

Coronavirus pandemic in the EU – Fundamental Rights Implications

Country: Latvia

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1 Measures taken by government/public authorities impacting on specific freedoms

Please briefly describe the main developments, between 1 September – 31 October 2020, in the legal framework and related measures adopted in your country in response to the Coronavirus pandemic with respect to emergency laws/state of emergency, freedom of assembly and freedom of movement.

1.1 Emergency laws/states of emergency

In October alone, 4 268 persons became infected with covid-19, which constitutes 69,6% of all persons infected with covid-19 in Latvia since March 2020.¹

Latvia did not declare a state of emergency and did not adopt new emergency laws during 1 September – 31 October.

However, on 6 November, the government decided on declaring [a state of emergency effective from 9 November until 6 December 2020](#).²

Following the rapid increase of infections in the end of September, the authorities amended the [Law on the Management of the Spread of COVID-19 Infection](#) several times (twice in October) and [Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 360 On Epidemiological Safety Measures for the Containment of the Spread of COVID-19 Infection](#) (seven times in October). The Law grants the government the powers to introduce special requirements and restrictions in case of COVID-19 spread in the areas including gathering, cultural and religious activities, entertainment, sports, carriage of passengers, education, provision of health services etc., while the Regulations detail the restrictions. The activity of food and beverage caterers, tourism operators and agencies, hotels and other accommodation was suspended.

On 27 October the government published a [4 scenario strategy \(low risk, medium risk, high risk, very high risk\)](#) on combatting of Covid-19. The strategy is based on four risk categories based on stages of COVID-19 risk severity, and the scope of restrictions depend on the risk of spread of Covid-19. The strategy distinguishes categories of public and private events, mask use, workplaces, education, health institutions, sports, amateur arts, stores and shops, and catering. Restrictions may be imposed gradually or regionally depending on the category deemed to be at high risk. Risk stages are determined in accordance with European Commission gradation scale. In the end of October Latvia was in the high risk zone.

On 2 November, the Latvian contact recording and warning application [Apturi Covid \(Stop Covid\) joined the cooperation service solution developed by the European Commission](#). Thus, transnational cooperation is provided between similar applications in Germany, Italy, Ireland, Spain and Latvia.

¹ Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (*Slimību profilakses un kontroles centrs*), 1 November, at <https://twitter.com/SPKCentrs/status/1322865890464010240>

² The details of restrictions are not included in the bulletin covering the period 1 September – 31 October 2020.

1.2 Freedom of assembly

Restrictions on private and public gatherings were initially introduced through legislative amendments on 9 October³, re-evaluated on 22 October⁴ and then on 27 October⁵ following the rapid rise in covid-19 infections.

Amendments on 9 October foresaw that from 10 October until 31 December 2020 the maximum number of people who can gather indoors is 500, and outdoors - 1 000. It was stipulated that organized events can only take place if there are fixed, personalized seats. Similar restrictions were also imposed on nightclubs, bars and similar entertainment sites. On the eve of Riga Marathon planned for 10-11 October, the government also decided that from October 10 until 31 December it is not allowed to organise outdoor events with active movement of people exceeding more than 300 persons. It was also decided that the number of people in non-formal adult education groups can be between 30 to 50 persons per group. Sports training and competitions were to take place without spectators.

The restrictions were short-lived due to the rise of covid-19 infections. [Amendments adopted on 23 October foresaw that from 24 October](#), a maximum of 10 people may be on the premises at private event venues indoors and a maximum of 100 people outdoors. If a private event is held in a public place, such as restaurant, rented sauna, club, etc. the guests must be provided with fixed personal seating, 2 metres distance (except for persons from one household), and the event can only take place until 24.00. A maximum of 300 people are allowed to gather indoors at public events. The event must have personalized seating and the individuals have to wear a face mask. Outside the limit is 1 000 people, provided distancing is observed.

Following further restrictions adopted on 27 October, from 28 October gatherings were allowed for up to 10 persons for private indoor events and private outdoor events; up to 300 persons for public indoor and outdoor events, regardless of the size of the premises. However, no more than 50% of the total capacity of the premises may be exceeded and an area of 3 m² must be provided per person. In addition, such indoor events may only take place with fixed and personalised seating, ensuring that publicly available information about the maximum number of persons is provided at the venue or place where the provision of commercial service occurs. Places of religious activity may be open from 6.00 to 24.00.

