical or mental health status of the data subject. This includes information about the natural person collected in the course of the registration for, or the

provision of, health care services". [2] Additionally, Malta's Patient's Charter, a publication of the Ministry for Health, protects the privacy and confidentiality of patients' health information. (It bears mentioning, however, that in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry for Health posted a notice saying the Charter would continue to be respected "as much as possible, however due to the number of health services measures introduced due to covid19, precedence to the latter will be given over the charter".) [3] Neither the Ministry for Health; the Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning; nor the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights shares additional relevant information via a public website. [4,5,6] The microbiology laboratory at Mater Dei Hospital (MDH), the country's main health facility in the national laboratory network, also does not share relevant information via a public website. [7]

[1] Government of Malta. Act XX of 2018. "Data Protection Act".

[<http://justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=12839&l=1>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[2] European Union. 4 May 2016. "General Data Protection Regulation". [<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L:2016:119:FULL>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[3] Parliamentary Secretariat for Health. "Patient's Charter". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/hcs/Pages/patients-charter.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[4] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[5] Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning.

[<https://environment.gov.mt/en/Pages/mdsec%20main.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[6] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [<https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[7] Ministry for Health. "Mater Dei Hospital". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/MDH/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

2.4.4b

Is there legislation and/or regulations safeguarding the confidentiality of identifiable health information for individuals, such as that generated through health surveillance activities, include mention of protections from cyber attacks (e.g., ransomware)?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

There is evidence that the legislation that safeguards the confidentiality of identifiable health information for individuals includes protections from cyberattacks. The Data Protection Act of 2018 (DPA) implements the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) provisions to Maltese law, and requires that cybersecurity measures are implemented. Though the DPA does not set out specific requirements, it does specifically note that it implements the GDPR in Malta. [1] Article 29 of the GDPR states that member states must implement measures to prevent unauthorised access to personal data and that systems which store personal data cannot be corrupted. Further, health data are mentioned in part 35 of the GDPR, which states that protections extend to "personal data concerning health", which includes "all data pertaining to the health status of a data subject which reveal information relating to the past, current or future physical or mental health status of the data subject. This includes information about the natural person collected in the course of the registration for, or the provision of, health care services". [2]

[1] Government of Malta. Act XX of 2018. "Data Protection Act".

[<http://justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=12839&l=1>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] European Union. 4 May 2016. "General Data Protection Regulation". [<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L:2016:119:FULL>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

2.4.5 International data sharing

2.4.5a

Has the government made a commitment via public statements, legislation and/or a cooperative agreement to share surveillance data during a public health emergency with other countries in the region?

Yes, commitments have been made to share data for more than one disease, Yes, commitments have been made to share data only for one disease = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 2

There is evidence that Malta has made a general commitment to share surveillance data during a public health emergency, for more than one disease. As a member of the European Union, Malta shares surveillance data during a public health emergency with other countries in the region. All EU and European Economic Area (EEA) countries are part of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control's Early Warning and Response System (EWRS). The EWRS is a platform to "allow exchange of information on risk assessment and risk management for more timely, efficient and coordinated public health action. The EWRS is used for notifications on outbreaks, exchanging information and decisions about the coordination of measures among Member States. Over the years, it has played an important role to support health crisis related to severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), Ebola virus disease, avian influenza in humans and other communicable diseases." [1] Article 9 of Chapter IV of the European Union (EU) Decision on Serious Cross-Border Threats to Health notes that the European Commission "shall make available to the national competent authorities through the EWRS any information that may be useful for coordinating the response...including information related to serious crossborder threats to health and public health measures related to serious cross-border threats to health transmitted through rapid alert and information systems established under other provisions of Union law or the Euratom Treaty." [2] The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control reports that the system is in use to report and share data in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. [3]

[1] European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. "Early Warning and Response System (EWRS)."

[<https://ecdc.europa.eu/en/early-warning-and-response-system-ewrs>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] Decision No 1082/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2013 on Serious Cross-Border Threats to Health and Repealing Decision No 2119/98/EC. Official Journal of the European Union.

[https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/preparedness_response/docs/decision_serious_crossborder_threats_22102013_en.pdf]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[3] European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. 2020. "EU level surveillance of COVID19".

[<https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/covid-19/surveillance>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

2.5 CASE-BASED INVESTIGATION

2.5.1 Case investigation and contact tracing

2.5.1a

Is there a national system in place to provide support at the sub-national level (e.g. training, metrics standardization and/or financial resources) to conduct contact tracing in the event of a public health emergency?

Yes, there is evidence that the national government supports sub-national systems to prepare for future public health emergencies = 2, Yes, there is evidence that the national government supports sub-national systems, but only in response to active public health emergencies = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Malta has a national system in place to provide support at the sub-national level to conduct contact tracing in the event of a public health emergency—either for an ongoing emergency or a future emergency. Although the government shares information on its website noting the importance of contact tracing as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, there is no evidence that Malta has published a plan or strategy for contact tracing. [1] There is no evidence of such a system on the public website of the Ministry for Health. [2] The microbiology laboratory at Mater Dei Hospital (MDH), the country's main health facility in the national laboratory network, also does not share relevant information via a public website. [3] There is no evidence that Malta has a public health institute. There is no evidence of relevant media reports or academic studies.

[1] Malta-EU Steering and Action Committee. "Coronavirus: European roadmap shows path towards common lifting of containment measures". [<https://meusac.gov.mt/2020/04/coronavirus-european-roadmap-shows-path-towards-common-lifting-of-containment-measures/>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for Health. "Mater Dei Hospital". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/MDH/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

2.5.1b

Does the country provide wraparound services to enable infected people and their contacts to self-isolate or quarantine as recommended, particularly economic support (paycheck, job security) and medical attention?

Yes, both economic support and medical attention are provided = 2, Yes, but only economic support or medical attention is provided = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

There is evidence that Malta provides wraparound services to enable infected people and their contacts to self-isolate or quarantine as recommended, but the support is limited to economic support and there is no evidence of support for medical attention. Employees are entitled by law to leave from their job for quarantine without loss of wages, per an amendment introduced in 2020 to Malta's Minimum Special Leave Entitlement Regulations . The legislation states that employees are entitled to "quarantine leave for any period of quarantine as may be determined by the Superintendent of Public Health or by any other public authority". [1] Although Malta has a strong public healthcare system that is free of charge at the point of use for more services, there is no evidence of healthcare measures introduced specifically to support those in quarantine. [3] There is no mention of such services in the government's online description of quarantine procedures, or in other reviews of quarantine policies conducted by independent consultancies. [4,5,6] There is no evidence of other relevant media reports or academic studies. There is no other relevant evidence shared via the Ministry for Health. [7] The microbiology laboratory at Mater Dei Hospital (MDH), the country's main health facility in the national laboratory network, also does not share relevant information via a public website. [8] There is no evidence that Malta has a public health institute. There is no evidence of relevant media reports or academic studies.

[1] Government of Malta. 2010. "Minimum Special Leave Entitlement Regulations". Subsidiary Legislation 452.101, amended in 2020. [<https://legislation.mt/eli/sl/452.101/eng/pdf>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] Government of Malta. 2020. "Minimum Special Leave Entitlement (Amendment) Regulations, 2020". Employment and Industrial Relations Act CAP 452. [<https://legislation.mt/eli/l/2020/62/eng/pdf>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[3] Parliamentary Secretariat for Health. "National Health Systems Strategy for Malta 2014-2020". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Documents/National-Health-Strategies/NHSS-EN.pdf>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[4] Deloitte Malta. 10 September 2020. "COVID-19 support measures, announcements and other relevant considerations". [<https://www2.deloitte.com/mt/en/pages/about-deloitte/articles/covid-19-support-measures-and-announcements.html>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

- [5] KPMG. "Malta: Government and institution measures in response to COVID-19." [https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/04/malta-government-and-institution-measures-in-response-to-covid.html]. Accessed 14 September 2020.
- [6] Ministry for Health. "Quarantine". [https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/health-promotion/covid-19/Pages/quarantine.aspx]. Accessed 14 September 2020.
- [7] Ministry for Health. [https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx]. Accessed 14 September 2020.
- [8] Ministry for Health. "Mater Dei Hospital". [https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/MDH/Pages/Home.aspx]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

2.5.1c

Does the country make de-identified data on contact tracing efforts for COVID-19 (including the percentage of new cases from identified contacts) available via daily reports (or other format) on government websites (such as the Ministry of Health, or similar)?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Malta makes de-identified data on contact tracing efforts for COVID-19 (including the percentage of new cases from identified contacts) available via daily reports on government websites. The "COVID-19 Infographics" webpage on the the Ministry for Health website reports the total number of cases, the age distribution of cases, the date of cases and their resolution (recovery, death, etc.), the general distribution of cases, and other data. [1] However, this daily report does contain data on contact tracing, and there is no evidence of such data being reported elsewhere by the Ministry for Health. [2]

[1] Ministry for Health. "COVID-19 Infographics". [https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/health-promotion/covid-19/Pages/covid-19-infographics.aspx]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for Health. [https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

2.5.2 Point of entry management

2.5.2a

Is there a joint plan or cooperative agreement between the public health system and border control authorities to identify suspected and potential cases in international travelers and trace and quarantine their contacts in the event of a public health emergency?

Yes, plan(s)/agreement(s) are in place to prepare for future public health emergencies = 2, Yes, but plan(s)/agreement(s) are in place only in response to active public health emergencies = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Malta has a joint plan or cooperative agreement between the public health system and border control authorities to identify suspected and potential cases in international travelers and trace and quarantine their contacts in the event of a public health emergency—either for an active emergency or a future emergency. There is no evidence of such an agreement shared via the public websites of the Ministry for Health, the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security, or the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs. [1,2,3] The microbiology laboratory at Mater Dei Hospital (MDH), the country's main health facility in the national laboratory network, also does not share relevant information via a public website. [4] There is no evidence that Malta has a public health institute. There is no evidence of relevant media reports or academic studies. Although the government shares information on its website noting the importance of contact tracing as a

response to the COVID-19 pandemic, there is no evidence that such an agreement has been developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. [5]

[1] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. [<https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs. [<https://foreignaffairs.gov.mt/en/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[4] Ministry for Health. "Mater Dei Hospital". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/MDH/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[5] Malta-EU Steering and Action Committee. "Coronavirus: European roadmap shows path towards common lifting of containment measures". [<https://meusac.gov.mt/2020/04/coronavirus-european-roadmap-shows-path-towards-common-lifting-of-containment-measures/>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

2.6 EPIDEMIOLOGY WORKFORCE

2.6.1 Applied epidemiology training program, such as the field epidemiology training program, for public health professionals and veterinarians (e.g., Field Epidemiology Training Program [FETP] and Field Epidemiology Training Program for Veterinarians [FETPV])

2.6.1a

Does the country meet one of the following criteria?

- Applied epidemiology training program (such as FETP) is available in country
- Resources are provided by the government to send citizens to another country to participate in applied epidemiology training programs (such as FETP)

Needs to meet at least one of the criteria to be scored a 1 on this measure. , Yes for both = 1 , Yes for one = 1 , No for both = 0

Current Year Score: 1

There is evidence that there are resources for applied field epidemiology outside Malta, but no evidence that field epidemiology training is available within country. The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) offers fellowships individually to EU citizens for FETP training through the European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (EPIET), which includes those in Malta. [1] There is evidence that residents of Malta have previously participated in trainings. An ECDC report notes that there were 19 Maltese participants between 1995 and 2008; there is no evidence that any of this training occurred within Malta. [2]. The Ministry for Health does not provide information on field epidemiology training available in country. [3]

[1] European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). "Introduction to EPIET/EUPHEM".

[<https://ecdc.europa.eu/en/epiet-euphem/about/intro>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). 27 October 2008. "Training Strategy for Intervention Epidemiology in the European Union".

[https://ecdc.europa.eu/sites/portal/files/media/en/publications/Publications/0810_MER_Training_Strategy_for_Intervention_Epidemiology.pdf]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

2.6.1b

Are the available field epidemiology training programs explicitly inclusive of animal health professionals or is there a specific animal health field epidemiology training program offered (such as FETPV)?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

There is evidence that available field epidemiology training programs is explicitly inclusive of animal health professionals. The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) offers fellowships individually to EU citizens for FETP training, which includes those in Malta. [1] Individuals with postsecondary degrees in veterinarian medicine are explicitly eligible for these ECDC fellowships. [2] The Ministry for Health does not provide information on field epidemiology training available in country. [3]

[1] European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). "Introduction to EPIET/EUPHEM".

