

The Kaliningrad Region and COVID-19

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Abstract

The effects of COVID-19 in the world, in the Russian Federation, and in particular in the Kaliningrad Region of Russia in the early 2020 disrupted a relatively steady pace of life and conditions of the socio-economic development of the Russian exclave in the Baltic Sea region. The Kaliningrad Region battled a new insidious disease in line with the federal policy, yet having certain local features. This report, based on the materials of the year 2020, considers issues related to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Kaliningrad Region, the measures which were taken and the situation that developed by the end of the year are briefly described. Moreover, an attempt is made to assess the impact of the pandemic on individual sectors of the economy of the Russian exclave, the Kaliningrad Region.

Key words: COVID-19, Kaliningrad Region, coronavirus, economy, GDP

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1. The Kaliningrad Region

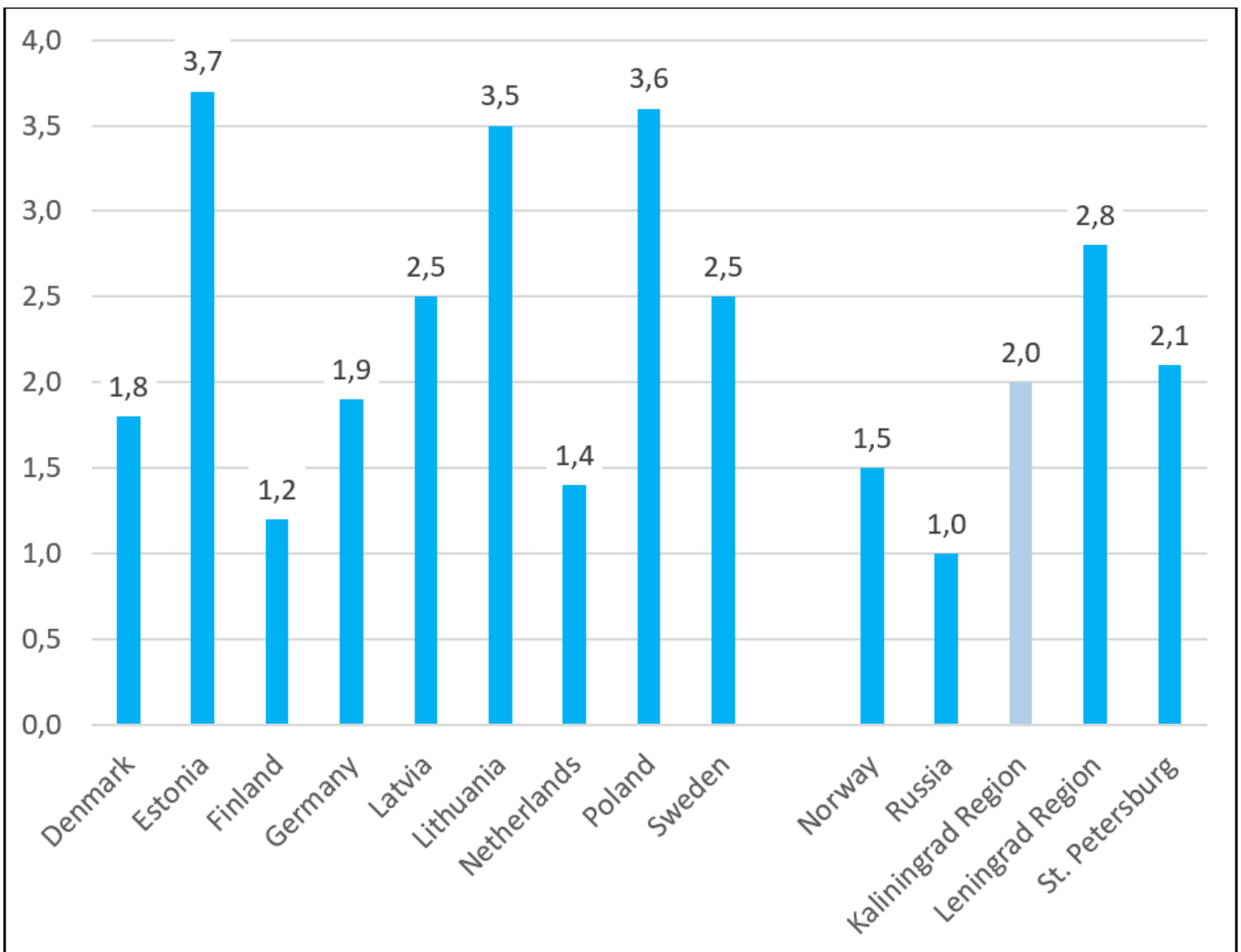
The Kaliningrad Region is the westernmost entity out of 85 regions of the Russian Federation. The distinction of the Kaliningrad Region is its exclavity, the region is separated from the mainland Russia by land borders of other countries, as well as by international sea waters.

The total area of the Kaliningrad Region is 15,125 km² and its population was 1.012,500 as of 2020.

The distance from Kaliningrad to Moscow is 1,089 km, and the distance to the closest regional centre of mainland Russia, Pskov, is 595 km. Furthermore, the distance to the other relatively close administrative centre, Smolensk, is 740 km, and the distance to St. Petersburg is 827 km. Eight capitals of European states are located within 600 kilometres from Kaliningrad.

Appendices 1-3 present an array of statistical data on GDP growth rates in North-European countries, on the indices of gross regional product (GRP) and manufacturing output in the regions of northwest Russia. During 2009-2019, the Kaliningrad Region has performed better than a number of North-European countries (Figure 1).