³ Latvia (2020). Cabinet of Ministers Rules No 623 (Amendments to the Cabinet of Ministers Rules No 360 of 9 June 2020 on Epidemiological Safety Measures), 9 October, <https://likumi.lv/ta/id/317899-grozijumi-ministru-kabineta-2020-gada-9-junija-noteikumos-nr-360-epidemiologiskas-drosibas-pasakumi-covid-19-infekcijas-izplati...>

⁴ Latvia (2020). Cabinet of Ministers Rules No 646 (Amendments to the Cabinet of Ministers Rules No 360 of 9 June 2020 on Epidemiological Safety Measures), 23 October <https://likumi.lv/ta/id/318186-grozijumi-ministru-kabineta-2020-gada-9-junija-noteikumos-nr-360-epidemiologiskas-drosibas-pasakumi-covid-19-infekcijas-izplati...>

⁵ Latvia (2020). Cabinet of Ministers Rules No 647 (Amendments to the Cabinet of Ministers Rules No 360 of 9 June 2020 on Epidemiological Safety Measures), 27 October, <https://likumi.lv/ta/id/318235-grozijumi-ministru-kabineta-2020-gada-9-junija-noteikumos-nr-360-epidemiologiskas-drosibas-pasakumi-covid-19-infekcijas-izplati...>

Protests and solidarity marches on different themes took place in October, e.g. in [support of women in Belarus](#) (10 October)⁶, in support of [draft Cohabitation Law](#) (in relation to public petition on the registration of same sex partnerships) on 8, 15, 22 October. In October one [picket against covid-19 restrictions](#) was organised by a populist Member of Parliament drawing between 200- 300 participants.

State Police information about 185 administrative cases opened in October 2020 on violation of epidemiological safety measures does not mention violations concerning assemblies.⁷

From 9 November 50 persons are allowed to participate in marches, pickets and demonstrations.⁸ All other in person public events are prohibited until 6 December.

1.3 Freedom of movement

In relation to freedom of movement, the Law on the Management of the Spread of COVID-19 infection and [Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 360 On Epidemiological Safety Measures for the Containment of the Spread of COVID-19 Infection](#) has been amended several times.

From 12 October, before entering Latvia, all passengers are requested to fill out an electronic questionnaire <https://covidpass.lv/en/> confirming that they will observe the established epidemiological safety measures upon arrival. Passengers must fill in their name, surname, personal identification code, contact telephone number and address of the actual place of residence where they can be reached, as well as countries and dates of departure where passengers have stayed during the 14 days before arrival in Latvia. For minors, the form must be completed by the parent/legal representative. Travellers receive a QR code that must be submitted to the border guard official (in case of border control or random inspection). It must also shown to international carrier. The form must be completed at least 48 hours before crossing the border. The data entered in the form will be forwarded to the Latvian police (state and municipal), border guard, and Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and will be kept for 30 days. Health Inspection will also have access to the data. Active status will be maintained for those confirmations where the person is required to self-isolate for 10⁹ days. Administrative liability from EUR 10 to 2 000¹⁰ is stipulated for non-submission of the electronic form. The amendments also stipulate for the establishment of the Person Monitoring Information System, the scope of data to be included in the system and time limits for retention of the data. Statistics about individuals are anonymised and published in Open Data Portal. Previously persons were required to submit forms in paper format when entering Latvia by an international carrier (flight, ferry, bus). Self-confirmation is now also required of persons crossing internal EU MS borders by

⁶ LSM.LV (2020). March in Riga in Support of Women in Belarus draws around 60 persons, 10 October, at <https://www.lsm.lv/raksts/zinas/latvija/gajiens-baltkrievu-sieviesu-atbalstam-riga-pulce-ap-60-cilveku.a377484/>

⁷ Latvia, State Police (*Valsts policija*), In October police have opened 93 administrative cases for failing to observe self-isolation, 2 November, <https://www.vp.gov.lv/lv/jaunums/oktobri-policija-uzsakusi-93-administrativa-parkapuma-procesus-par-pasizolacijas-neieverosanu>

⁸ Cabinet of Ministers (2020). State of emergency to be declared in Latvia on 9 November, at <https://www.mk.gov.lv/en/aktualitates/state-emergency-be-declared-latvia-9-november>

⁹ Latvia (2020). Cabinet of Ministers Rules No 360 of 9 June 2020 “Epidemiological Safety Measures for the Containment of the Spread of COVID-19 Infection”, <https://likumi.lv/ta/en/en/id/315304-epidemiological-safety-measures-for-the-containment-of-the-spread-of-covid-19-infection>

¹⁰ Two to four hundred monetary units (one unit equals EUR 5).

individual means of transport. The amendments also provide for the cross border transmission of the minimum data for the Federal Gateway Service.