[<https://ecdc.europa.eu/en/epiet-euphem/about/intro>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). 27 October 2008. "Training Strategy for Intervention Epidemiology in the European Union".

[https://ecdc.europa.eu/sites/portal/files/media/en/publications/Publications/0810_MER_Training_Strategy_for_Intervention_Epidemiology.pdf]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

2.6.2 Epidemiology workforce capacity

2.6.2a

Is there public evidence that the country has at least 1 trained field epidemiologist per 200,000 people?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2020

Completed JEE assessments; Economist Impact analyst qualitative assessment based on official national sources, which vary by country

Category 3: Rapid response to and mitigation of the spread of an epidemic

3.1 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLANNING

3.1.1 National public health emergency preparedness and response plan

3.1.1a

Does the country have an overarching national public health emergency response plan in place which addresses planning for multiple communicable diseases with epidemic or pandemic potential?

Evidence that there is a plan in place, and the plan is publicly available = 2, Evidence that the plan is in place, but the plan is not publicly available OR, Disease-specific plans are in place, but there is no evidence of an overarching plan = 1, No evidence that such a plan or plans are in place = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Malta has an overarching national public health emergency response plan in place which addresses planning for multiple communicable diseases with epidemic or pandemic potential. No relevant information is shared via a public website by the Ministry for Health; the Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning; the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights; or the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security's Civil Protection Department, which is responsible for responding to emergencies. [1,2,3,4] There is no evidence of relevant studies or media reports.

[1] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning.

[<https://environment.gov.mt/en/Pages/mdsec%20main.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [<https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[4] Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. "Civil Protection Department". [<https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/MHAS-Departments/CPD/Pages/CPD-Home.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

3.1.1b

If an overarching plan is in place, has it been updated in the last 3 years?

Yes = 1 , No /no plan in place= 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Malta has an overarching national public health emergency response plan in place which addresses planning for multiple communicable diseases with epidemic or pandemic potential. No relevant information is shared via a public website by the Ministry for Health; the Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning; the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights; or the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security's Civil Protection Department, which is responsible for responding to emergencies. [1,2,3,4] There is no evidence of relevant studies or media reports.

[1] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning.

[<https://environment.gov.mt/en/Pages/mdsec%20main.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [<https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[4] Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. "Civil Protection Department". [<https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/MHAS-Departments/CPD/Pages/CPD-Home.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

3.1.1c

If an overarching plan is in place, does it include considerations for pediatric and/or other vulnerable populations?

Yes = 1 , No /no plan in place= 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Malta has an overarching national public health emergency response plan in place which addresses planning for multiple communicable diseases with epidemic or pandemic potential. No relevant information is shared via a public website by the Ministry for Health; the Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning; the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights; or the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security's Civil Protection Department, which is responsible for responding to emergencies. [1,2,3,4] There is no evidence of relevant studies or media reports.

[1] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning.

[<https://environment.gov.mt/en/Pages/mdsec%20main.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [<https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[4] Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. "Civil Protection Department". [<https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/MHAS-Departments/CPD/Pages/CPD-Home.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

3.1.1d

Does the country have a publicly available plan in place specifically for pandemic influenza preparedness that has been updated since 2009?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2020

WHO Strategic Partnership for IHR and Health Security (SPH)

3.1.2 Private sector involvement in response planning

3.1.2a

Does the country have a specific mechanism(s) for engaging with the private sector to assist with outbreak emergency preparedness and response?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Malta has a specific mechanism for engaging with the private sector to assist with outbreak emergency preparedness and response. Indeed, there is no evidence that Malta has a national public health emergency response plan in place. No relevant information is shared via a public website by the Ministry for Health; the Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning; the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights; or the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security's Civil Protection Department, which is responsible for responding to emergencies. [1,2,3,4] There is no evidence of relevant studies or media reports.

[1] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning.

[<https://environment.gov.mt/en/Pages/mdsec%20main.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [<https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[4] Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. "Civil Protection Department". [<https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/MHAS-Departments/CPD/Pages/CPD-Home.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

3.1.3 Non-pharmaceutical interventions planning

3.1.3a

Does the country have a policy, plan and/or guidelines in place to implement non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) during an epidemic or pandemic?

Yes, a policy, plan and/or guidelines are in place for more than one disease = 2, Yes, but the policy, plan and/or guidelines exist only for one disease = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

There is evidence that Malta has a policy, plan or guidelines in place to implement non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) in response to a single disease (COVID-19); however, there is no evidence of such guidelines that apply to multiple diseases. Malta has issued a variety of such guidelines in 2020, and they are all specifically in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and don't include any mention of applicability to other diseases. These include detailed guidelines for activities as diverse as returning to school, going camping, for choirs, for bars, restaurants, and clubs, and for other workplaces. [1] As an example, businesses must maintain a space of at least 2 meters between workers, and provide sufficient supplies of sterilizers and disinfectants. [2] In another example, Malta closed all discotheques, and limited the number of people that can enter bars and clubs. Physical modifications are required where distance cannot be maintained; for example, in bars and clubs "srylic or tempered glass barriers must be fitted around the reception area, bar counter and DJ or the singers/band stand (2 metres from the floor)". [3] There is no other relevant information shared via the Ministry for Health, or the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security's Civil Protection Department, which is responsible for responding to emergencies. [2,3] There is no evidence of relevant media reports or academic studies.

[1] Ministry for Health. 2020. "COVID-19 Menu: Mandatory Standards and Guidances".

[<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/health-promotion/covid-19/Pages/mitigation-conditions-and-guidances.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for Health. 2020. "Guidance for offices and workspaces". [https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/health-promotion/covid-19/Documents/mitigation-conditions-and-guidances/Guidance-for-Offices-and-Workspaces_11Sep20.pdf]. Accessed 11 October 2020.

[3] Ministry for Health. "COVID-19 Transitioning - Standards and Guidance for Bars, Clubs, and Similar Establishments including places of Entertainment". [https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/health-promotion/covid-19/Documents/mitigation-conditions-and-guidances/Standards_for_Bars_Clubs_Similar%20Establishments_1%20Oct%202020.pdf]. Accessed 11 October 2020.

[2] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. "Civil Protection Department". [<https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/MHAS-Departments/CPD/Pages/CPD-Home.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

3.2 EXERCISING RESPONSE PLANS

3.2.1 Activating response plans

3.2.1a

Does the country meet one of the following criteria?

- Is there evidence that the country has activated their national emergency response plan for an infectious disease outbreak

in the past year?

- Is there evidence that the country has completed a national-level biological threat-focused exercise (either with WHO or separately) in the past year?

Needs to meet at least one of the criteria to be scored a 1 on this measure. , Yes for both = 1 , Yes for one = 1 , No for both = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Malta has activated a national emergency response plan (there is no evidence that the country has such a plan) for an infectious disease outbreak in the past year; nor that Malta has completed a national-level biological threat-focused exercise in the past year. No relevant information is shared via a public website by the Ministry for Health, or the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security's Civil Protection Department, which is responsible for responding to emergencies. [1,2] There is no relevant information in the World Health Organization's (WHO) list of biological exercises which have been planned and/or conducted. [3] Although the government has published a variety of topic and sector-specific guidelines in response to COVID-19, there is no evidence that it has published a single emergency response plan in response to the pandemic. [4] There is no evidence of relevant studies or media reports.

[1] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. "Civil Protection Department". [<https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/MHAS-Departments/CPD/Pages/CPD-Home.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[3] World Health Organization. "Simulation Exercise". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/simulation-exercise>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[4] Ministry of Health. "COVID-19". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/health-promotion/covid-19/Pages/landing-page.aspx>]. Accessed 2 April 2021.

3.2.1b

Is there evidence that the country in the past year has identified a list of gaps and best practices in response (either through an infectious disease response or a biological-threat focused exercise) and developed a plan to improve response capabilities?

Yes, the country has developed and published a plan to improve response capacity = 2 , Yes, the country has developed a plan to improve response capacity, but has not published the plan = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Malta in the past year has identified a list of gaps and best practices either through an infectious disease response or a biological-threat focused exercise, and developed a plan to improve response capabilities. No relevant information is shared via a public website by the Ministry for Health; the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security's Civil Protection Department, which is responsible for responding to emergencies; The World Health Organization (WHO) International Health Regulations (IHR) portal; the WHO country page for Malta; or the WHO Regional Office for Europe. [1,2,3,4,5] There is no relevant information in the World Health Organization's (WHO) list of biological exercises which have been planned and/or conducted, nor is there any evidence of an after action review for Malta listed by the WHO. [6,7] Malta has not identified a list of gaps and developed a corresponding plan in response to the COVID-19. [1] There is no evidence of relevant studies or media reports.

[1] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. "Civil Protection Department". [<https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/MHAS-Departments/CPD/Pages/CPD-Home.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[3] World Health Organization. "Malta". [<https://www.who.int/countries/mlt/en/>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[4] World Health Organization. "Regional Office for Europe". [<https://www.euro.who.int/en/home>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[5] World Health Organization. "Strengthening health security by implementing the International Health Regulations (2005)". [<https://www.who.int/ihr/access/en/>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[6] World Health Organization. "Simulation Exercise". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/simulation-exercise>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[7] World Health Organization. "After Action Review". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/after-action-review>]. Accessed 5 October 2020.

3.2.2 Private sector engagement in exercises

3.2.2a

Is there evidence that the country in the past year has undergone a national-level biological threat-focused exercise that has included private sector representatives?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Malta in the past year has undergone a national-level biological threat-focused exercise, let alone one that has included private sector representatives. No relevant information is shared via a public website by the Ministry for Health; the Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning; the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights; the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security's Civil Protection Department, which is responsible for responding to emergencies; the World Health Organization (WHO) International Health Regulations (IHR) portal; the WHO country page for Malta; or the WHO Regional Office for Europe. [1,2,3,4,5,6,7] There is no relevant information in the World Health Organization's (WHO) list of biological exercises which have been planned and/or conducted. [8] There is no evidence of relevant studies or media reports.

[1] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. "Civil Protection Department". [<https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/MHAS-Departments/CPD/Pages/CPD-Home.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning.

[<https://environment.gov.mt/en/Pages/mdsec%20main.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[4] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [<https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[5] World Health Organization. "Malta". [<https://www.who.int/countries/mlt/en/>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[6] World Health Organization. "Regional Office for Europe". [<https://www.euro.who.int/en/home>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[7] World Health Organization. "Strengthening health security by implementing the International Health Regulations (2005)". [<https://www.who.int/ihr/access/en/>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[8] World Health Organization. "Simulation Exercise". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/simulation-exercise>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

3.3 EMERGENCY RESPONSE OPERATION

3.3.1 Emergency response operation

3.3.1a

Does the country have in place an Emergency Operations Center (EOC)?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no public evidence that Malta has an emergency operations centre. There is no relevant information shared via a public website by the Ministry for Health; the Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning; the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights; the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security's Civil Protection Department, which is responsible for responding to emergencies. [1,2,3,4] There is no evidence of relevant studies or media reports. There is no evidence that Malta has a national public health institute, a national emergency or disaster planning document, or relevant legislation. [5]

[1] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. "Civil Protection Department". [<https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/MHAS-Departments/CPD/Pages/CPD-Home.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning. [<https://environment.gov.mt/en/Pages/mdsec%20main.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[4] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [<https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[5] Ministry for Justice, Culture, and Local Government. "Laws of Malta". [<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/LOM.aspx?pageid=24>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

3.3.1b

Is the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) required to conduct a drill for a public health emergency scenario at least once per year or is there evidence that they conduct a drill at least once per year?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no public evidence that Malta has an emergency operations centre, let alone one that has conducted a drill in the last year or has a requirement to conduct a drill once a year. There is no relevant information shared via a public website by the Ministry for Health; the Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning; the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights; the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security's Civil Protection Department, which is responsible for responding to emergencies. [1,2,3,4] There is no evidence that Malta has a national public health institute, a national emergency or disaster planning document, or relevant legislation. [5]

[1] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. "Civil Protection Department". [<https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/MHAS-Departments/CPD/Pages/CPD-Home.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning. [<https://environment.gov.mt/en/Pages/mdsec%20main.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[4] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [<https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx>]. Accessed 14

September 2020.