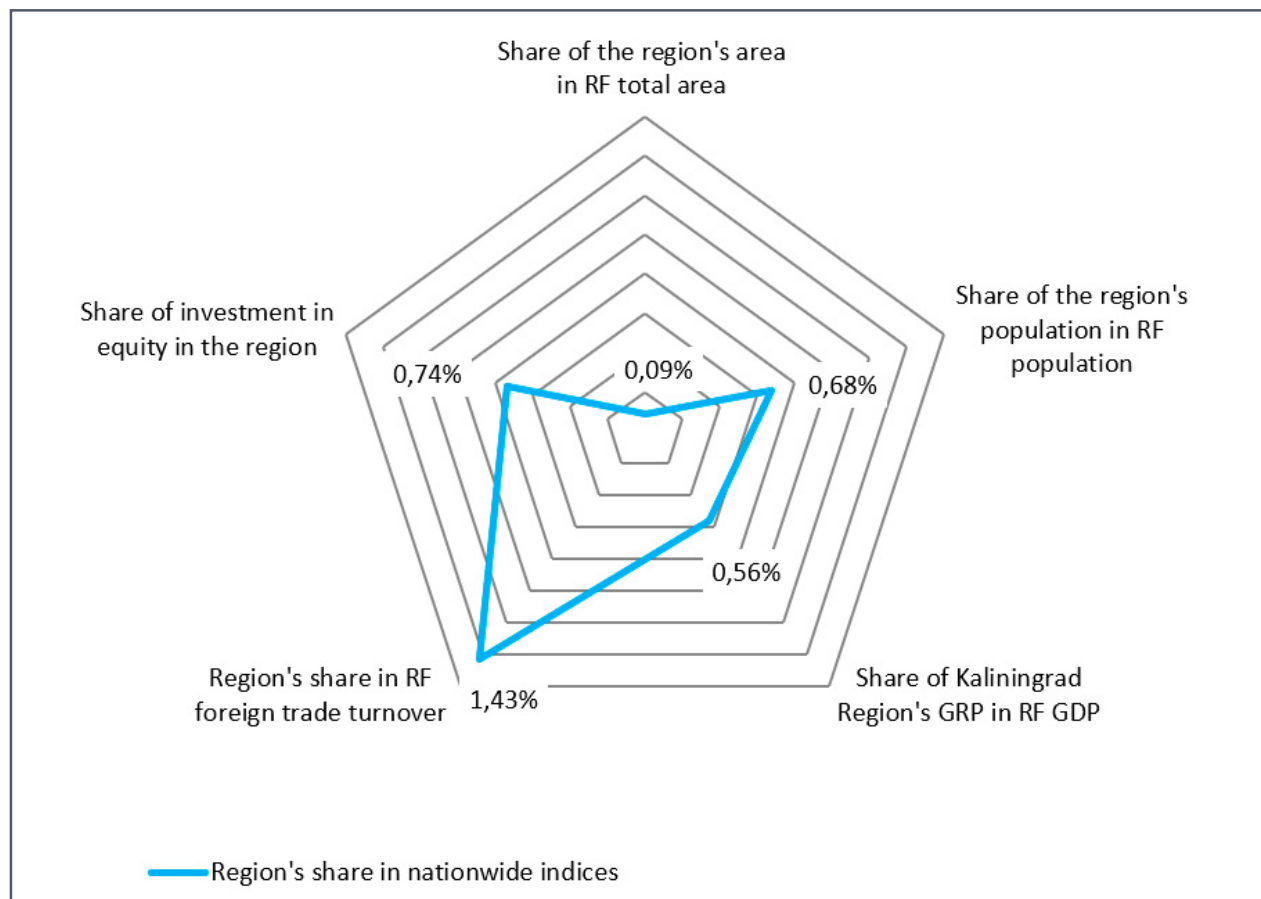
Figure 1. Average economic growth rate in 2009-2019



Sources: Rosstat 2020a; Eurostat 2021; the author's estimates

The economy and the social sphere of the Kaliningrad Region are determined by processes and trends characteristic of Russia as a whole, but the factor of the proximity of European states and the multilateral external economic relations developed by the Kaliningrad Region are also quite significant for this territory. Figure 2 shows the contribution of the Russian exclave to individual indices of the Russian Federation.

Figure 2. Share of the Kaliningrad Region in the nationwide indices of Russia in 2019



Abbreviations: GDP = gross domestic product; GRP = gross regional product, i.e. the GDP of the Kaliningrad Region; RF = the Russian Federation

Sources: Rosstat 2020a; 2020b; 2020c; the author's estimates

The effects of COVID-19 in the early 2020 in the Kaliningrad Region disrupted a relatively steady pace of life and conditions of the socio-economic development of the Russian exclave in the Baltic Sea region, thus forcing the authorities to take urgent decisions.

This article, drawing on the materials of the 2020, provides data on the effects of COVID-19 pandemic in the Kaliningrad Region and on the measures taken. In addition, an attempt was made to assess the impact of the pandemic on the social and economic spheres of the Russian exclave.

2. Effects of COVID-19 in the Kaliningrad Region

Appendix 4 offers a chronological table of the main events of 2020 connected with the instances of coronavirus in Russia and the Kaliningrad Region. The chronological table also shows the core measures taken at both federal and regional level to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

The first official reports of January 2020 contained information that the disease caused by SARS-CoV-2 led to death in many cases, and it was noted that there were no effective diagnostic methods, reliable medicine and treatment regimens in the world yet. The news of the appearance of the new infection, dangerous to mankind, was taken with anxiety by the Russian leadership, caused significant concern at the federal and regional levels and inspired the country's rapid transition to countermeasures. This becomes clear looking at the intensity of the events given in the chronological table.