The amendments also provide that if there are grounds to believe that a person inside a vehicle has an obligation to include information in the information system for monitoring persons, police (State and municipal), and border guard have the right to stop the vehicle in order to verify if such obligation has been fulfilled. (Section 6.²).

In October, police opened 43 administrative cases for failure to submit the electronic form (covidpass.lv). 19 328 persons who are required to undergo self-isolation were registered in covidpass.lv. 93 administrative cases have been opened for failing to observe self-isolation.¹¹

When arriving from countries with a 14-day cumulative number of COVID-19 cases that is higher than Latvia's infection rate with covid-19, for example on 30 October it was 121,8 per 100,000 inhabitants, self-isolation must be observed for 10 days.¹² 10-day self-isolation must be observed when entering Latvia from the countries listed in the "National COVID-19 morbidity rates" section of the Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (CDPC) website¹³. If a person is arriving from a "safe" country by transiting through an "unsafe country", the person must observe self-isolation¹⁴. As of October 31, Greece, Norway, Finland and Estonia are the only European countries from which self-isolation does not need to be observed.

2 Implications of Covid-19 and measures to contain it on specific social rights

Please provide information on legislation/measures taken by the government/public authorities, between 1 September – 31 October 2020, in response to COVID-19 that have impacted negatively on relevant social rights with respect to two of the following areas of life: education, work, health care and housing.

Health care

Until 31 October, there have been no measures taken by the government that have impacted on health care services.

Until 23 October, all Latvian citizens and residence permit holders, including without symptoms could be tested for covid-19 for free. [Since 26 October, free testing can only be done by an e-referral by a family doctor or a specialist.](#) Due to rapid rise of infections, long queues had formed in cities and the results of the tests took from 5-12 days. The delays have been temporarily caused by shortages of medical workers, including lab staff. Covid-19 testing points are served by 100 nurses, and there

¹¹ Latvia, State Police (*Valsts policija*), In October police have opened 93 administrative cases for failing to observe self-isolation, 2 November, <https://www.vp.gov.lv/lv/jaunums/oktobri-policija-uzsakusi-93-administrativa-parkapuma-procesus-par-pasizolacijas-neieverosanu>

¹² Latvia (2020). Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (Slimību profilakses un kontroles centrs), 30 October, at https://www.spkc.gov.lv/sites/spkc/files/data_content/30_10_2020vm_lv.pdf

¹³ Latvia (2020). Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (Slimību profilakses un kontroles centrs), 8 June, at <https://www.spkc.gov.lv/lv/valstu-saslimstibas-raditaji-ar-covid-19-0>

¹⁴ Latvia (2020). Self-isolation, 30 October, <https://covid19.gov.lv/en/covid-19/safety-measures/self-isolation>

are 60 contact tracers (epidemiologists, public health professionals).¹⁵ While staff issues have been resolved, signing up for tests by phone has been the main obstacle in increasing testing capacity, which the government planned to increase by 60% or up to 8 000 tests per day. 11 additional testing points have been opened, the largest number of tests conducted was 6 015 on 28 October. One of the largest hospitals is planning to introduce e-service to apply for tests¹⁶. In potential hotspots, e.g. municipalities, companies, schools, etc. epidemiologists will be able to order mass testing (saliva tests). Hospital admission units will continue testing in-coming patients. Individuals without symptoms and any valid reason will be able to take a test for payment (EUR 38-53) and according to a waiting list.

During one week of 22-29 October 116 medical personnel were diagnosed with covid-19 (19 doctors, 54 nurses, 4 assistant doctors, 17 assistant nurses, 22 staff were not directly involved with patient care). According to the chief epidemiologist in Latvia, infections also take place outside the hospitals, in families, other places.¹⁷ 17 medical personnel were infected in the P.Stradins Clinical university hospital.¹⁸ There have been reports about the burn-out of medical personnel and need for public support.¹⁹

Latvia has 250 covid-19 patient beds, but hospitals can be reorganised to provide up to 1 000 beds. On 1 November, 2020 223 covid-19 patients were hospitalised, of those 15 were in a very serious condition.²⁰ Depending on the increase of hospital patients, one or two hospitals may be converted into covid-19 hospitals. 250 medical workers and medical students have responded to the [appeal by the Health Ministry](#) to assist with covid-19 patient care. In spring, the Minister of Health spoke of the [shortage of 2 000 nurses](#) in Latvia.