[5] Ministry for Justice, Culture, and Local Government. "Laws of Malta".

[<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/LOM.aspx?pageid=24>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

3.3.1c

Is there public evidence to show that the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has conducted within the last year a coordinated emergency response or emergency response exercise activated within 120 minutes of the identification of the public health emergency/scenario?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no public evidence that Malta has an emergency operations centre, let alone a centre that has conducted a coordinated emergency response or emergency response exercise within the last year activated within 120 minutes of the identification of the public health emergency/scenario. There is no relevant information shared via a public website by the Ministry for Health; the Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning; the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights; the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security's Civil Protection Department, which is responsible for responding to emergencies. [1,2,3,4] There is no evidence that Malta has a national public health institute, a national emergency or disaster planning document, or relevant legislation. [5]

[1] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. "Civil Protection Department". [<https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/MHAS-Departments/CPD/Pages/CPD-Home.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning.

[<https://environment.gov.mt/en/Pages/mdsec%20main.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[4] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [<https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[5] Ministry for Justice, Culture, and Local Government. "Laws of Malta".

[<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/LOM.aspx?pageid=24>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

3.4 LINKING PUBLIC HEALTH AND SECURITY AUTHORITIES

3.4.1 Public health and security authorities are linked for rapid response during a biological event

3.4.1a

Does the country meet one of the following criteria?

- Is there public evidence that public health and national security authorities have carried out an exercise to respond to a potential deliberate biological event (i.e., bioterrorism attack)?

- Are there publicly available standard operating procedures, guidelines, memorandums of understanding (MOUs), or other agreements between the public health and security authorities to respond to a potential deliberate biological event (i.e., bioterrorism attack)?

Needs to meet at least one of the criteria to be scored a 1 on this measure., Yes for both = 1, Yes for one = 1, No for both = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Malta's public health and national security authorities have carried out an exercise to respond to a potential deliberate biological event, nor are there publicly available standard operating procedures, guidelines, or agreements between those entities regarding such events. There is no relevant information shared via a public website by the Ministry for Health; the Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning; the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights; the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security's Civil Protection Department, which is responsible for responding to emergencies. [1,2,3,4] There is no evidence that Malta has a national public health institute, a national emergency or disaster planning document, or relevant legislation. [5]

[1] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. "Civil Protection Department". [<https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/MHAS-Departments/CPD/Pages/CPD-Home.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning. [<https://environment.gov.mt/en/Pages/mdsec%20main.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[4] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [<https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[5] Ministry for Justice, Culture, and Local Government. "Laws of Malta". [<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/LOM.aspx?pageid=24>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

3.5 RISK COMMUNICATIONS

3.5.1 Public communication

3.5.1b

Does the risk communication plan (or other legislation, regulation or strategy document used to guide national public health response) outline how messages will reach populations and sectors with different communications needs (eg different languages, location within the country, media reach)?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no public evidence Malta has in place a risk communications plan, let alone a plan that is specifically intended for use during a public health emergency or which outlines how messages will reach populations and sectors with different communications needs. A 2016 Peer Review conducted by the European Union states that "there is no apparent risk communication strategy or specific communication plan in place" of any kind. [1] There is no additional relevant information shared via a public website by the Ministry for Health or the Civil Protection Department of the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security, which is responsible for responding to emergencies. [2,3]

[1] European Union Civil Protection. 2016. "Peer Review: Malta". [https://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/echo-site/files/malta_peer_review_report_-_en.pdf]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. "Civil Protection Department". [<https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/MHAS-Departments/CPD/Pages/CPD-Home.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

3.5.1 Risk communication planning

3.5.1a

Does the country have in place, either in the national public health emergency response plan or in other legislation, regulation, or strategy documents, a section detailing a risk communication plan that is specifically intended for use during a public health emergency?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Malta has in place a risk communication plan that is specifically intended for use during a public health emergency, let alone any kind of risk communication plan. A 2016 Peer Review conducted by the European Union states that "there is no apparent risk communication strategy or specific communication plan in place" of any kind. [1] There is no additional relevant information shared via a public website by the Ministry for Health or the Civil Protection Department of the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security, which is responsible for responding to emergencies. [2,3]

[1] European Union Civil Protection. 2016. "Peer Review: Malta". [https://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/echo-site/files/malta_peer_review_report_-_en.pdf]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. "Civil Protection Department". [<https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/MHAS-Departments/CPD/Pages/CPD-Home.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

3.5.1c

Does the risk communication plan (or other legislation, regulation or strategy document used to guide national public health response) designate a specific position within the government to serve as the primary spokesperson to the public during a public health emergency?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Malta has in place a risk communication plan (or other legislation, regulation or strategy document used to guide national public health response), let alone one that designates a specific position within the government to serve as the primary spokesperson to the public during a public health emergency. A 2016 Peer Review conducted by the European Union states that "there is no apparent risk communication strategy or specific communication plan in place" of any kind. [1] There is no evidence that Malta has designated a spokesperson in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. There is no additional relevant information shared via a public website by the Ministry for Health; the Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning; the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights; or the Civil Protection Department of the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security, which is responsible for responding to emergencies. [2,3,4,5] There is no evidence that Malta has a national public health institute, a national emergency or disaster planning document (for public health or otherwise), or relevant legislation. [6]

[1] European Union Civil Protection. 2016. "Peer Review: Malta". [https://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/echo-site/files/malta_peer_review_report_-_en.pdf]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning.

[<https://environment.gov.mt/en/Pages/mdsec%20main.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[4] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [<https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[5] Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. "Civil Protection Department". [<https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/MHAS-Departments/CPD/Pages/CPD-Home.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[6] Ministry for Justice, Culture, and Local Government. "Laws of Malta". [<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/LOM.aspx?pageid=24>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

3.5.2 Public communication

3.5.2a

In the past year, is there evidence that the public health system has actively shared messages via online media platforms (e.g. social media, website) to inform the public about ongoing public health concerns and/or dispel rumors, misinformation or disinformation?

Public health system regularly shares information on health concerns = 2, Public health system shares information only during active emergencies, but does not regularly utilize online media platforms = 1, Public health system does not regularly utilize online media platforms, either during emergencies or otherwise = 0

Current Year Score: 1

There is evidence that the Malta public health system has actively shared messages via online media platforms to inform the public about ongoing public health concerns, but mainly uses these platforms for promotional messages rather than for sharing public health information. The Ministry for Health has a Twitter account which, in the past year, has primarily been used to promote safe practices for COVID-19, but which also shares non-emergency promotional material, including posts promoting healthy eating and food safety. The Twitter account is unverified. [1,2,3] The Ministry for Health also has a Facebook page (also unverified), on which it shares similar information. [4] The "COVID-19 Infographics" webpage on the the Ministry for Health website reports the total number of cases, the age distribution of cases, the date of cases and their resolution (recovery, death, etc.), the gender distribution of cases, and other data. However, this type of data does not appear to be shared via the ministry's social media channels. [4] The Civil Protection Department of the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security, which is responsible for responding to emergencies, also has a Twitter account (also unverified), which is not frequently updated. [6] Aside from these examples, there is no other evidence that the Ministry for Health or the Civil Protection Department shares additional relevant information via online media platforms. [7,8]

[1] Twitter. "HDPD Malta" (@HDPDMalta). [<https://twitter.com/HPDPMalta>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] Twitter. 17 June 2020. @HDPDMalta status update. [<https://twitter.com/HPDPMalta/status/1273223872515411970>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[3] Twitter. 11 June 2020. @HDPDMalta status update. [<https://twitter.com/HPDPMalta/status/1270974044981133312>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[4] Facebook. @sahhagovmt. [<https://www.facebook.com/sahhagovmt/>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[5] Ministry for Health. "COVID-19 Infographics". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/health-promotion/covid-19/Pages/covid-19-infographics.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[6] Twitter. "Civil Protection_MT" (@CD_MT). [https://twitter.com/cpd_mt?lang=en]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[7] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[8] Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. "Civil Protection Department". [<https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/MHAS-Departments/CPD/Pages/CPD-Home.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

3.5.2b

Is there evidence that senior leaders (president or ministers) have shared misinformation or disinformation on infectious diseases in the past two years?

No = 1, Yes = 0

Current Year Score: 1

There is no evidence that senior Malta leaders have shared misinformation or disinformation on infectious diseases in the past two years. An account describing itself as that of the prime minister, Robert Abela, has not recently posted any misinformation on COVID-19, for example. [1] Media reports about the circulation of COVID-19 misinformation in Malta do not describe it as originating from senior leaders. [2] There is no evidence of misinformation being shared by the social media accounts (Twitter, Facebook) of the Ministry for Health or the Civil Protection Department of the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. [3,4,5] The "COVID-19 Infographics" webpage on the the Ministry for Health website does not appear to contain any misinformation. [6] There is no other evidence of such sharing of misinformation in media reports or academic studies.

[1]. Twitter. "Robert Abela" (@RobertAbela_MT). [https://twitter.com/robertabela_mt?lang=en]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] European Journalism Observatory. 9 April 2020. "Malta: Coronavirus and the Media." [<https://en.ejo.ch/ethics-quality/malta-coronavirus-and-the-media>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[3] Twitter. "HDPD Malta" (@HDPDMalta). [<https://twitter.com/HPDPmalta>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[4] Facebook. @sahhagovmt. [<https://www.facebook.com/sahhagovmt/>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[5] Twitter. "Civil Protection_MT" (@CD_MT). [https://twitter.com/cpd_mt?lang=en]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[6] Ministry for Health. "COVID-19 Infographics". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/health-promotion/covid-19/Pages/covid-19-infographics.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

3.6 ACCESS TO COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

3.6.1 Internet users

3.6.1a

Percentage of households with Internet

Input number

Current Year Score: 85.78

2019

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

3.6.2 Mobile subscribers

3.6.2a

Mobile-cellular telephone subscriptions per 100 inhabitants

Input number

Current Year Score: 144.14

2019

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

3.6.3 Female access to a mobile phone

3.6.3a

Percentage point gap between males and females whose home has access to a mobile phone

Input number

Current Year Score: 0

2019

Gallup; Economist Impact calculation

3.6.4 Female access to the Internet

3.6.4a

Percentage point gap between males and females whose home has access to the Internet

Input number

Current Year Score: 1.0

2019

Gallup; Economist Impact calculation

3.7 TRADE AND TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

3.7.1 Trade restrictions

3.7.1a

In the past year, has the country issued a restriction, without international/bilateral support, on the export/import of medical goods (e.g. medicines, oxygen, medical supplies, PPE) due to an infectious disease outbreak?

Yes = 0, No = 1

Current Year Score: 1

There is no evidence that Malta has issued a restriction, without international/bilateral support, on the export/import of medical goods (e.g. medicines, oxygen, medical supplies, PPE) due to an infectious disease outbreak. There is no relevant information shared via the public websites of the Ministry for Health; Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning; Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights; or the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs. [1,2,3,4] There is no evidence of relevant media reports or academic studies. A May 2020 report from the consultancy KPMG on measures such as export restrictions introduced in response to the COVID-19 pandemic did not list any such restrictions for Malta. [5]

[1] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning.

[<https://environment.gov.mt/en/Pages/mdsec%20main.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [<https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[4] Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs. [<https://foreignaffairs.gov.mt/en/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September

2020.

[5] KPMG. "Time to Adapt: COVID-19 Emergency Customs Measures Tracker".

[<https://home.kpmg/content/dam/kpmg/fr/pdf/covid-19/fr-07052020-KA-douanes-int.pdf>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

3.7.1b

In the past year, has the country issued a restriction, without international/bilateral support, on the export/import of non-medical goods (e.g. food, textiles, etc) due to an infectious disease outbreak?

Yes = 0, No = 1

Current Year Score: 1

There is no evidence that in the past year Malta has issued a restriction, without international/bilateral support, on the export/import of non-medical goods (e.g. food, textiles, etc) due to an infectious disease outbreak. There is no relevant information shared via the public websites of the Ministry for Health; Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning; Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights; or the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs. [1,2,3,4] There is no evidence of relevant media reports or academic studies. A May 2020 report from the consultancy KPMG on measures such as export restrictions introduced in response to the COVID-19 pandemic did not list any such restrictions for Malta. [5]

[1] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning.

