

FNPR Bulletin on COVID-19 UPDATE

26 March

As of 16:00, 26 March, there are 162 confirmed COVID cases in Ukraine, five persons have died, one case of recovery from coronavirus was registered. Coronavirus was found in 17 regions of Ukraine, the most affected is Chernivtsi Oblast – 42 cases, 1 died, Kyiv city – 40 cases and Kyiv Oblast – 24 cases.

At a meeting on Wednesday, 25 March, the Cabinet of Ministers extended quarantine and introduced emergency situation in all regions of Ukraine until April 24.

Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal instructed the Ministry of Infrastructure, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Internal Affairs to ban passenger traffic across the border to prevent the spread of coronavirus from March 28. He also added that in recent weeks, the only source of coronavirus entering Ukraine was citizens who returned from abroad.

According to the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine, 200 thousand Ukrainians returned home in March. Return of Ukrainian migrant workers has already created problems for Poland. According to Bloomberg, the Polish construction sector, which employs 400,000 people and accounts for 8% of gross domestic product, faces unprecedented trouble amid concerns over the Ukrainian workforce it depends on. About 20% of the construction industry's Ukrainian workers, or every fifth worker, already went home and won't come back until borders are reopened.

The FPU is in constant dialogue with the Federation of Employers and the Government of Ukraine with the aim to create safe working conditions at workplaces, to maintain the country's employment potential. Minister of Economic Development, Trade and Agriculture of Ukraine Igor Petrashko emphasized that in light of the quarantine and other measures implemented to stop the spread of the disease, the key issue is employment. All actions taken by the Cabinet of Ministers and the Ministry of Economy are aimed to save as much jobs as possible and to develop a package of measures to deal with possible risks, he added.

Supporting the Government's actions and measures taken by the authorities in connection with the complex epidemic situation, the FPU proposed to include chairperson of the Trade Union of Healthcare Workers of Ukraine Victoria Koval to governmental anti-crisis committee.