[Chronic patients from the capital Riga and vicinity are transferred to smaller regional hospitals.](#) Regional hospitals have been asked to save 15% of beds taken in by the State Emergency Medical Service (*Neatliekamās medicīniskās palīdzības dienests*).²¹

On 23 October the Hospital of Traumatology and Orthopaedics announced it was [suspending planned operations](#), and reducing the scope of out-patient consultations until the epidemiological situation in the country stabilizes. On 2 November, the Ministry of Health official announced that there are no plans to restrict out-patient services, however, in need of covid-19 patient beds, [day clinic services would be restricted](#). At the State Operative Medical Commission meeting three scenarios were discussed, depending on the share of covid-19 patients in need of hospitalisation – 15% (200 beds

¹⁵ ENG. LSM.LV (2020). Workers lack for covid-19 testing in Latvia, October 23, at <https://eng.lsm.lv/article/society/health/workers-lack-for-covid-19-testing-in-latvia.a379013/>

¹⁶ LSM. LV (2020). Covid-19 testing capacity remains unreachd, 3 November, <https://www.lsm.lv/raksts/zinas/latvija/cereta-covid-19-testesanas-jauda--vel-nesasniedzama.a380393/>

¹⁷ LETA (2020). Epidemiologist: there have been cases when medics with covid-19 symptoms have continued their work, 29 October, <https://www.apollo.lv/7097607/epidemiologs-ir-bijusi-gadijumi-kad-mediki-ar-covid-19-simptomiem-turpina-pildit-savus-pienakumus>

¹⁸ LSM.LV (2020). 50 medical staff not on duty in Stradins Hospital, 30 October, <https://www.lsm.lv/raksts/zinas/latvija/stradina-slimnica-covid-19-del-ierinda-nav-50-mediki.a379858/>

¹⁹ LETA/JAUNS.LV (2020). Cipule acknowledges that many medics have burn-out and expects more moral support from the public, at 19 October, <https://jauns.lv/raksts/zinas/409650-cipule-atzist-ka-daudzi-mediki-ir-izdegusi-un-gaida-no-sabiedribas-moralu-atbalstu>

²⁰ Ministry of Health. Hospitalisations by age, 1 November <https://twitter.com/VMNVD/status/1323224459994681345/photo/1>

²¹ LETA (2020). Regional and university hospitals will have to keep a fund of 15% of free beds, 29 October, <https://www.leta.lv/home/important/CE50D2AB-BD7F-4593-B2F6-972FA393E1A9/>

required), 30% and 60% (1,500 beds required). The Health Minister has said that it would be critical for the health care system if 500 covid-19 [bed capacity is reached](#).

Flu vaccination

Pregnant women and children (6-23 months old), residents and staff of long-term social care homes, medical personnel receive free anti-flu vaccines as part of state immunisation programme, while other groups that will receive them through 100% compensation payments will also include senior citizens over 65, persons with chronic illnesses²². The number of vaccinated children and pregnant women massively increased in 2019/2020 (children up from 3,1% to 68,6%²³) with the change in vaccination system, whereby they were included in state immunisation programme and vaccine can be received at family doctor. During covid-19 pandemic demand for anti-flu vaccines has risen, which has caused a shortage of flu vaccines in the market for the general public.²⁴

Education

[From 1 September, schools must organise studies](#) (A) on-site. For ensuring a safe flow of persons, studies may take place (B) partially remotely. In case of a positive Covid-19 case within the school, there must be a plan for organising studies (C) completely remotely, according to the recommendations of the Ministry of Education and Science. From 26 October to 13 November, education for Years 7-12 must be organised remotely.

Each educational institution determines specific epidemiological safety requirements for distancing and compliance with the requirements for visitors (parents) according to the specifics of the school (number of pupils, wideness of rooms, corridors etc.). Those requirements shall also be made public on the website of education institution. Grades 1-6 continue working on site, except for cases when classes have had to self-isolate due to infections.