[<https://environment.gov.mt/en/Pages/mdsec%20main.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [<https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[4] Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs. [<https://foreignaffairs.gov.mt/en/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[5] KPMG. "Time to Adapt: COVID-19 Emergency Customs Measures Tracker".

[<https://home.kpmg/content/dam/kpmg/fr/pdf/covid-19/fr-07052020-KA-douanes-int.pdf>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

3.7.2 Travel restrictions

3.7.2a

In the past year, has the country implemented a ban, without international/bilateral support, on travelers arriving from a specific country or countries due to an infectious disease outbreak?

Yes = 0, No = 1

Current Year Score: 0

There is evidence that Malta has implemented a ban, without international/bilateral support, on travelers arriving from a specific country or countries due to an infectious disease outbreak. Malta banned travel with Italy, Germany, France, Spain, and Switzerland in March 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. [1] Additionally, Malta closed its international airport on 20 March 2020, and reopened it in July, but only to travelers from some countries. [2,3]. As of September 2020, travelers from many countries were required by Malta to spend two weeks in a "corridor" country before traveling to the island nation. [4]

[1] Reuters. 11 March 2020. "Malta bans travel from four more European countries because of coronavirus".

[<https://fr.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-malta-idUSKBN20Y29F>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

- [2] Malta Independent. 20 March 2020. "Closure of Malta International Airport - Notice to travellers".
[<https://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2020-03-19/local-news/Closure-of-Malta-International-Airport-Notice-to-travellers-6736221012#:~:text=All%20passenger%20flights%20inbound%20to,hrs%20of%2020%20March%202020.&text=This%20will%20affect%20returning%20residents,and%20is%20currently%20in%20effect.>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.
- [3] Visit Malta. 15 June 2020. "6 Countries Added to List of Destinations to Open on July 1".
[<https://www.mta.com.mt/en/news-details/263>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.
- [4] Visit Malta. 10 September 2020. "https://www.visitmalta.com/en/covid-19". [<https://www.visitmalta.com/en/covid-19>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

Category 4: Sufficient and robust health sector to treat the sick and protect health workers

4.1 HEALTH CAPACITY IN CLINICS, HOSPITALS, AND COMMUNITY CARE CENTERS

4.1.1 Available human resources for the broader healthcare system

4.1.1a

Doctors per 100,000 people

Input number

Current Year Score: 285.98

2015

WHO; national sources

4.1.1b

Nurses and midwives per 100,000 people

Input number

Current Year Score: 948.33

2018

WHO; national sources

4.1.1c

Does the country have a health workforce strategy in place (which has been updated in the past five years) to identify fields where there is an insufficient workforce and strategies to address these shortcomings?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

Malta does not appear to have a public health workforce strategy in place that is less than five years old, which identifies fields where there is an insufficient workforce, and strategies to address these shortcomings. The most recent National Employment Policy was published in 2014. It does include a brief assessment of the size of the health workforce, but it does not identify shortcomings or strategies to address them. [1] The National Health Systems Strategy for Malta 2014-2020 (which is also more than five years old), provides a more detailed profile of the health workforce, but again does not describe strategies to overcome shortcomings. [2] No additional relevant information is shared by the Ministry for Health or the Ministry for Education and Employment. [3,4]

[1] Ministry for Education and Employment. 2014. "National Employment Policy".

[<https://education.gov.mt/en/resources/Documents/Policy%20Documents%202014/EMPLOYMENT%20POLICY%20DOC%20sml.pdf>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] Parliamentary Secretariat for Health. "National Health Systems Strategy for Malta 2014-2020".

[<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Documents/National-Health-Strategies/NHSS-EN.pdf>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[4] Ministry for Education and Employment. [<https://education.gov.mt/en/Pages/educ.aspx#>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

4.1.2 Facilities capacity

4.1.2a

Hospital beds per 100,000 people

Input number

Current Year Score: 449

2017

WHO/World Bank; national sources

4.1.2b

Does the country have the capacity to isolate patients with highly communicable diseases in a biocontainment patient care unit and/or patient isolation room/unit located within the country?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is insufficient evidence that Malta has the capacity to isolate patients with highly communicable diseases in a patient isolation facility located within the country. News reports describe the setting up of isolation wards near Mater Dei Hospital (MDH, the country's main health facility) in preparation for COVID-19. [1] Other reports describe the existence of isolation facilities at MDH that have been set up or utilised for the COVID-19 pandemic. [2] However, no other relevant information is shared via a public website by the Ministry for Health or the MDH that would confirm such facilities' adequacy for isolation of highly communicable diseases (evidence of decontamination rooms, positive/negative pressure air conditioning, etc.). [3,4] The MDH website does indicate the presence of an infectious disease ward, but it is still not clear what capabilities the ward has. [5] A 2018 study published in the journal *New Microbes and New Infections* mentions the existence of an unnamed

Maltese hospital with three isolation beds, but does not provide a source for this information or any details about the suitability of these beds for isolation of highly communicable diseases. [6] Another study, from 2014, in the journal PLoS One, indicates that one Maltese facility can assess and provide limited treatment to a patient with a highly communicable infectious disease, but does not provide additional relevant information that would prove the existence of an isolation unit in the country. [7]

- [1] Carabott, Sarah. 29 January 2020. "Isolation unit for mild cases of Coronavirus being set up near Mater Dei". [https://timesofmalta.com/articles/view/isolation-unit-for-mild-cases-of-coronavirus-being-set-up-at-mater-dei.767032]. Accessed 14 September 2020.
- [2] Grech, Victor. 8 May 2020. "Malta's healthcare escalation for COVID-19". Journal of Visual Communication in Medicine 43(30). [https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17453054.2020.1768830]. Accessed 14 September 2020.
- [3] Ministry for Health. [https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx]. Accessed 14 September 2020.
- [4] Ministry for Health. "Mater Dei Hospital". [https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/MDH/Pages/Home.aspx]. Accessed 14 September 2020.
- [5] Ministry for Health. "Mater Dei: Infectious Disease Unit". [https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/MDH/Pages/MDH-Infectious-Disease-Unit.aspx]. Accessed 14 September 2020.
- [6] Fusco, F.M., P. Brouqui, G. Ippolito, and the EuroNHID Working Group. "Highly Infectious Diseases in the Mediterranean Sea Area: Inventory of Isolation Capabilities and Recommendations for Appropriate Isolation". New Microbes and New Infections 26 (November 2018): S65-S73. [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6205579/#!po=35.0000]. Accessed 14 September 2020.
- [7] Schilling, Stefan, et al. "Isolation Facilities for Highly Infectious Diseases in Europe - A Cross-Sectional Analysis in 16 Countries". PLoS One 9, no. 10 (2014): e100401. [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4211666/]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

4.1.2c

Does the country meet one of the following criteria?

- Is there evidence that the country has demonstrated capacity to expand isolation capacity in response to an infectious disease outbreak in the past two years?
- Is there evidence that the country has developed, updated or tested a plan to expand isolation capacity in response to an infectious disease outbreak in the past two years?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

There is evidence that Malta has demonstrated capacity to expand isolation capacity in response to an infectious disease outbreak in the past two years, and no evidence that the country has developed, updated or tested a plan to expand isolation capacity in response to an infectious disease outbreak in the past two years. Further, there is inadequate information to identify the precise features of the recently expanded facilities, and to confirm that they are advanced isolation facilities. News reports describe the setting up of isolation wards near Mater Dei Hospital (MDH, the country's main health facility) in preparation for COVID-19. [1] Other reports describe the existence of isolation facilities at MDH that have been set up or utilised for the COVID-19 pandemic. [2] However, no other relevant information is shared via a public website by the Ministry for Health, the MDH, or the National Security's Civil Protection Department (which is responsible for responding to emergencies) that would confirm these facilities' precise features and whether they are adequate for the isolation of highly communicable diseases. [3,4,5] The MDH website does indicate the presence of an infectious disease ward, but it is not clear what capabilities the ward has. [6]

- [1] Carabott, Sarah. 29 January 2020. "Isolation unit for mild cases of Coronavirus being set up near Mater Dei". [https://timesofmalta.com/articles/view/isolation-unit-for-mild-cases-of-coronavirus-being-set-up-at-mater-dei.767032]. Accessed 2 April 2021.
- [2] Grech, Victor. 8 May 2020. "Malta's healthcare escalation for COVID-19". Journal of Visual Communication in Medicine 43(30). [https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17453054.2020.1768830]. Accessed 2 April 2021..
- [3] Ministry for Health. [https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx]. Accessed 2 April 2021.
- [4] Ministry for Health. "Mater Dei Hospital". [https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/MDH/Pages/Home.aspx]. Accessed 2 April 2021.
- [5] Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. "Civil Protection Department". [https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/MHAS-Departments/CPD/Pages/CPD-Home.aspx]. Accessed 2 April 2021.
- [6] Ministry for Health. "Mater Dei: Infectious Disease Unit". [https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/MDH/Pages/MDH-Infectious-Disease-Unit.aspx]. Accessed 2 April 2021.

4.2 SUPPLY CHAIN FOR HEALTH SYSTEM AND HEALTHCARE WORKERS

4.2.1 Routine health care and laboratory system supply

4.2.1a

Is there a national procurement protocol in place which can be utilized by the Ministries of Health and Agriculture for the acquisition of laboratory supplies (e.g. equipment, reagents and media) and medical supplies (e.g. equipment, PPE) for routine needs?

Yes for both laboratory and medical supply needs = 2, Yes, but only for one = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 2

Malta has a national procurement protocol in place which can be utilized by the Ministry for Health and the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights for the acquisition of laboratory supplies and medical supplies or routine needs. The Public Procurement Regulations of 2016 are the guiding regulations in this matter, and apply across ministries. The regulations include the Ministry for Health and the Malta National Laboratory and the "Agriculture and Fisheries Regulation Department" (the former name of the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights) in the list of "contracting authorities" for which the regulations apply; they also are explicit in their application to "the acquisition of supplies". The regulations provide a detailed legal framework for how procurement should occur. For example, Part IV describes how contracting authorities will evaluate offers and conduct negotiations over purchases; other sections detail the different legal requirements depending on the value of the procurement. [1] The Department of Contract provides additional instructions for procurement. [2] The Guidelines for Public Procurement Regulations do not mention medical or laboratory supplies in particular, and most provisions seem to be geared toward services, they also explicitly govern "works and supplies". [1] There is evidence that the regulations have been used, through the Department of Contracts, to procure laboratory equipment at the University of Malta, and for other goods by the Ministry for Health. [3,4] It has also been used to procure medical equipment by the Gozo General Hospital. [5] There is scant evidence that they have been utilised by the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights, but the regulations do not exclude that ministry from their scope.

- [1] Government of Malta. Legal Notice 352 of 2016. "Public Procurement Regulations". [https://www.etenders.gov.mt/epps/viewInfo.do?section=legal&selectedItem=viewInfo.do%3Fsection%3Dlegal]. Accessed 11 October 2020.
- [2] Department of Contracts. [https://contracts.gov.mt/en/Pages/Home-DepartmentOfContracts.aspx]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

- [3] Department of Contracts. 21 July 2009. "Tender Document CT2095/2009".
[[https://contracts.gov.mt/en/Tenders/Documents/Archived/2009/CT2095/CT280_2009%20\(CT2095_2009\)%20PREVIEW.pdf](https://contracts.gov.mt/en/Tenders/Documents/Archived/2009/CT2095/CT280_2009%20(CT2095_2009)%20PREVIEW.pdf)]
. Accessed 14 September 2020.
- [4] Department of Contracts. 20 September 2016. "Advert Number CT/CD/001/2016".
[https://contracts.gov.mt/en/Tenders/Documents/TendersDocuments/CT_CD_001_2016.pdf]. Accessed 14 September 2020.
- [5] Department of Contracts. 19 June 2009. "Supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of medical equipment for the Radiology and Operating Theatre Departments at the Gozo General Hospital (GGH)".
[<https://contracts.gov.mt/en/Tenders/Pages/Archived/2008/CT2628.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

4.2.2 Stockpiling for emergencies

4.2.2a

Does the country have a stockpile of medical supplies (e.g. MCMs, medicines, vaccines, medical equipment, PPE) for national use during a public health emergency?