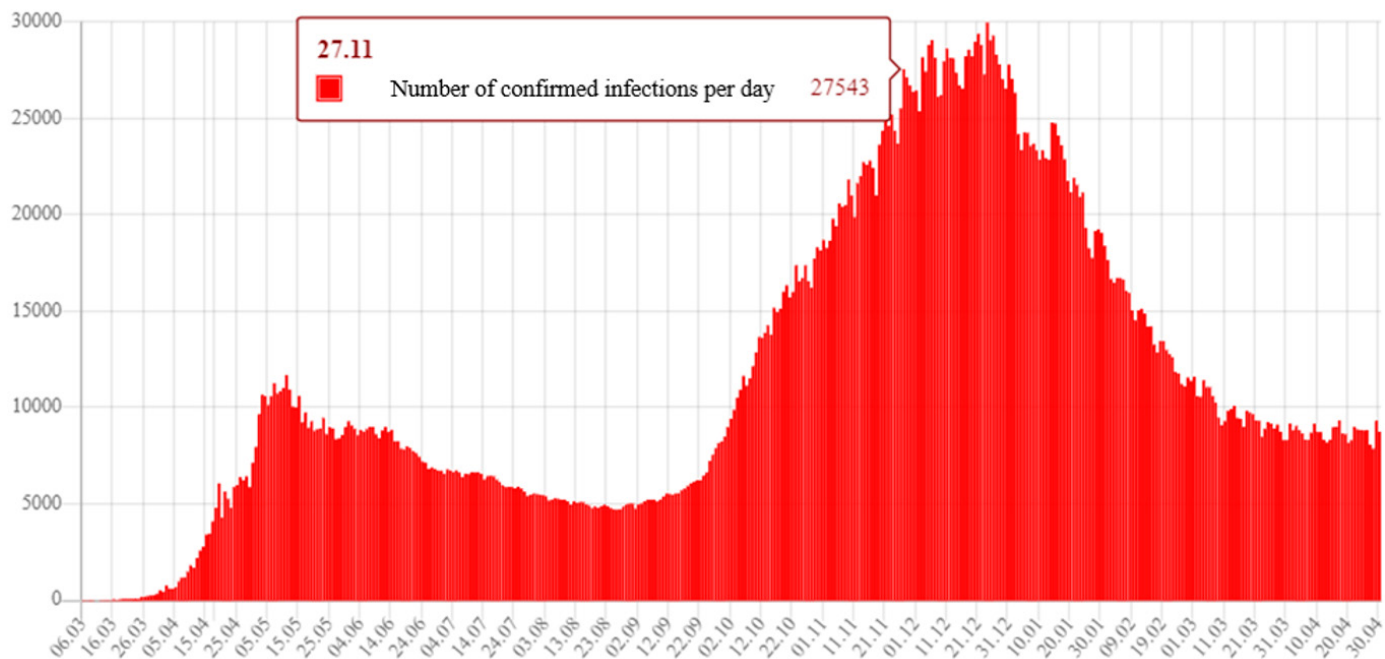
Launching countering the pandemic in Russia, as well as in other countries of the world, was complicated by the fact that COVID-19 manifests no visible signs at its early stages, and in many cases it is asymptomatic or can take a mild form, similar to seasonal respiratory diseases. This led to an increased difficulty in diagnosing the new coronavirus infection, which, combined with a high virulence of the pathogen, created a potential for an explosive spread of COVID-19 with a high risk of overloading the national public health system and a sharp increase in mortality.

Figure 3 and Figure 4 show the growth trends of the newly diagnosed COVID-19 cases in the Russian Federation and the Kaliningrad Region on the date of the finalisation of this report, i.e. the end of April 2021.

The curves indicating the trend of COVID-19 incidences in Russia and in its western exclave, the Kaliningrad Region, apparently almost coincide in shape despite the difference in the absolute indices values. This shows that in terms of the rate of change in coronavirus incidence, the region is a typical Russian region.

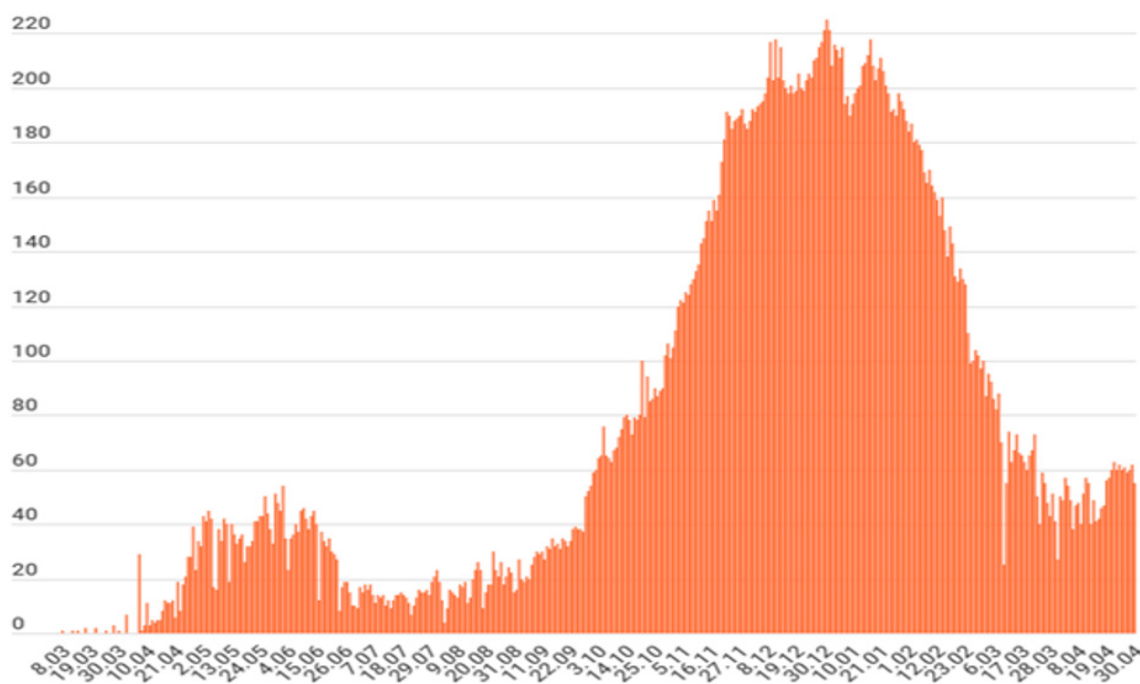
Table 1 and Table 2 provide data on COVID-19 incidences in the regions of the North-West Federal District of Russia, as well as comparative data on COVID-19 cases in selected countries of Northern Europe.

Figure 3. Newly diagnosed COVID-19 cases in Russia during 6.3.2020-30.4.2021 (a daily number)



Source: Coronavirus Monitor 2021

Figure 4. Newly diagnosed COVID-19 cases in the Kaliningrad Region during 8.3.2020-30.4.2021 (a daily number)



Source: New Kaliningrad 2021

Table 1. The COVID-19 incidences in Russia as of 30 of April, 2021

| | Rt ¹ | Total number of infections | Infections per 100,000 people | Total number of deaths | Mortality rate per 100,000 people |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Russian Federation | 0.96 | 4,742,142 | 3,228.6 | 107,902 | 73.5 |
| North-West Federal District | | | | | |
| Karelia | 0.80 | 45,720 | 7,344.8 | 469 | 75.3 |
| Komi | 0.86 | 43,261 | 5,144.8 | 899 | 106.9 |
| Arkhangelsk Region | 0.89 | 61,940 | 5,575.0 | 938 | 84.4 |
| Vologda Region | 0.70 | 44,834 | 3,810.2 | 1,002 | 85.2 |
| Kaliningrad Region | 0.97 | 31,815 | 3,198.8 | 410 | 41.2 |
| Leningrad Region | 0.97 | 42,572 | 2,347.1 | 1,167 | 64.3 |
| Murmansk Region | 0.99 | 50,331 | 6,679.1 | 1,158 | 153.7 |
| Novgorod Region | 0.92 | 29,893 | 4,929.0 | 121 | 20.0 |
| Pskov Region | 0.90 | 36,191 | 5,685.5 | 338 | 53.1 |
| St. Petersburg | 1.03 | 415,740 | 7,768.0 | 13,214 | 246.9 |