Until the end of 2020, higher education study programmes must take place remotely, except for the practical parts and for clinical training for residency students. From 17 October to 13 November adult vocational education and interest-related education classes may be organised remotely; Interest-related education classes for children may be organised remotely; on-site individual interest-related education may take place; on-site adult vocational and non-formal education programmes may be organised, not exceeding 30 persons per group.

The learning platform www.tavaklase.lv will be expanded by December 2020. In summer OECD listed [Your Class Educational Channel](#) among the best educational solutions amidst the covid-19 pandemic.²⁵

By 27 October, in the capital Riga 24 schools and 15 kindergartens had been affected by covid-19 since the beginning of school year, and in 15 schools and 5 kindergartens the quarantine has ended. 47

²² In previous years, the state compensated 50% of the vaccine.

²³ Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (Slimību profilakses un kontroles centrs). Pārskats par gripas un citu akūtu augšējo elpceļu infekciju (AAEI) izplatību 2019.–2020. gada epidēmiskajā sezonā, 9 April, at <https://www.spkc.gov.lv/lv/parskati-par-akutu-augsejo-elpcelu-infekciju-un-gripas-izplatibu>

²⁴ LSM. LV (2020). Health Ministry: Demand for Anti-Flu vaccines grows, access will be more restricted, 14 October, at <https://www.lsm.lv/raksts/zinas/latvija/vm-pieprasijums-pec-pretgripas-vakcinam-aug-pieejamiba-bus-ierobezota.a377990/>

²⁵ van der Vlies, R. (2020), Latvia: Tava klase (Your class), Education continuity stories series, OECD Publishing, Paris.

schools were working according to model A, 41 – followed a hybrid model (a and B), 19 – model B, 1 school followed model C.²⁶

420 schools will receive an additional 6 500-7000 personal computers by the end of the year.²⁷ Ministry of Education and Science has faced criticism about delays in the provision of technical devices.

According to [the Association of Latvian Municipalities](#) ((LPS) *Latvijas pašvaldību savienība*) remote learning remains inaccessible to many low-income families, many have no smart devices and lack stable internet access. 21% of pupils and 11% of teachers have insufficient access to smart devices, while 19% of students have insufficient internet speed. LPS has expressed concern that this will lead to school and pupil segregation. Association is conducting a detailed survey.

In summer, the Minister of Education and Science was heavily criticised for wanting to amend the Education Law to place an obligation on parents to provide children with smart device and internet access.²⁸

3 Negative impact on social rights for vulnerable groups including measures to address this

Please select and provide information concerning two groups whose social rights were particularly negatively impacted with respect to developments/measures adopted in relation to COVID-19, between 1 September – 31 October 2020. For each of the two groups selected – highlight which social rights were most impacted. Also, identify any government and related measures that were introduced to alleviate the negative impact on these groups.

As restrictions were enacted in October, it is too early to say which groups have been particularly negatively impacted as kindergartens continue to operate, grade 1-6 pupils continue to attend school, long-term social care homes remain open to visitors, outpatient services and planned health services remain accessible. The Ministry of Health has appealed to senior citizens and chronic patients to remain calm, and seek help to prevent worsening of illness.²⁹ Municipalities have been mandated by law to provide free face masks to needy and poor persons starting from 20 November.³⁰

More information is becoming available only recently about the impact of covid-19 during spring 2020 on different groups of society. In May, the government supported 10 covid-19 research related projects which are to be completed by the end of 2020.. Most of those projects have established international cooperation and several of them are included in the international consortiums by

²⁶ LVportals.lv (2020). Organising studies in Riga schools after autumn school holidays, 27 October, at <https://lvportals.lv/dienaskartiba/321262-izglitiba-procesa-organizesana-rigas-skolas-pec-skolenu-rudens-brivlaika-2020>

²⁷ Cabinet of Ministers (2020). Schools will receive laptops for by the end of the year, 15 September, <https://www.mk.gov.lv/lv/aktualitates/lidz-gada-beigam-skolas-sanems-portativos-datorus-musdieniga-macibu-procesa>

²⁸ Rebalta.lv (2020). Parent provided computers to children and remote learning not only during the crisis time: Changes to Education Law in progress, at 9 July, at <https://rebalta.lv/2020/07/skolaniem-vecaku-gadati-datori-un-attalinas-macibas-ne-tikai-krizes-laika-top-izmainas-izglitiba-likuma/>