Yes = 2, Yes, but there is limited evidence about what the stockpile contains = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is insufficient evidence to show that Malta has a stockpile of medical supplies (such as medicines, vaccines, medical equipment, medical countermeasures, or personal protective equipment, or PPE) for national use during a public health emergency. No relevant information is shared via a public website by the Ministry for Health; the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security; the latter's Directorate of Civil Protection, which is responsible for responding to emergencies; or the Malta Medicines Authority, the country's drug regulator. [1,2,3,4] There is no evidence that Malta has established a stockpile of medical supplies in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, though it has access to the European Union stockpile established for this purpose. [5]

[1] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. [<https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. "Civil Protection Department". [<https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/MHAS-Departments/CPD/Pages/CPD-Home.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[4] Malta Medicines Authority. [<http://www.medicinesauthority.gov.mt/home?l=1>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[5] Malta-EU Steering and Action Committee. "COVID-19: Commission creates first ever rescEU stockpile of medical equipment". [<https://meusac.gov.mt/2020/03/covid-19-commission-creates-first-ever-resceu-stockpile-of-medical-equipment/>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

4.2.2b

Does the country have a stockpile of laboratory supplies (e.g. reagents, media) for national use during a public health emergency?

Yes = 2, Yes, but there is limited evidence about what the stockpile contains = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is insufficient evidence to show that Malta has a stockpile of laboratory supplies for national use during a public health emergency. No relevant information is shared via a public website by the Ministry for Health; the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security; the latter's Directorate of Civil Protection, which is responsible for responding to emergencies; or the Malta Medicines Authority, the country's drug regulator. [1,2,3,4] There is no evidence that Malta has established a stockpile

of laboratory supplies in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, though it has access to the European Union medical equipment stockpile established for this purpose; this stockpile includes laboratory equipment. [5]

[1] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. [<https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. "Civil Protection Department". [<https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/MHAS-Departments/CPD/Pages/CPD-Home.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[4] Malta Medicines Authority. [<http://www.medicinesauthority.gov.mt/home?l=1>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[5] Malta-EU Steering and Action Committee. "COVID-19: Commission creates first ever rescEU stockpile of medical equipment". [<https://meusac.gov.mt/2020/03/covid-19-commission-creates-first-ever-resceu-stockpile-of-medical-equipment/>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

4.2.2c

Is there evidence that the country conducts or requires an annual review of the national stockpile to ensure the supply is sufficient for a public health emergency?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Malta conducts or requires an annual review of a national stockpile of medical supplies to ensure the supply is sufficient for a public health emergency, nor that it has such a stockpile. No relevant information is shared via a public website by the Ministry for Health; the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security; the latter's Directorate of Civil Protection, which is responsible for responding to emergencies; or the Malta Medicines Authority, the country's drug regulator. [1,2,3,4] There is no evidence that Malta has established a stockpile of medical supplies in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, though it has access to the European Union stockpile established for this purpose. [5]

[1] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 2 April 2021.

[2] Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. [<https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 2 April 2021.

[3] Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. "Civil Protection Department". [<https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/MHAS-Departments/CPD/Pages/CPD-Home.aspx>]. Accessed 2 April 2021.

[4] Malta Medicines Authority. [<http://www.medicinesauthority.gov.mt/home?l=1>]. Accessed 2 April 2021.

[5] Malta-EU Steering and Action Committee. "COVID-19: Commission creates first ever rescEU stockpile of medical equipment". [<https://meusac.gov.mt/2020/03/covid-19-commission-creates-first-ever-resceu-stockpile-of-medical-equipment/>]. Accessed 2 April 2021.

4.2.3 Manufacturing and procurement for emergencies

4.2.3a

Does the country meet one of the following criteria?

- Is there evidence of a plan/agreement to leverage domestic manufacturing capacity to produce medical supplies (e.g. MCMs, medicines, vaccines, equipment, PPE) for national use during a public health emergency?

- Is there evidence of a plan/mechanism to procure medical supplies (e.g. MCMs, medicines, vaccines, equipment, PPE) for national use during a public health emergency?

Needs to meet at least one of the criteria to be scored a 1 on this measure., Yes for both = 1, Yes for one = 1, No for both = 0

Current Year Score: 1

Malta has an agreement to procure medical supplies (such as medicines, vaccines, medical equipment, medical countermeasures, or personal protective equipment, or PPE) for national use during a public health emergency; but there is no evidence that it has a plan to leverage domestic manufacturing capacity to produce such supplies for national use during a public health emergency. Malta participates in the EU's Joint Procurement Agreement (JPA), which can be used for medical supplies. [1] Article 5 of EU Decision 1082/2013 lays out general guidelines regarding the joint procurement of medical supplies, including that any member state is free to join in, and that it does not contravene the internal market. The main aim of the joint procurement mechanism is to secure more equitable access to specific medical countermeasures (vaccines, antivirals and medical countermeasures for serious cross-border threats to health) and an improved security of supply, together with more balanced prices; it can also be used for other medical supplies. In order to be adequately prepared for an outbreak of a serious cross-border threat to health, the institutions of the EU, together with countries that have joined the JPA, may engage in a joint procurement procedure with a view to purchase, among other items, medical supplies for serious cross-border threats to health. [2] The JPA specifically applies to "masks and personal protective equipment or other goods and services depending on the need triggered by a serious cross border threat to health". [3] There is no other evidence of a plan to leverage domestic manufacturing. There is no relevant information shared via the public websites of the Ministry for Health; the Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning; the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights; the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security; or the latter's Civil Protection Department, which is responsible for responding to emergencies. [4,5,6,7,8]

[1] European Commission. "Joint Procurement Agreement—List of EU Countries".

[https://ec.europa.eu/health/preparedness_response/joint_procurement/jpa_signature_en]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] European Parliament. Decision 1082/2013.

[https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/preparedness_response/docs/decision_serious_crossborder_threats_22102013_en.pdf]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[3] European Commission. SDecember 2014. "Medical Countermeasures that Could Be Procured in Common under the Joint Procurement Agreement".

[https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/preparedness_response/docs/jpa_note_scope_en.pdf]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[4] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[5] Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning.

[<https://environment.gov.mt/en/Pages/mdsec%20main.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[6] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [<https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[7] Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. [<https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[8] Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. "Civil Protection Department". [<https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/MHAS-Departments/CPD/Pages/CPD-Home.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

4.2.3b

Does the country meet one of the following criteria?

- Is there evidence of a plan/agreement to leverage domestic manufacturing capacity to produce laboratory supplies (e.g. reagents, media) for national use during a public health emergency?

- Is there evidence of a plan/mechanism to procure laboratory supplies (e.g. reagents, media) for national use during a public health emergency?

Needs to meet at least one of the criteria to be scored a 1 on this measure., Yes for both = 1, Yes for one = 1, No for both = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is insufficient evidence that Malta has a mechanism to produce or procure laboratory supplies (e.g. reagents, media) for national use during a public health emergency.

Malta participates in the EU's Joint Procurement Agreement (JPA), which can be used for laboratory supplies. [1] Article 5 of EU Decision 1082/2013 lays out general guidelines regarding the joint procurement of medical countermeasures, including that any member state is free to join in, and that it does not contravene the internal market. The aim of the joint procurement mechanism is to secure supplies of certain goods and achieved more balanced prices. [2,3] There is no other evidence of a plan to leverage domestic manufacturing. There is no relevant information shared via the public websites of the Ministry for Health; the Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning; the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights; the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security; or the latter's Civil Protection Department, which is responsible for responding to emergencies. [4,5,6,7,8] Official descriptions of the JPA do not make it clear whether it is primarily designed to facilitate routine procurement or procurement in response to a public health emergency, stating simply that "the aim of the mechanism is to improve EU countries' preparedness to mitigate serious cross-border threats to health". However, the EU also states that the purpose of Decision 1082/2013 is "the implementation of core capacity requirements for the WHO International Health Regulations (IHR) to detect, assess, report, and respond to public health emergencies", and that the Decision "provides the framework to coordinate preparedness and response planning", indicating that the JPA can be used in response to emergency situations. A joint procurement procedure can be initiated "if at least 4 Member States plus the Commission vote in favour and participate in the procurement process". [9]

[1] European Commission. "Joint Procurement Agreement—List of EU Countries".

[https://ec.europa.eu/health/preparedness_response/joint_procurement/jpa_signature_en]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] European Parliament. Decision 1082/2013.

[https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/preparedness_response/docs/decision_serious_crossborder_threats_22102013_en.pdf]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[3] European Commission. December 2014. "Medical Countermeasures that Could Be Procured in Common under the Joint Procurement Agreement".

[https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/preparedness_response/docs/jpa_note_scope_en.pdf]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[4] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[5] Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning.

[<https://environment.gov.mt/en/Pages/mdsec%20main.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[6] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [<https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx>]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[7] Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. [<https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[8] Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. "Civil Protection Department". [<https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/MHAS-Departments/CPD/Pages/CPD-Home.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[9] European Commission. "Health security and infectious diseases".

[https://ec.europa.eu/health/security/preparedness_response_en]. Accessed 2 April 2021.

4.3 MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES AND PERSONNEL DEPLOYMENT

4.3.1 System for dispensing medical countermeasures (MCM) during a public health emergency

4.3.1a

Does the country have a plan, program, or guidelines in place for dispensing medical countermeasures (MCM) for national use during a public health emergency (i.e., antibiotics, vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics)?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that a plan, program, or guidelines is in place for dispensing medical countermeasures (MCMs) for national use during a public health emergency. There is no evidence that Malta maintains a national-level stockpile. No relevant information is shared via a public website by the Ministry for Health; the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security; nor the latter's Directorate of Civil Protection, which is responsible for responding to emergencies. [1,2,3]

[1] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. [<https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. "Civil Protection Department". [<https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/MHAS-Departments/CPD/Pages/CPD-Home.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

4.3.2 System for receiving foreign health personnel during a public health emergency

4.3.2a

Is there a public plan in place to receive health personnel from other countries to respond to a public health emergency?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that there is a plan in place to receive health personnel from other countries. Malta does not directly participate in the European Emergency Response Capacity or in the European Medical Corps, which facilitate the mobilization of emergency personnel, including health personnel. However, Malta would presumably be as eligible as any other country to receive European health personnel under these programs in the case of an emergency. [1,2] No relevant information is shared via a public website by the Ministry for Health; the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security; nor the latter's Directorate of Civil Protection, which is responsible for responding to emergencies. [3,4,5]

[1] European Commission (EC). 2018. "European Emergency Response Capacity". [https://ec.europa.eu/echo/what/civil-protection/european-emergency-response-capacity_en]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] European Commission (EC). 2018. "European Medical Corps". [https://ec.europa.eu/echo/what-we-do/civil-protection/european-medical-corps_en]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[4] Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. [<https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[5] Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. "Civil Protection Department". [<https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/MHAS->

Departments/CPD/Pages/CPD-Home.aspx]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

4.4 HEALTHCARE ACCESS

4.4.1 Access to healthcare

4.4.1a

Does the constitution explicitly guarantee citizens' right to medical care?

Guaranteed free = 4, Guaranteed right = 3, Aspirational or subject to progressive realization = 2, Guaranteed for some groups, not universally = 1, No specific provision = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2020

World Policy Analysis Center

4.4.1b

Access to skilled birth attendants (% of population)

Input number

Current Year Score: 99.8

2016

WHO/World Bank/United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

4.4.1c

Out-of-pocket health expenditures per capita, purchasing power parity (PPP; current international \$)

Input number

Current Year Score: 1370.38

2017

WHO Global Health Expenditure database

4.4.2 Paid medical leave

4.4.2a

Are workers guaranteed paid sick leave?

Paid sick leave = 2, Unpaid sick leave = 1, No sick leave = 0

Current Year Score: 2

2020

4.4.3 Healthcare worker access to healthcare

4.4.3a

Has the government issued legislation, a policy, or a public statement committing to provide prioritized healthcare services to healthcare workers who become sick as a result of responding to a public health emergency?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence of legislation, policies, or public statements regarding prioritised health care services to healthcare workers, let alone those who become sick as a result of responding to a public health emergency. There is no evidence of such a measure shared via a public website by the Ministry for Health. [1] Neither the Public Health Act of 2003 nor the Health Act of 2013 contain any relevant provisions. [2,3] There is no evidence of relevant studies or media articles.