Source: Yandex 2021a

One can notice that direct effect of COVID-19 pandemic (morbidity and mortality rates) in the Kaliningrad Region was less critical than in other Russian regions. The following factors affected the situation: isolation of the territory, controlling the entry into the region, overall lowering of the population mobility, and the effectiveness of sanitary and epidemiological control measures at the borders of the region. It should be noted that the problems that arose in 2020 in the Kaliningrad Region amid the pandemic were solved owing to the availability of the established infectious disease centre, which was thoroughly tested and certified, also for handling especially dangerous infections, while Kaliningrad was preparing to host the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

Table 2. The COVID-19 incidences as of 30 of April, 2021

| | Rt | Total number of infections | Infections per 100,000 people | Total number of deaths | Mortality rate per 100,000 people |
|--------------------|------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Denmark | 1.06 | 251,248 | 4,402.3 | 2,484 | 43.5 |
| Estonia | 1.01 | 121,657 | 9,209.6 | 1,158 | 87.7 |
| Finland | 0.80 | 86,613 | 1,578.1 | 913 | 16.6 |
| Germany | 1.01 | 3,391,039 | 4,126.6 | 82,865 | 100.8 |
| Latvia | 1.06 | 117,795 | 5,266.0 | 2,125 | 95.0 |
| Lithuania | 0.97 | 245,896 | 7,450.4 | 3,916 | 118.7 |
| Netherlands | 0.82 | 1,515,165 | 8,912.7 | 17,372 | 102.2 |
| Poland | 0.66 | 2,785,353 | 7,237.7 | 67,073 | 174.3 |
| Sweden | 2.09 | 967,678 | 9,768.3 | 14,002 | 141.3 |
| Norway | 1.31 | 112,541 | 2,158.1 | 754 | 14.5 |
| Russia | 0.96 | 4,742,142 | 3,228.6 | 107,902 | 73.5 |
| Kaliningrad Region | 0.97 | 31,815 | 3,198.8 | 410 | 41.2 |

Source: Yandex 2021b

¹ The coronavirus spread index (Rt) shows how many people, on average, one infected can pass on the virus to before he/she gets isolated. This index, along with other criteria, was used to determine the readiness of regions to lift anti-epidemic restrictions. Here, Rt was calculated as the number of registered cases in the past four days divided by the number of registered cases in the previous four days.

This also testifies to the relative success of the Russian exclave in going through the pandemic compared to many other states in the Baltic Sea region.

3. Measures for COVID-19 containment in the Kaliningrad Region

In the Kaliningrad Region, measures for COVID-19 containment were carried out in line with the general policy pursued by the Russian Government. The key interacting and complementary federal agencies were the following:

- Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights Protection and Human Wellbeing (Rospotrebnadzor) was in charge of the development of sanitary and epidemiological rules, sanitary and epidemiological surveillance;
- the Russian Ministry of Healthcare was responsible for the prevention, circulation of medicines, provision of medical care, introduction of modern medical technologies, new methods of disease prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation. Decisions on taking necessary urgent measures were made in a situation of exceptional uncertainty, with only scattered and often conflicting data on the degree of danger, on SARS-CoV-2 virus pathways and its mechanisms of affecting the human body.

This significantly complicated the situation, increased the duration of the dangerous period of COVID-19 pandemic, and required the efforts of other departments that are structurally part of the Russian Government, i.e. Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Internal Affairs, and others.

In accordance with standard Russian practice applied to prevent the spread of dangerous infections, the following steps must be taken:

- arrange testing of the general population, isolate the sick and exposed persons;
- in the absence of a possibility of prompt detection and localisation of outbreaks of a dangerous disease, retardation of the spread of infection must be ensured by reducing relationships / contacts between people, and by introducing administrative restrictions, national or local quarantines; and
- efforts must be made to develop effective diagnostic techniques, reliable medicines and treatment regimens with their subsequent application to the population masses.

The Kaliningrad Region implemented those activities at an early stage of the COVID-19 pandemic in a preliminary form (see Appendix 4). In March 2020, the emergency response centre was established for imposing measures aimed at preventing the introduction and spread of a new coronavirus infection in the Kaliningrad Region. The regional authorities, in co-operation with federal agencies, started combating the proliferation of COVID-19 in a targeted manner and adjusted the social sphere and economy to working under new conditions (Government of the Kaliningrad Region 2021d).

Accordingly, a set of measures to counter COVID-19 pandemic in the Kaliningrad Region includes the following areas:

- measures of sanitary and epidemiological surveillance;
- medical measures; and
- measures in the economic, financial and administrative spheres.

Regional healthcare systems and Rospotrebnadzor² had not previously faced challenges of this scale, urgency and uncertainty. The Kaliningrad Region did not forecast the emergence of a dangerous infectious disease, only another usual increase in the incidence of seasonal flu was expected, stopped by a well-established set of anti-epidemiological measures and the provision of medicines.

Measures of sanitary and epidemiological surveillance in the Kaliningrad Region focused on curbing the spread of COVID-19 based on traditional surveillance measures (identification and isolation of exposed persons, reduction of contacts, and use of individual protective means).

Testing: The Kaliningrad Department of Rospotrebnadzor took measures to cover the population with testing and improve the accuracy of the results of PCR tests for COVID-19³. For establishing diagnosis, an

² The staff size of the Department, including area divisions, is 177 employees, including 39 specialists carrying out sanitary and quarantine control at 14 international checkpoints across the state border (Rospotrebnadzor 2021a).

³ The PCR (polymerase chain reaction) test is a method used to detect the presence of a virus in the body.

obligatory laboratory confirmation was introduced at the Centre for Hygiene and Epidemiology in the Kaliningrad Region; for the discharge of cured patients, a repeated negative PCR test with an interval of at least one day was required. The diagnosing without confirmation was allowed only for laboratories demonstrating a consistently high level of quality in determining positive samples (at least 85% within ten days) (CSSD 2020). At first, Kaliningrad specialists would take biological materials to Novosibirsk (Vector Research Institute) for controlled testing to confirm the primary results. In the first quarter of 2020, more than 10,000 tests were done in the Kaliningrad Region and over 200 samples were taken to the Novosibirsk Vector Research Institute. Later, the regional Centre for Hygiene and Epidemiology, one of the first special units in the country, obtained the status of a reference centre and the right to confirm positive test results of other laboratories.