²⁹ Veselības ministrija, <https://twitter.com/veselibasmin/status/1322828366471438336>, 1 November

³⁰ Latvia, Likumi.lv (2020). Amendments to the [Law on the Management of the Spread of COVID-19 Infection](#), 29 October.

providing important input into the researches in the European Union. State research programme “Reducing Covid-19 consequences” include support for these research projects:

- “Multi-disciplinary approach to monitoring, mitigate and contain COVID-19 and other future epidemics in Latvia”;
- Establishment of COVID-19 related biobank and integrated platform for research data in Latvia;
- Clinical, biochemical, immunogenetic paradigms of COVID-19 infection and their correlation with socio-demographic, etiological, pathogenetic, diagnostic, therapeutically and prognostically important factors to be included in guidelines;
- Towards new therapeutic and prophylactic treatments against COVID-19 and coronaviruses;
- Impact of COVID-19 on health care system and public health in Latvia; ways in preparing health sector for future epidemics;
- New Technologies for Targeted Tracing, Testing and Treatment of COVID-19 patients (3-T Project);
- Integration of reliable technologies for protection against COVID-19 in healthcare and high risk areas;
- Advanced Resilience Technologies for Secure Services;
- Towards the Post-pandemic Recovery: Economic, Political and Legal Framework for Preservation of Latvia’s Growth Potential and Increasing Competitiveness (recovery-LV);
- Life with COVID-19: Evaluation of overcoming the coronavirus crisis in Latvia and recommendations for societal resilience in the future.

All of these projects are researching the impact of COVID-19 on social groups and are searching for inclusive solutions. For example, the project “Impact of covid-19 pandemic on health care system and public health in Latvia: strengthening of the preparedness of the health care” focuses on the impact of covid-19 epidemic on health and access to health care by different groups of inhabitants: children, persons of reproductive age, senior citizens and persons with chronic illnesses. Special emphasis will be placed on mental health issues. Work within the project takes place in five strands; how covid-19 impacted Latvia’s health care system and public health in general, what impact it had on people’s mental³¹, sexual and reproductive health³², how pandemic affected persons over 50, and what impact it had on the quality of life of children and access to care, including chronically ill children. The project will lead to recommendations and examples of good practise to the Ministry of Health and other organisations.

Although the results of research have not been published yet, some preliminary results have been made available in the media.³³ During spring covid-19 pandemic 75% senior citizens (over 50) had

³¹ RSU (2020). Impact of Covid-19 epidemic on health care system and public health in Latvia, at <https://www.rsu.lv/projekts/covid-19-epidemijas-ietekme-uz-veselibas-aprupes-sistemu-un-sabiedribas-veselibu-latvija>

³² RSU (2020). RSU joins research on the impact of Covid-19 restrictions on sexual and reproductive health, 30 July, at <https://www.rsu.lv/aktualitates/rsu-iesaistas-petijuma-par-covid-19-ierobeojumu-ietekmi-uz-seksualo-un-reproduktivo-veselibu>

³³ RUS (2020). How pandemic impacts public health, 7 August at <https://www.rsu.lv/aktualitates/ka-epidemija-ietekme-sabiedribas-veselibu>; LSM.LV (2020). Each covid-19 restriction must be scientifically based, 23 October <https://www.lsm.lv/raksts/dzive--stils/tehnologijas-un-zinatne/jebkuram-covid-19-ierobeojumam-jabut-zinatniski-pamatotam-saruna-ar-profesori-olsenu.a378967/>; LETA (2020). Research: Covid-19 pandemic made 10% of residents afraid of death, 22 October, at <https://nra.lv/latvija/327862-petijums-covid-19-pandemija-10-iedzivotaju-likusi-baidities-no-naves.htm>

avoided direct contacts with persons, 20% indicated that the pandemic has affected their mental health. Digital technologies are accessible to 50% of respondents, however, only fifth of them used them to receive health services. Although people have felt restrictions during the pandemic, but did not consider them as essential. According to interviews older people tend to resign to fate. "Their life experience, war and post-war years, the times of Cold war and different life tests provide a different perspective to the crises created by covid-19 than to younger people."³⁴

³⁴ RSU (2020). Researchers have assessed the impact of covid-19 on older people, 6 October, <https://www.rsu.lv/aktualitates/petnieki-apzinajusi-covid-19-ietekmi-uz-gados-vecakiem-iedzivotajiem>