[1] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] Government of Malta. Act XIII of 2003. "Public Health Act".

[<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=8931&l=1>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[3] Government of Malta. Act XI of 2013. "Health Act".

[<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=12112&l=1>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

4.5 COMMUNICATIONS WITH HEALTHCARE WORKERS DURING A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

4.5.1 Communication with healthcare workers

4.5.1a

Is there a system in place for public health officials and healthcare workers to communicate during a public health emergency?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that there is a system in place for public health officials and healthcare workers to communicate during a public health emergency in Malta. There is no relevant information shared via a public website by the Ministry for Health; the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security's Directorate of Civil Protection, which is responsible for responding to emergencies; or the Malta Communications Authority. [1,2,3]

[1] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. "Civil Protection Department". [<https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/MHAS-Departments/CPD/Pages/CPD-Home.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[3] Malta Communications Authority. [<https://mca.org.mt/>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

4.5.1b

Does the system for public health officials and healthcare workers to communicate during an emergency encompass healthcare workers in both the public and private sector?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that there is a system in place for public health officials and healthcare workers to communicate during a public health emergency in Malta, let alone a system that encompasses both the public and private sectors. There is no relevant information shared via a public website by the Ministry for Health; the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security's Directorate of Civil Protection, which is responsible for responding to emergencies; or the Malta Communications Authority. [1,2,3]

[1] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. "Civil Protection Department". [<https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/MHAS-Departments/CPD/Pages/CPD-Home.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[3] Malta Communications Authority. [<https://mca.org.mt/>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

4.6 INFECTION CONTROL PRACTICES AND AVAILABILITY OF EQUIPMENT

4.6.1 Healthcare associated infection (HCAI) prevention and control programs

4.6.1a

Is there evidence that the national public health system is monitoring for and tracking the number of healthcare associated infections (HCAI) that take place in healthcare facilities?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is not enough evidence to confirm that Malta's public health system monitors for and tracks the number of health care associated infections (HCAIs) that take place in healthcare facilities. A 2017 study published in Health Systems in Transition notes that Malta has made progress in preventing hospital-acquired infections, but does not indicate whether the country tracks such infects. [1] Neither the Ministry for Health's 2013 Communicable Disease Control Strategy for Malta, nor the Parliamentary Secretariat for Health's National Health Systems Strategy for Malta 2014-2020 contains information about HCAIs. [2,3] Malta's Strategy and Action Plan for the Prevention and Containment of Antimicrobial Resistance in MALTA 2018-2025 states that "data about the prevalence of [HCAIs] is mainly available only for MDH, the sole tertiary care hospital that provides the bulk of hospital care in the country". However, the Strategy and Action Plan does not make it clear whether data collection is ongoing. [4] There is no relevant information shared via a public website by the Ministry for Health. [5] The microbiology laboratory at Mater Dei Hospital (MDH), the country's main health facility in the national laboratory network, also does not share relevant information via a public website. [6] April 2020 news reports indicate that the government has specifically tracked COVID-19 infections among public health workers, at least at some point during the pandemic. [7] However, the government's COVID-19 Dashboard does not show such data. [8] There is no evidence that Malta has a national public health institute. There is no evidence of other relevant studies or media reports.

[1] Azzopardi-Muscat, Natasha, et al. 2017. "Malta: Health System Review". Health Systems in Transition, 19[1].

[http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/332883/Malta-Hit.pdf?ua=1]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

- [2] Ministry for Health. 2013. "Communicable Disease Control Strategy for Malta".
[https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Documents/National-Health-Strategies/CDCS_EN.pdf]. Accessed 14 September 2020.
- [3] Parliamentary Secretariat for Health. "National Health Systems Strategy for Malta 2014-2020".
[<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Documents/National-Health-Strategies/NHSS-EN.pdf>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.
- [4] Ministry for Health and the Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment, and Climate Change. "A Strategy and Action Plan for the Prevention and Containment of Antimicrobial Resistance in MALTA 2018-2025".
[http://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/nac/Documents/AMR%20Strategy_FINAL_EN_%20Public%20Consultation_NOV2018.pdf]. Accessed 14 September 2020.
- [5] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.
- [6] Ministry for Health. "Mater Dei Hospital". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/MDH/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.
- [7] Carabott, Sarah. 22 April 2020. "One in 10 COVID-19 infected people is a healthcare worker". Times of Malta.
[<https://timesofmalta.com/articles/view/one-in-10-covid-19-infected-people-is-a-healthcare-worker.787250>]. Accessed 2 April 2021.
- [8] Ministry for Health. "COVID-19 Infographics". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/health-promotion/covid-19/Pages/covid-19-infographics.aspx>]. Accessed 2 April 2021.

4.7 CAPACITY TO TEST AND APPROVE NEW MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES

4.7.1 Regulatory process for conducting clinical trials of unregistered interventions

4.7.1a

Is there a national requirement for ethical review (e.g., from an ethics committee or via Institutional Review Board approval) before beginning a clinical trial?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

There is evidence of a national requirement for ethical review before beginning a clinical trial in The Malta. The country's Clinical Trials Regulations (Legal Notice 490 of 2004) requires that clinical trials be approved by an Ethics Committee. [1] The Health Ethics Committee of the Ministry for Health has a public webpage on the Ministry for Health site, which shares some additional information, such as application forms. [2]

- [1] Government of Malta. Legal Notice 490 of 2004. "Clinical Trials Regulations".
[<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=11281&l=1>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.
- [2] Ministry for Health. "Health Ethics Committee".
[<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/appbodies/hec/Pages/hec.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

4.7.1b

Is there an expedited process for approving clinical trials for unregistered medical countermeasures (MCM) to treat ongoing epidemics?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence of an expedited process for approving clinical trials for unregistered medical countermeasures to treat ongoing pandemics. There is no mention of expedited clinical trials in Malta's Clinical Trials Regulations (Legal Notice 490 of 2004), which requires that clinical trials be approved by an Ethics Committee. [1] The Health Ethics Committee of the Ministry for Health has a public webpage on the Ministry for Health site, does not share additional relevant information. [2] The Ministry for Health does not share additional relevant information elsewhere on its public website. [3] There is no evidence on these websites or in media reports that Malta has established an expedited process in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

[1] Government of Malta. Legal Notice 490 of 2004. "Clinical Trials Regulations".

"<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=11281&l=1>". Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for Health. "Health Ethics Committee". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/appbodies/hec/Pages/hec.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

4.7.2 Regulatory process for approving medical countermeasures

4.7.2a

Is there a government agency responsible for approving new medical countermeasures (MCM) for humans?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

There is evidence that Malta has a government agency responsible for approving new medical countermeasures for humans. The Medicines Authority of Malta is responsible for granting authority for new medicinal products to be placed on the market in Malta; though the European Commission also has authority to grant permission through its centralized procedures. [1] The Medicines Authority draws its powers from the Medicines Act of 2003 and the Medicines (Marketing Authorisation) Regulations of 2007. Although these laws and regulations do not clearly distinguish between the approval of medicines and "medical countermeasures" (the latter phrase does not appear in these documents), they would appear to govern medical countermeasures as well. The Market Authorisation Regulations, for instance, include provisions for the tracing and approval of "raw materials" that constitute medicines, including reagents. [2,3,4]

[1] Medicines Authority of Malta. "Registration". [<http://www.medicinesauthority.gov.mt/registration>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] Medicines Authority of Malta. "Introduction to Medicines Regulation".

[<http://medicinesauthority.gov.mt/introductionmedicinesregulation>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[3] Government of Malta. Act III of 2003. "Medicines Act".

[<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=8924&l=1>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[4] Government of Malta. Legal Notice 324 of 2007. "Medicines (Market Authorisation) Regulations".

[<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=11272&l=1>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

4.7.2b

Is there an expedited process for approving medical countermeasures (MCM) for human use during public health emergencies?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence of an expedited process for approving medical countermeasures for human use during public health emergencies. The Medicines Authority of Malta is responsible for granting authority for new medicinal products to be placed on the market in Malta; though the European Commission also has authority to grant permission through its centralised procedures. [1] The Medicines Authority draws its powers from the Medicines Act of 2003 and the Medicines (Marketing Authorisation) Regulations of 2007. There is no mention of expedited approvals in these laws and regulations or on the website of the Medicines Authority. [2,3,4] No other relevant information is shared via a public website by the Ministry for Health. [5] There is no evidence on the aforementioned websites or in media reports that Malta has established an expedited process in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

[1] Medicines Authority of Malta. "Registration". [<http://www.medicinesauthority.gov.mt/registration>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] Medicines Authority of Malta. "Introduction to Medicines Regulation". [<http://medicinesauthority.gov.mt/introductionmedicinesregulation>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[3] Government of Malta. Act III of 2003. "Medicines Act". [<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=8924&l=1>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[4] Government of Malta. Legal Notice 324 of 2007. "Medicines (Market Authorisation) Regulations". [<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=11272&l=1>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[5] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

Category 5: Commitments to improving national capacity, financing plans to address gaps, and adhering to global norms

5.1 INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGULATIONS (IHR) REPORTING COMPLIANCE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

5.1.1 Official IHR reporting

5.1.1a

Has the country submitted IHR reports to the WHO for the previous calendar year?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

2020

World Health Organization

5.1.2 Integration of health into disaster risk reduction

5.1.2a

Are epidemics and pandemics integrated into the national risk reduction strategy or is there a standalone national disaster risk reduction strategy for epidemics and pandemics?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no publicly available evidence that Malta has a national risk reduction strategy, let alone one into which pandemics are integrated. A 2016 Peer Review conducted by the European Union, does not indicate that Malta has a disaster risk reduction strategy. It does however, note that Malta has a National Risk Assessment (NRA), which, in contrast to most such documents from countries, ranks the risk of pandemic as "unlikely". [1] It does not appear that the NRA is available via a public website. There is no additional relevant information shared via a public website by the Ministry for Health or the Civil Protection Department of the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security, which is responsible for responding to emergencies. [2,3]

[1] European Union Civil Protection. 2016. "Peer Review: Malta". [https://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/echo-site/files/malta_peer_review_report_-_en.pdf]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. "Civil Protection Department". [<https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/MHAS-Departments/CPD/Pages/CPD-Home.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

5.2 CROSS-BORDER AGREEMENTS ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND ANIMAL HEALTH EMERGENCY RESPONSE

5.2.1 Cross-border agreements

5.2.1a

Does the country have cross-border agreements, protocols, or MOUs with neighboring countries, or as part of a regional group, with regards to public health emergencies?

Yes = 2, Yes, but there is evidence of gaps in implementation = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 2

Malta has cross-border agreements as part of a regional group with regards to public health emergencies. Malta participates in the European Union (EU) Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM). The Mechanism provides a frame of cooperation and assistance in emergency cases and can be activated both within and outside the Union. It promotes the cooperation between the member states of the EU in the civil protection field and supports the efforts of the member states in preventing, preparing or, and responding to natural or manmade disasters, including health emergencies. [1] There is no additional information shared by the Ministry for Health or the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. [2,3] Although the EU published in 2019 an analysis of gaps in the UPCM, in terms of achieving the program goals, there is no evidence of actual gaps in implementation in regards to Malta's participation or inclusion. [4]

[1] European Commission. "EU Civil Protection Mechanism". [https://ec.europa.eu/echo/what/civil-protection/mechanism_en]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. [<https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 14

September 2020.

[4] Centre for Strategy and Evaluation Studies. October 2019. "Evaluation Study of Definitions, Gaps and Costs of Response Capacities for the Union Civil Protection Mechanism". [https://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/echo-site/files/capacities_study_final_report_public.pdf]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

5.2.1b

Does the country have cross-border agreements, protocols, or MOUs with neighboring countries, or as part of a regional group, with regards to animal health emergencies?