According to the regional emergency response centre of Kaliningrad, 440,007 people (44.0% of the population) have been tested for COVID-19 in the Kaliningrad Region by December 25, 2020 (TASS 2020).

Despite certain difficulties, the level of coverage of the population with special tests in the Kaliningrad Region, as in Russia on the whole, through much of the pandemic year 2020 remained the highest in the world.

Identification and quarantine of infected and exposed persons: The first measures to strengthen sanitary and quarantine control at checkpoints across the state border of Russia were taken in the Kaliningrad Region as early as on January 11, 2020. All people arriving in the Kaliningrad Region underwent external visual control, they were asked about the presence of symptoms of respiratory diseases, but this did not exclude the risk of importing the infection by asymptomatic carriers. As decrees were issued by Rospotrebnadzor and the Chief State Sanitary Doctor of Russia, the following measures were imposed: instrumental temperature control of citizens⁴, restrictions on the numbers of visitors to public spaces, requirements for wearing individual protective means, transfer of the residents to a distance learning and working mode⁵, establishing special observation facilities for potentially exposed persons, introduction of lockdown, and termination of railway and international bus passenger traffic.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Kaliningrad Region focused on epidemiological investigations. For each case of coronavirus disease, specialists from Rospotrebnadzor or the Centre for Hygiene and Epidemiology conducted and still conduct an epidemiological investigation, determining the set of exposed persons and organising anti-epidemic measures in the centres of infection.

In case of non-compliance by Russian citizens coming from abroad or exposed persons with the requirements of the legislation regarding compulsory testing for COVID-19 with PCR method and placing information about the test result, administrative measures were applied, namely drawing up administrative offence reports. For those offences, the department of Rospotrebnadzor for the Kaliningrad Region compiled 228 administrative reports in 2020. Following the consideration of administrative cases in courts of general jurisdiction, offenders were fined the total of over one million roubles (Rospotrebnadzor 2021b)⁶.

Civil discipline level: The main mechanism for curbing the growth of airborne infections is considered to be a decrease in contacts between people, implemented through a ban on certain activities, requirements for maintaining social distancing, wearing masks, or masks and gloves. The most dangerous from an epidemiological point of view in the case of COVID-19 are public events (rallies, large-scale public gatherings, discos, sports competitions, concerts involving young people, and others); these are followed by spaces that involve the presence of a large number of people together for a long time or sharing equipment (this category includes most workplaces, educational and medical organisations, public catering facilities and service industry enterprises). Personal contacts (small parties involving seeing relatives and friends), as well as occasional irregular contacts (in shops and in public spaces) were recognised as less dangerous.

The regional department of Rospotrebnadzor regularly forecasted the epidemic situation considering the factors that affect it, and put forward proposals to the regional executive authorities to enhance or

4 In 2020, about one and a half million people, including air passengers at the Khrabrovo airport, passed through non-contact thermometry at border crossing checkpoints in the Kaliningrad Region.

5 It should be noted that a short-term remote working mode was introduced even for employees of the Government of the Kaliningrad Region.

6 In May 2021, some 90 roubles equaled to one euro (Bank of Russia 2021).

ease the anti-epidemic measures. Based on that, Governor's decrees and resolutions of the Government of the Kaliningrad Region were issued that consistently introduced, weakened or adjusted measures for maintaining "social distancing", visiting public spaces, using protective means and introducing age restrictions (65 years and more).

Overall, the Kaliningrad Region saw a relatively high level of civil discipline during the COVID-19 pandemic. The main medical measures in the Kaliningrad Region in 2020 under COVID-19 pandemic were focused on adjusting the regional healthcare system to the new challenge, organising treatment for sick people and vaccinating the population.

The adjustment of the public health system of the Kaliningrad Region to the new challenge, the COVID-19 pandemic: The main indicators of the regional public health system are given in Table 3.

Table 3. The main indicators of the public health system of the Kaliningrad Region

| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Number of hospital organisations | 50 | 50 | 54 | 53 | 51 | 50 | 52 | 51 | 51 | 48 |
| Number of hospital beds | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hospital beds (thousands) | 7.3 | 7.3 | 8.6 | 8.7 | 8.8 | 8.6 | 8.4 | 8.4 | 8.3 | 8.2 |
| per 10,000 population | 78.0 | 77.2 | 90.6 | 89.9 | 90.4 | 88.4 | 84.7 | 84.2 | 82.6 | 81.5 |
| Number of medical outpatient clinics, units | 92 | 115 | 112 | 120 | 123 | 124 | 134 | 142 | 129 | 156 |
| Number of medical and obstetric centres, units | 204 | 203 | 200 | 205 | 208 | 206 | 203 | 203 | 206 | 207 |
| Capacity of medical outpatient clinics | | | | | | | | | | |
| Capacity (thousand visits per shift) | 20.5 | 21.5 | 23.2 | 24.2 | 24.0 | 25.5 | 25.5 | 26.3 | 26.0 | 27.8 |
| per 10,000 population | 218 | 227 | 243 | 252 | 247 | 261 | 259 | 264 | 260 | 274 |
| Number of doctors | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number of doctors (thousands) | 3.2 | 3.3 | 4.0 | 4.2 | 4.1 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.7 |
| per 10,000 population | 34.5 | 35.4 | 41.5 | 44.0 | 42.7 | 44.6 | 44.6 | 45.0 | 45.4 | 46.5 |
| Number of nursing staff | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number of nursing staff (thousands) | 7.3 | 7.3 | 8.4 | 8.8 | 8.5 | 8.6 | 8.6 | 8.5 | 8.5 | 8.6 |
| per 10,000 population | 77.5 | 76.7 | 88.2 | 90.9 | 87.6 | 88.1 | 87.4 | 85.9 | 85.3 | 85.0 |

Source: Kaliningradstat 2020a

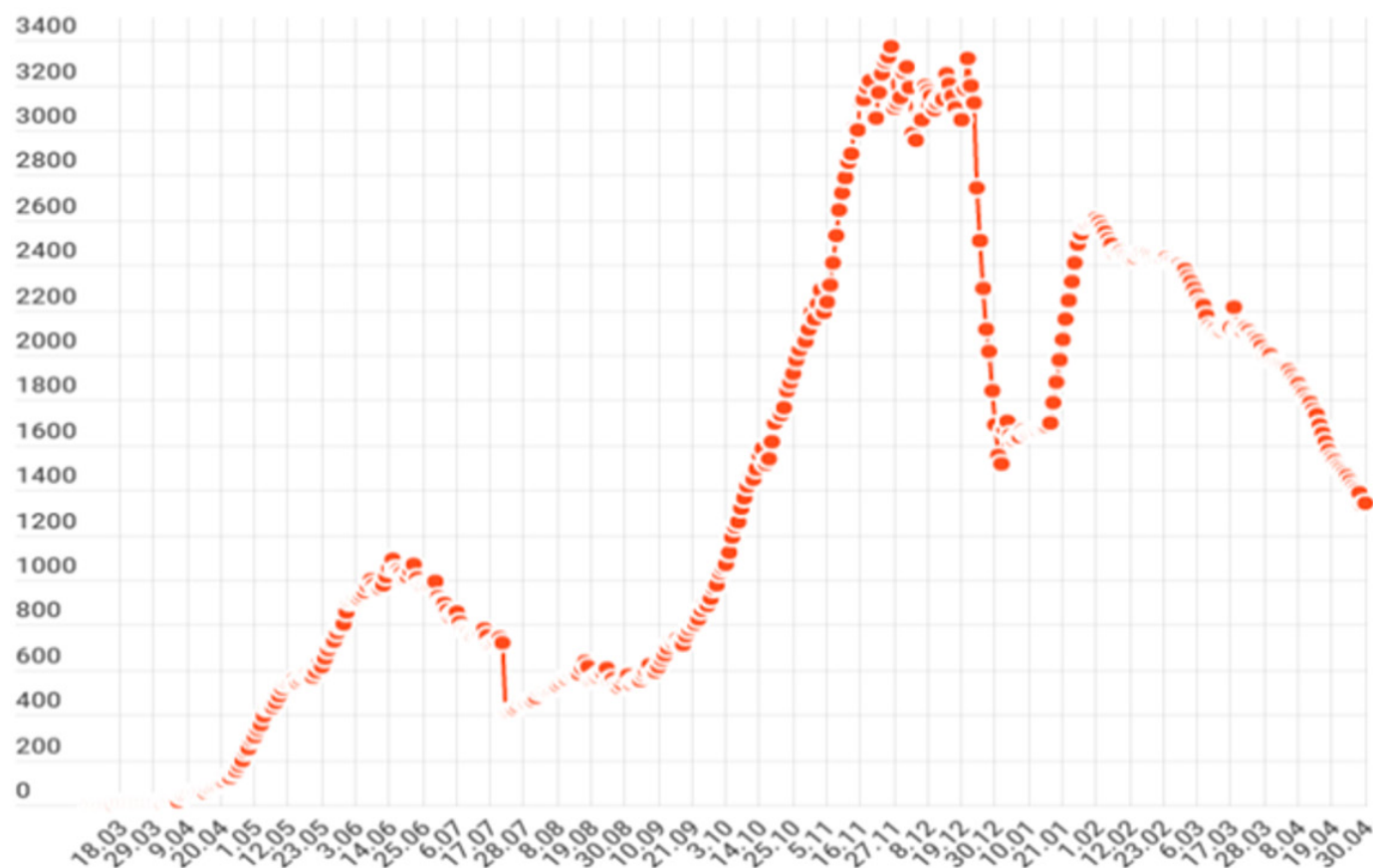
One can see that the healthcare system of the Kaliningrad Region has experienced changes, but they have not been fundamental. The Russian Government in its communication in March 2020 noted that the country was lacking fully-operational infectious and intensive care beds, thus failing to meet the standards established for the epidemic season of flu (Russian Government 2020a). This obviously concerned the Kaliningrad Region.

Figure 5 shows the trends of the numbers of people with COVID-19 in the Kaliningrad Region by day. The rate is estimated as the difference between the total number of COVID-19 cases diagnosed in the region and the number of those recovered and those who died immediately with COVID-19.

The first peak in the number of diagnosed COVID-19 cases (of various degrees of severity) hit the Kaliningrad Region in mid-June with the level of 1,100 people; and the second record with the numbers of 3,300 – 3,400 people was marked in the second half of November 2020. The increase in the number of severe cases in the Kaliningrad Region resulted in the exhaustion of the available capacities of the regional infectious disease hospital and special departments in other medical institutions of the Kaliningrad Region.

Anticipating this, in April 2020, the federal centre took a decision to immediately build a quick-mounting new hospital complex in Kaliningrad. The construction was completed by the Russian Ministry of Defence (the total area of the complex is 6,467 m², the capacity is 100 beds, including 50 intensive care units). The fully equipped facility was commissioned on May 15, 2020.

Figure 5. Total number of people with COVID-19 in the Kaliningrad Region (a daily number)



Source: RUGRAD 2021a

In addition, the authorities of the Kaliningrad Region urgently repurposed a number of medical units, deployed second-level hospitals, i.e. adapted facilities for patients with COVID-19 that did not require special treatment, at hostels, hotels and holiday centres. Medical care was provided in such hospitals with a reduced number of doctors, mainly by paramedical staff, but at the first signs of an aggravation of the disease, the patient was delivered to an appropriate special hospital⁷. In case of a benignant illness, treatment at home was allowed with mandatory compliance with quarantine measures. In the Kaliningrad Region, spa retreats and holiday homes were also used as observation facilities for citizens arriving from abroad. It should be noted, however, the decisions taken to transform multi-speciality hospitals and special medical centres into infectious disease hospitals created certain risks limiting the provision of planned medical care and led to a decrease in access to health care (Rospotrebnadzor 2021c).

⁷ For example, on February 10, 2021, a special medical centre was established at the Central City Clinical Hospital (CCCH). For this purpose, a separate floor of the Central City Clinical Hospital was allocated. The centre specialised in medical rehabilitation of patients who had coronavirus infection and developed moderate and severe forms of pneumonia. Its capacity is 60 beds.

The expansion of the network of infectious disease units in the Kaliningrad Region necessitated their urgent staffing with medical personnel. In the Kaliningrad Region, the sources of personnel for the expanded network of infectious units were the following:

- doctors with different specialisations;
- qualified medical doctors who have not been working in their specialisation for the past five years;
- teaching staff and senior students of the Medical Institute of Immanuel Kant Baltic Federal University; and
- teachers and students of medical institutions of secondary vocational education.