Yes = 2, Yes, but there is evidence of gaps in implementation = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 2

Malta has cross-border agreements which address animal health emergencies, and there is no evidence of gaps in their implementation. As member of the European Union (EU), Malta participates in the cross-border agreements set out by the EU regarding animal health, in terms of preparedness, prevention and response to outbreaks. These agreements are the result of a meeting of the Working Party of Chief Veterinary Officers in Europe, in June 2017, which determined what areas of emergency preparedness were most in need of updating, and what priorities were the most urgent. [1] The agreements cover areas that need improving and standardizing across the EU, including early warning systems, risk assessment, awareness, and contingency plans, among others. [2] Meeting recommendations include the reinforcement in member states of surveillance activities to keep early warning systems effective, and the regular exchange of surveillance information. [1] Malta participates in the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. [3] In its assessment of risks, the European Union Civil Defence Mechanism explicitly includes livestock. [4] There is no evidence in media reports or academic studies suggesting gaps in implementation.

[1] General Secretariat of the European Union Council. 29 June 2017. "Working Party of Chief Veterinary Officers (21-23 June 2017) - Partial outcome of proceedings". [<http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-10676-2017-INIT/en/pdf>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] EU Monitor. 30 June 2017. "Animal health: a common way forward on emergency preparedness". [https://www.eumonitor.eu/9353000/1/j9vvik7m1c3gyxp/vkfifam2ugzi?ctx=vk08kutn41zh&tab=1&start_tab1=15]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[3] European Commission. "EU Civil Protection Mechanism". [https://ec.europa.eu/echo/what/civil-protection/mechanism_en]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[4] European Commission. 23 May 2017. "Overview of Natural and Man-made Disaster Risks the European Union May Face". [http://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/echo-site/files/swd_2017_176_overview_of_risks_2.pdf]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

5.3 INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS

5.3.1 Participation in international agreements

5.3.1a

Does the county have signatory and ratification (or same legal effect) status to the Biological Weapons Convention?

Signed and ratified (or action having the same legal effect) = 2, Signed = 1, Non-compliant or not a member = 0

Current Year Score: 2

2021

Biological Weapons Convention

5.3.1b

Has the country submitted confidence building measures for the Biological Weapons Convention in the past three years?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

2021

Biological Weapons Convention

5.3.1c

Has the state provided the required United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540 report to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (1540 Committee)?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

2021

Biological Weapons Convention

5.3.1d

Extent of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540 implementation related to legal frameworks and enforcement for countering biological weapons:

Very good (60+ points) = 4, Good (45–59 points) = 3, Moderate (30–44 points) = 2, Weak (15–29 points) = 1, Very weak (0–14 points) or no matrix exists/country is not party to the BWC = 0

Current Year Score: 4

2021

Biological Weapons Convention

5.3.2 Voluntary memberships

5.3.2a

Does the country meet at least 2 of the following criteria?

- Membership in Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA)
- Membership in the Alliance for Country Assessments for Global Health Security and IHR Implementation (JEE Alliance)
- Membership in the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction (GP)
- Membership in the Australia Group (AG)
- Membership in the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI)

Needs to meet at least two of the criteria to be scored a 1 on this measure. , Yes for five = 1 , Yes for four = 1 , Yes for three = 1 , Yes for two = 1 , Yes for one = 0 , No for all = 0

Current Year Score: 1

2021

Global Health Security Agenda; JE Alliance; Global Partnership; Australia Group; PSI

5.4 JOINT EXTERNAL EVALUATION (JEE) AND PERFORMANCE OF VETERINARY SERVICES PATHWAY (PVS)

5.4.1 Completion and publication of a Joint External Evaluation (JEE) assessment and gap analysis

5.4.1a

Has the country completed a Joint External Evaluation (JEE) or precursor external evaluation (e.g., GHSA pilot external assessment) and published a full public report in the last five years?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2021

WHO Strategic Partnership for IHR and Health Security (SPH); Global Health Security Agenda

5.4.1b

Has the country completed and published, within the last five years, either a National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS) to address gaps identified through the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) assessment or a national GHSA roadmap that sets milestones for achieving each of the GHSA targets?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2021

WHO Strategic Partnership for IHR and Health Security (SPH); Global Health Security Agenda

5.4.2 Completion and publication of a Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) assessment and gap analysis

5.4.2a

Has the country completed and published a Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) assessment in the last five years?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2021

OIE PVS assessments

5.4.2b

Has the country completed and published a Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) gap analysis in the last five years?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2021

OIE PVS assessments

5.5 FINANCING

5.5.1 National financing for epidemic preparedness

5.5.1a

Is there evidence that the country has allocated national funds to improve capacity to address epidemic threats within the past three years?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Malta has allocated national funds to improve capacity to address epidemic threats within the past three years. There is no relevant information shared via the public websites of the Ministry for Health, the Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning, or the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [1,2,3] Neither the 2018, 2019, nor the 2020 national budget nor the Budget Speeches that accompanies them contain any mention of epidemic threats. [4,5,6] There is no relevant information shared via a public website by the Office of the Prime Minister. [7]

[1] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change, and Planning.

[<https://environment.gov.mt/en/Pages/mdsec%20main.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [<https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[4] Ministry for Finance. "The Budget 2018". [<https://mfin.gov.mt/en/The-Budget/Pages/The-Budget-2018.aspx>]. Accessed 11 October 2020.

[5] Ministry for Finance. "The Budget 2019". [<https://mfin.gov.mt/en/The-Budget/Pages/The-Budget-2019-G5J3D1.aspx>]. Accessed 11 October 2020.

[6] Ministry for Finance. "The Budget 2020". [<https://mfin.gov.mt/en/The-Budget/Pages/The-Budget-2020-GD-9691.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[7] Office of the Prime Minister. [<https://opm.gov.mt/en/Pages/OPM.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

5.5.2 Financing under Joint External Evaluation (JEE) and Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) reports and gap analyses

5.5.2a

Does the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) report, National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS), and/or national GHSA roadmap allocate or describe specific funding from the national budget (covering a time-period either in the future or within the past five years) to address the identified gaps?

Yes = 1 , No/country has not conducted a JEE = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2021

WHO Strategic Partnership for IHR and Health Security (SPH); Global Health Security Agenda

5.5.2b

Does the Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) gap analysis and/or PVS assessment allocate or describe specific funding from the national budget (covering a time-period either in the future or within the past five years) to address the identified gaps?

Yes = 1 , No/country has not conducted a PVS = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2021

OIE PVS assessments

5.5.3 Financing for emergency response

5.5.3a

Is there a publicly identified special emergency public financing mechanism and funds which the country can access in the face of a public health emergency (such as through a dedicated national reserve fund, an established agreement with the World Bank pandemic financing facility/other multilateral emergency funding mechanism, or other pathway identified through a public health or state of emergency act)?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no publicly identified special emergency public financing mechanism and funds which Malta can access in the face of a public health emergency. Malta is not among the countries eligible to borrow from the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA). [1] Thus, Malta is not eligible to access funds from the World Bank's Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility (PEF). [2] There is no other publicly available evidence that Malta has a dedicated national reserve fund. The Ministry for Health does not share relevant information via a public website. [3] Neither the 2018, the 2019, nor the 2020 budget for the Ministry for Health includes any line items for emergencies. [4,5,6]

[1] International Development Association. "Borrowing Countries". [<http://ida.worldbank.org/about/borrowing-countries>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility. December 2017. "Operational Brief for Eligible Countries".

[<http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/119961516647620597/PEF-Operational-Brief-Dec-2017.pdf>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[4] Ministry for Finance. "The Budget 2018". [<https://mfin.gov.mt/en/The-Budget/Pages/The-Budget-2018.aspx>]. Accessed 11 October 2020.

[5] Ministry for Finance. "The Budget 2019". [<https://mfin.gov.mt/en/The-Budget/Pages/The-Budget-2019-G5J3D1.aspx>]. Accessed 11 October 2020.

[6] Ministry for Finance. "The Budget 2020". [<https://mfin.gov.mt/en/The-Budget/Pages/The-Budget-2020-GD-9691.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

5.5.4 Accountability for commitments made at the international stage for addressing epidemic threats

5.5.4a

Is there evidence that senior leaders (president or ministers), in the past three years, have made a public commitment either to:

- Support other countries to improve capacity to address epidemic threats by providing financing or support?
- Improve the country's domestic capacity to address epidemic threats by expanding financing or requesting support to improve capacity?

Needs to meet at least one of the criteria to be scored a 1 on this measure., Yes for both = 1, Yes for one = 1, No for both = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that senior Maltese leaders have made a public commitment either to support other countries to improve capacity to address epidemic threats by providing financing or support in the past three years, or improve Malta's own domestic capacity to address epidemic threats by expanding financing or requesting support to improve capacity in the past three years. There is no record in media reports of such commitments. There is no relevant information shared via a public website by the Ministry for Health; the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs; the United Nations; or the Office of the Prime Minister. [1,2,3,4] There is no mention of such a commitment or request in the World Health Organization's Country Cooperation Strategy for 2016-2021. [5] In response to the COVID-19 pandemic Malta prime minister Robert Abela has announced packages of government financial support, but these measures are only intended to offset the economic impact of the pandemic. Further, they are solely responses to COVID-19 and are not designed to be part of a broader approach to addressing epidemic threats. [6]

[1] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs. [<https://foreignaffairs.gov.mt/en/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[3] United Nations. "Search". [<https://search.un.org/index.php?lang=en>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[4] Office of the Prime Minister. [<https://opm.gov.mt/en/Pages/OPM.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[5] World Health Organisation (WHO). "Country Cooperation Strategy: Malta 2016-2020". [http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/249576/ccs_mlt_en.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[6] EY. 24 March 2020. "COVID-19: PM Announces Enhanced Financial Plan to Respond to Outbreak | Update 7". [https://www.ey.com/en_mt/emergency-measures/covid-19-emergency-measures-211111]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

5.5.4b

Is there evidence that the country has, in the past three years, either:

- Provided other countries with financing or technical support to improve capacity to address epidemic threats?
- Requested financing or technical support from donors to improve the country's domestic capacity to address epidemic threats?

Needs to meet at least one of the criteria to be scored a 1 on this measure., Yes for both = 1, Yes for one = 1, No for both = 0

Current Year Score: 1

There is some evidence that, in the past three years, Malta has either provided other countries with financing or technical support to improve capacity to address epidemic threats; or requested financing or technical support from donors to improve its own domestic capacity to address epidemic threats. There is no record in media reports of such aid or requests. There is no relevant information shared via a public website by the Ministry for Health; the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs; or the United Nations. [1,2,3] There is no mention of such investment or technical support in the World Health Organization's Country Cooperation Strategy for 2016-2021. [4] However according to Talus Analytics' Global Health Security Funding Tracker dashboard, between 2018 and 2020, an estimated US\$12,750 was disbursed to Malta, and Malta disbursed US\$20,000 to other countries in assistance, all of which was for International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity building. However, review of the detailed table of funds for Malta does not show what projects these amounts are attached to; most sums listed in the tables are much larger and are attached to other funders, including umbrella organizations, such as the European Union, of which Malta is a member. A few items in the dashboard that show Malta-specific initiatives funded by the World Health Organization (WHO) are related to policy strengthening supporting public health administration, rather than epidemic threats specifically. [5]

[1] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs. [<https://foreignaffairs.gov.mt/en/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[3] United Nations. "Search". [<https://search.un.org/index.php?lang=en>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[4] World Health Organisation (WHO). "Country Cooperation Strategy: Malta 2016-2020".

[http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/249576/ccs_mlt_en.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[5] Global Health Security Tracking Dashboard. "Malta". [<https://tracking.ghscosting.org/#analysis/MT/d>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

5.5.4c

Is there evidence that the country has fulfilled its full contribution to the WHO within the past two years?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

2021

Economist Impact analyst qualitative assessment based on official national sources, which vary by country

5.6 COMMITMENT TO SHARING OF GENETIC AND BIOLOGICAL DATA AND SPECIMENS

5.6.1 Commitment to sharing genetic data, clinical specimens, and/or isolated specimens (biological materials) in both emergency and nonemergency research

5.6.1a

Is there a publicly available plan or policy for sharing genetic data, clinical specimens, and/or isolated specimens (biological materials) along with the associated epidemiological data with international organizations and/or other countries that goes beyond influenza?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence of a publicly available plan or policy for sharing genetic data, clinical specimens, and/or isolated specimens (biological materials) along with the associated epidemiological data with international organizations and/or other countries that goes beyond influenza. As a member state of the European Union (EU), Malta must provide the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) "with the available scientific and technical data relevant to its mission". To this end, the ECDC uses the European Surveillance System (TESSy) in order to collect, analyse, and disseminate surveillance data on infectious diseases in Europe [1]. There is no other relevant information shared via a public website by the Ministry for Health; the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights; the Malta Council for Science and Technology, a public body that advises the government on policy (Malta does not have a ministry of research; nor any evidence of relevant studies or media articles. [2,3,4] The microbiology laboratory at Mater Dei Hospital (MDH), the country's main health facility in the national laboratory network, also does not share relevant information via a public website. [5] There is no evidence of relevant studies or media reports.