Retired doctors and nursing staff were not involved in working at infectious disease units.

A prerequisite for admitting reserve personnel to working with COVID-19 patients was their completion of short training courses (at least 36 hours).

All medical professionals were obliged to complete training modules on urgent issues of COVID-19, which were placed on an ongoing basis since mid-March 2020 on the continuing education portal of the Russian Ministry of Healthcare.

In order to reward medical professionals working in special infectious disease units and in ambulance teams, incentive payments were established for those who provided assistance to citizens with diagnosed COVID-19 and to people at risk of contracting coronavirus (Russian Government 2020b).

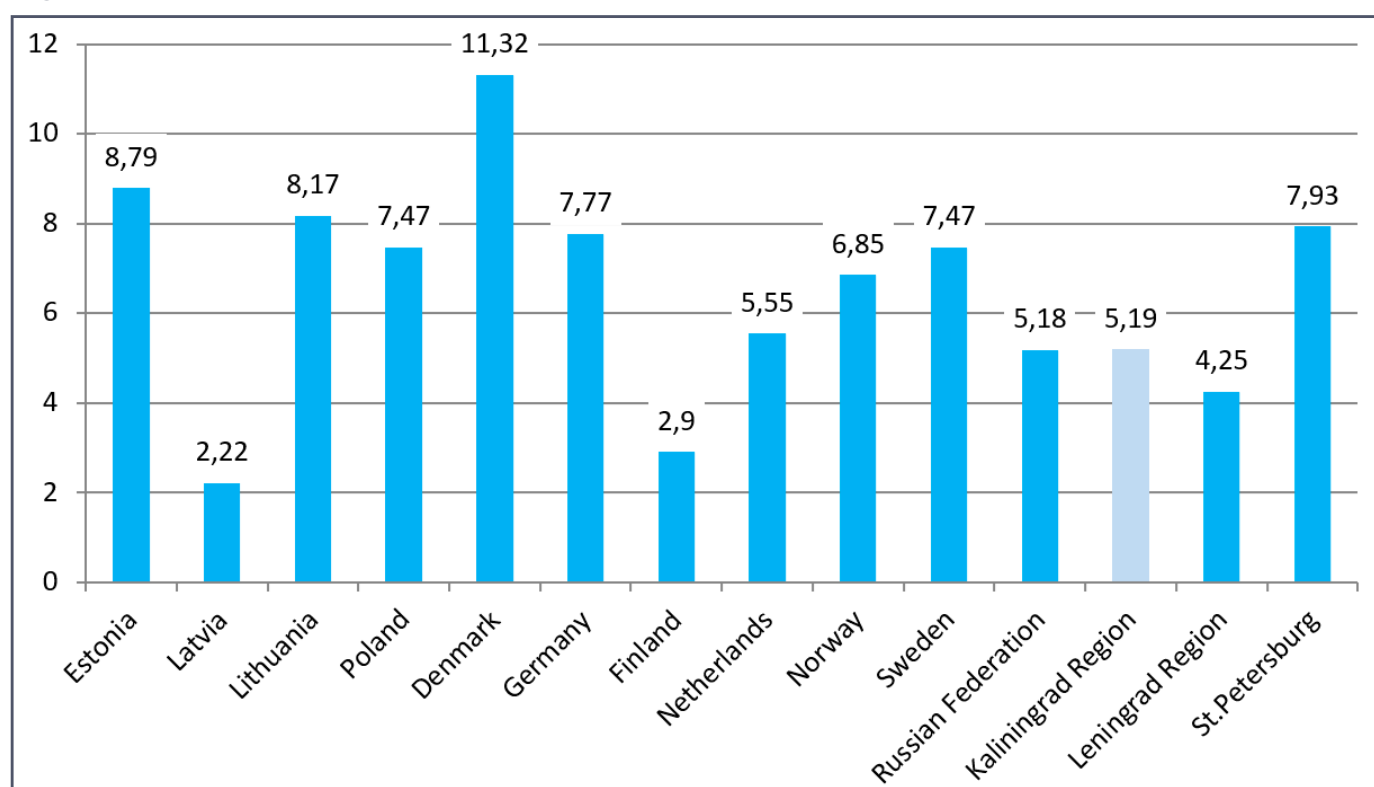
Maintaining the number of medical professionals trained to work in the pandemic at the required level was complicated by the losses of personnel due to their getting infected or being transferred to self-isolation following an unprotected contact with the source of infection. In exclave conditions, it was difficult to attract additional medical personnel from outside the region. Therefore, unfortunately, in the situation of an increase in the incidence of COVID-19 in the Kaliningrad Region, it was necessary to temporarily disrupt the established schemes in the provision of planned medical care. A factor in reducing access to medical care in the other spheres was also citizens' worries about the possibility of contracting the disease at the medical institution. This reduced the volume of medical services provided, even in those areas where the supply remained in full, and increased the risks to public health in connection with other diseases.

In the Kaliningrad Region, measures aimed at COVID-19 containment (mask mandate, social distancing and other epidemic prevention measures) have also influenced the spread of other infections. The population enhanced their attention to compliance with hygiene requirements; this affected the spread of pathogens in the external environment. In the Kaliningrad Region, the incidence of intestinal infections decreased sharply: during the year not a single case of dysentery was registered, salmonellosis decreased by half, and there was a decrease in the incidence of scarlet fever. In general, in 2020, the number of cases almost halved.

Organisation of treatment of the sick and vaccination of the population: Vaccination in Russia and in the Kaliningrad Region in particular began in December 2020. Since January 19, 2021, residents of the Kaliningrad Region can sign up for vaccination against COVID-19 on the State Services portal and by phone regardless of the registration at a particular clinic (Government of the Kaliningrad Region 2021a). The aim of the vaccination campaign is to form community immunity among the population of the Kaliningrad Region.

As of the end of April 2021, the number of vaccinations administered in Russia amounted to 12.3 million, and the proportion of the vaccinated population is 8.44%, with 5.18 % of those having received two jabs.

Figure 6. Proportion of vaccinated population as of the end of April, 2021 (two doses)



Source: Yandex 2021c

The Kaliningrad Region receives funds for the treatment of COVID-19 patients through mandatory health insurance (MHI) scheme and the state budget. The treatment of patients is financed from the MHI fund; medical care of those who are quarantined in hospital by contact with the sick is funded from the Social Insurance Fund. Provision of outpatients with antiviral and antibacterial medicines in 2020 was funded from the federal (38.1 million roubles) and regional (10.0 million roubles) budgets.