[1] European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. "Policy on Data Submission, Access, and Use of Data within TESSy—2015 revision". [<https://ecdc.europa.eu/sites/portal/files/media/en/aboutus/what-we-do/surveillance/Documents/TESSy-policy-data-submission-access-and-use-of-data-2015.pdf>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[3] Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. [<https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/Pages/Index.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[4] Malta Council for Science & Technology. [<http://mcst.gov.mt/>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

[5] Ministry for Health. "Mater Dei Hospital". [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/MDH/Pages/Home.aspx>]. Accessed 8 September 2020.

5.6.1b

Is there public evidence that the country has not shared samples in accordance with the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) framework in the past two years?

Yes = 0, No = 1

Current Year Score: 1

There is no public evidence that Malta has not shared samples in accordance with the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) framework in the past year. There is no reference to sharing such data on the Ministry for Health website and there has not been any reports of Malta not sharing samples in either national and international media. [1] The latest External Evaluation of

the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Partnership Contribution, published in 2016, does not refer to Malta not sharing samples, nor does it list Malta as a priority country for improving the "national ability to detect, monitor and share novel influenza viruses". [2]

[1] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] World Health Organisation (WHO). 2016. "External Evaluation of the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Partnership Contribution—High-Level Implementation Plan 2013-2016".

[http://www.who.int/about/evaluation/pip_evaluation_report.pdf]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

5.6.1c

Is there public evidence that the country has not shared pandemic pathogen samples during an outbreak in the past two years?

Yes = 0, No = 1

Current Year Score: 1

There is no public evidence that Malta has not shared pandemic pathogen samples during an outbreak in the past two years. There is no reference to sharing pandemic pathogen data on the Ministry for Health website and there have not been any reports of Malta not sharing samples, either related to the COVID-19 pandemic or otherwise, in either national or international media. [1] Aside from the COVID-19 pandemic, the World Health Organization Disease Outbreak News site reports no recent outbreaks of relevant diseases. [2]

[1] Ministry for Health. [<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Pages/health.aspx>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] World Health Organisation (WHO). "Disease Outbreak News: Malta".

[<https://www.who.int/csr/don/archive/country/mlt/en/>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

Category 6: Overall risk environment and vulnerability to biological threats

6.1 POLITICAL AND SECURITY RISK

6.1.1 Government effectiveness

6.1.1a

Policy formation (Economist Intelligence score; 0-4, where 4=best)

Input number

Current Year Score: 3

2020

Economist Intelligence

6.1.1b

Quality of bureaucracy (Economist Intelligence score; 0-4, where 4=best)

Input number

Current Year Score: 2

2020

Economist Intelligence

6.1.1c

Excessive bureaucracy/red tape (Economist Intelligence score; 0-4, where 4=best)

Input number

Current Year Score: 1

2020

Economist Intelligence

6.1.1d

Vested interests/cronyism (Economist Intelligence score; 0-4, where 4=best)

Input number

Current Year Score: 2

2020

Economist Intelligence

6.1.1e

Country score on Corruption Perception Index (0-100, where 100=best)

Input number

Current Year Score: 53

2020

Transparency International

6.1.1f

Accountability of public officials (Economist Intelligence score; 0-4, where 4=best)

Input number

Current Year Score: 2

2020

Economist Intelligence

6.1.1g

Human rights risk (Economist Intelligence score; 0-4, where 4=best)

Input number

Current Year Score: 4

2020

Economist Intelligence

6.1.2 Orderly transfers of power

6.1.2a

How clear, established, and accepted are constitutional mechanisms for the orderly transfer of power from one government to another?

Very clear, established and accepted = 4, Clear, established and accepted = 3, One of the three criteria (clear, established, accepted) is missing = 2, Two of the three criteria (clear, established, accepted) are missing = 1, Not clear, not established, not accepted = 0

Current Year Score: 3

2021

Economist Intelligence

6.1.3 Risk of social unrest

6.1.3a

What is the risk of disruptive social unrest?

Very low: Social unrest is very unlikely = 4, Low: There is some prospect of social unrest, but disruption would be very limited = 3, Moderate: There is a considerable chance of social unrest, but disruption would be limited = 2, High: Major social unrest is likely, and would cause considerable disruption = 1, Very high: Large-scale social unrest on such a level as to seriously challenge government control of the country is very likely = 0

Current Year Score: 3

2021

Economist Intelligence

6.1.4 Illicit activities by non-state actors

6.1.4a

How likely is it that domestic or foreign terrorists will attack with a frequency or severity that causes substantial disruption?

No threat = 4, Low threat = 3, Moderate threat = 2, High threat = 1, Very high threat = 0

Current Year Score: 3

2021

Economist Intelligence

6.1.4b

What is the level of illicit arms flows within the country?

4 = Very high, 3 = High, 2 = Moderate, 1 = Low, 0 = Very low

Current Year Score: 4

2020

UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

6.1.4c

How high is the risk of organized criminal activity to the government or businesses in the country?

Very low = 4, Low = 3, Moderate = 2, High = 1, Very high = 0

Current Year Score: 2

2021

Economist Intelligence

6.1.5 Armed conflict

6.1.5a

Is this country presently subject to an armed conflict, or is there at least a moderate risk of such conflict in the future?

No armed conflict exists = 4, Yes; sporadic conflict = 3, Yes; incursional conflict = 2, Yes, low-level insurgency = 1, Yes; territorial conflict = 0

Current Year Score: 4

2021

Economist Intelligence

6.1.6 Government territorial control

6.1.6a

Does the government's authority extend over the full territory of the country?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

2021

Economist Intelligence

6.1.7 International tensions

6.1.7a

Is there a threat that international disputes/tensions could have a negative effect?

No threat = 4, Low threat = 3, Moderate threat = 2, High threat = 1, Very high threat = 0

Current Year Score: 3

2021

Economist Intelligence

6.2 SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

6.2.1 Literacy

6.2.1a

Adult literacy rate, population 15+ years, both sexes (%)

Input number

Current Year Score: 94.5

2018

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO);
The Economist Intelligence Unit

6.2.2 Gender equality

6.2.2a

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Gender Inequality Index score

Input number

Current Year Score: 0.8

2018

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); The Economist Intelligence Unit

6.2.3 Social inclusion

6.2.3a

Poverty headcount ratio at \$1.90 a day (2011 PPP) (% of population)

Input number

Current Year Score: 0.1

2017

World Bank; Economist Impact

6.2.3b

Share of employment in the informal sector

Greater than 50% = 2, Between 25-50% = 1, Less than 25% = 0

Current Year Score: 0

The International Labour Office estimated in 2018 that the percentage of employment in the informal sector in Malta is 7.9%.

[1] Neither the ILOSTAT data explorer nor the World Bank report informal employment data for Malta. [2,3] Despite the relatively low share of employment in the informal sector, local media has reported that the informal economy in Malta generates about 25% of GDP. [4]

[1] International Labour Office. 2018. "Women and Men in the Informal Economy: A Statistical Picture".

[https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/publication/wcms_626831.pdf]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[2] World Bank. "Informal employment (% of total non-agricultural employment) - Malta".

[<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.ISV.IFRM.ZS?locations=MT>]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[3] ILOSTAT.

[https://www.ilo.org/shinyapps/bulkexplorer53/?lang=en&segment=indicator&id=IFL_XIEM_SEX_ECO_IFL_RT_A]. Accessed 14 September 2020.

[4] Times of Malta. "Tackling informal employment". [<https://timesofmalta.com/articles/view/tackling-informal-employment.714484#:~:text=Studies%20by%20the%20Johannes%20Kepler,those%20of%20Greece%20and%20Italy.>].

Accessed 14 September 2020.

6.2.3c

Coverage of social insurance programs (% of population)

Scored in quartiles (0-3, where 3=best)

Current Year Score: 3

2016, or latest available

World Bank; Economist Impact calculations

6.2.4 Public confidence in government

6.2.4a

Level of confidence in public institutions

Input number

Current Year Score: 2

2021

Economist Intelligence Democracy Index

6.2.5 Local media and reporting

6.2.5a

Is media coverage robust? Is there open and free discussion of public issues, with a reasonable diversity of opinions?

Input number

Current Year Score: 2

2021

Economist Intelligence Democracy Index

6.2.6 Inequality

6.2.6a

Gini coefficient

Scored 0-1, where 0=best

Current Year Score: 0.29

Latest available.

World Bank; Economist Impact calculations

6.3 INFRASTRUCTURE ADEQUACY

6.3.1 Adequacy of road network

6.3.1a

What is the risk that the road network will prove inadequate to meet needs?

Very low = 4, Low = 3, Moderate = 2, High = 1, Very high = 0

Current Year Score: 1

2021

Economist Intelligence

6.3.2 Adequacy of airports

6.3.2a

What is the risk that air transport will prove inadequate to meet needs?

Very low = 4, Low = 3, Moderate = 2, High = 1, Very high = 0

Current Year Score: 3

2021

Economist Intelligence

6.3.3 Adequacy of power network

6.3.3a

What is the risk that power shortages could be disruptive?

Very low = 4, Low = 3, Moderate = 2, High = 1, Very high = 0

Current Year Score: 3

2021

Economist Intelligence

6.4 ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

6.4.1 Urbanization

6.4.1a

Urban population (% of total population)

Input number

Current Year Score: 94.68

2019

World Bank

6.4.2 Land use

6.4.2a

Percentage point change in forest area between 2006–2016

Input number

Current Year Score: 0.34

2008-2018

World Bank; Economist Impact

6.4.3 Natural disaster risk

6.4.3a

What is the risk that the economy will suffer a major disruption owing to a natural disaster?

Very low = 4, Low = 3, Moderate = 2, High = 1, Very high = 0

Current Year Score: 4

2021

Economist Intelligence

6.5 PUBLIC HEALTH VULNERABILITIES

6.5.1 Access to quality healthcare

6.5.1a

Total life expectancy (years)

Input number

Current Year Score: 82.45

2018

United Nations; World Bank, UNICEF; Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME); Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)
World Factbook

6.5.1b

Age-standardized NCD mortality rate (per 100 000 population)

Input number

Current Year Score: 314.7

2019

WHO

6.5.1c

Population ages 65 and above (% of total population)

Input number

Current Year Score: 20.82

2019

World Bank

6.5.1d

Prevalence of current tobacco use (% of adults)

Input number

Current Year Score: 25.1

2018

World Bank

6.5.1e

Prevalence of obesity among adults

Input number

Current Year Score: 28.9

2016

WHO

6.5.2 Access to potable water and sanitation

6.5.2a

Percentage of homes with access to at least basic water infrastructure

Input number

Current Year Score: 99

2017

UNICEF; Economist Impact

6.5.2b

Percentage of homes with access to at least basic sanitation facilities

Input number

Current Year Score: 99

2017

UNICEF; Economist Impact

6.5.3 Public healthcare spending levels per capita

6.5.3a

Domestic general government health expenditure per capita, PPP (current international \$)

Input number

Current Year Score: 2473.94

2018

WHO Global Health Expenditure database

6.5.4 Trust in medical and health advice

6.5.4a

Trust medical and health advice from the government

Share of population that trust medical and health advice from the government , More than 80% = 2, Between 60-80%, or no data available = 1, Less than 60% = 0

Current Year Score: 2

2018

Wellcome Trust Global Monitor 2018

6.5.4b

Trust medical and health advice from medical workers

Share of population that trust medical and health advice from health professionals , More than 80% = 2, Between 60-80%, or no data available = 1, Less than 60% = 0

Current Year Score: 2

2018

Wellcome Trust Global Monitor 2018