The main measures in the economic, financial and administrative spheres in the Kaliningrad Region in 2020 under the conditions of COVID-19 pandemic were focused on the regulation of economic activities in the Kaliningrad Region, financial and economic assistance to business entities, and assistance to the population.

Regulation of economic activities in the Kaliningrad Region: The first temporary restrictions on the work of enterprises and organisations in the Kaliningrad Region were introduced by decisions of the federal centre, starting from mid-March 2020, and affected the field of education, culture and sports, i.e. the most capacious categories of public spaces. Ten days later, work restrictions affected a wide segment of the entertainment and hospitality industry, as well as wholesale, wholesale-retail and retail facilities, with the exception of chemist's shops and pharmacy branches, as well as points of sale of food products and primary commodities. By the decree of the President of Russia, from the beginning of April, 2020, the heads of the regions were given the authority to independently establish schemes of economic activities in the territory of specific regions, proceeding from the objective situation with the spread of COVID-19. Later, the regimes of economic activities were consistently introduced, eased or adjusted in the Kaliningrad Region depending on epidemic effects and forecasts.

The turnover in the foodservice sector in the Kaliningrad Region in 2020 decreased by 23.6% and amounted to 11 billion roubles (RUGRAD 2021b). The restaurant business of the Kaliningrad Region experienced the greatest decline in revenue in the spring during the so-called compulsory self-isolation and the lockdown of the foodservice sector. In the summer, the situation improved in some way. In December 2020, amid tightening restrictions, the hospitality industry plummeted once again. Experts attribute this to the ban on holding festive events and traditional New Year's corporate parties in the Kaliningrad Region. According to the owners' estimates, some restaurants lost at least 15-20% of their revenue over the year and were able to partially recover due to a high tourist flow in the summer season.

Retail industry has also been in a difficult situation due to the pandemic. Large retail chains can survive the second lockdown possessing a certain margin of safety. But a considerable part of retail stores owned by small-scale entrepreneurs can go bankrupt.

Financial and economic support for business entities: The main package of measures aimed at supporting regional business amid COVID-19 pandemic was implemented in line with the general federal policy (Mau 2020). These were as follows:

- consistent reduction of the key rate by the Bank of Russia;
- tax incentives for a number of industries (tourism and aviation, for example) and SMEs;
- facilitating SMEs' access to credit facilities, soft loans, interest-free loans to pay salaries;
- package measures aimed at ensuring financial stability, maintaining the stability of sectors and industries of the economy;
- a repayment holiday – a grace period for repayment of the principal debt and interest on the loan by individual entrepreneurs and SMEs;
- deferral of payment of social contributions to insurance funds for six months;
- subsidising small businesses affected by coronavirus;
- subsidies to SMEs for preventive and disinfection measures;
- measures to support the construction industry, automotive industry, and transport;
- subsidies to credit institutions for reimbursement of lost income on loans issued for systemically important organisations to replenish working capital; and
- special loan programme to support employment.

Assistance to the population: The main package of measures aimed at supporting the population amid COVID-19 pandemic was implemented in line with the general federal policy. These were as follows:

- regulation of modes and procedures for work and study of citizens remotely;
- new schemes of mass benefits for families with children;
- payment of full salary with the introduction of temporary lockdowns;
- additional support measures to low-income families;
- providing "credit holidays";
- refund to self-employed citizens of tax paid for 2019;
- increase of the amount of unemployment benefit to the value of the subsistence minimum;
- preferential mortgage for purchasing accommodation; and
- simplification and transfer of a number of administrative regulations into electronic format.

The pandemic aggravated the issue of transport accessibility of the region, which to a certain extent showed its vulnerability. In April-May 2020, the region's railway communication with the mainland Russia was suspended, and then a restriction on the number of places in coaches was introduced followed by a significant increase in the railway fare.

An unexpected problem that required prompt action in the first months following the closure of borders and reduction of transport links was difficulties in returning Kaliningraders home from abroad (Ostapova 2021). The assistance was provided in close co-operation with federal agencies, territorial offices and diplomatic institutions. In total, approximately 3,000 Kaliningraders were offered assistance with coming back from 80 countries (Government of the Kaliningrad Region 2021b).

During the period of restrictive measures aimed at preventing the spread of COVID-19, volunteers were involved to help the elderly and mobile teams were made. The main aim of mobile teams was to deliver rural residents over 65 years of age to district hospitals for medical check-ups. During mass vaccination, these residents will be taken to district polyclinics for vaccination. Volunteers provided services to disabled people taking them to medical institutions for hemodialysis, buying and delivering foods, essential goods and medicines home.

As a measure to support the population of the Kaliningrad Region, the programme for retraining people affected by the consequences of COVID-19 spread was rolled out (Government of the Kaliningrad Region 2021c). In 2020, training in the Kaliningrad Region was carried out in 28 competencies. Those included

tourism, hairdressing, web design and development, painting and decorative work, electrical installation, physical education, sports and fitness, veterinary medicine, entrepreneurship, welding technologies and others. Classes were held at 11 colleges in the Kaliningrad Region, as well as at 17 institutions in the other Russian regions in a distance format. In a number of areas, exams were conducted according to WorldSkills standards. Kaliningraders looking for work, those at risk of dismissal, and graduates of educational institutions in 2020 could complete training courses free of charge.

4. Assessment of the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the economy of the Kaliningrad Region

At the time of preparation of this review, only preliminary estimates of the impact of the pandemic on the economy of the exclave region can be made. This difficult period is definitely going to be seriously analysed.

Table 4 shows some statistical data characterising the trends in individual sectors of the regional economy since 2016⁸. This makes it possible, with a certain degree of conditionality though, to use linear extrapolation of four-year trends to assess the impact of the 2020 pandemic and compare the estimates with the actual results of 2020.

Table 4. Indices of production in the Kaliningrad Region (in comparable prices; as a percentage over the previous year)

| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | PrD ⁹ | 2020 LiE ¹⁰ | Δ ¹¹ |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Agriculture (farms of all categories) | 94.9 | 101.0 | 110.0 | 114.4 | 109.4 | 122.0 | -12.6 |
| Manufacturing industries, total | 101.5 | 102.4 | 106.6 | 101.1 | 93.8 | 101.3 | - 7.5 |
| Construction, scope of work performed without subcontracting | 105.8 | 125.1 | 103.5 | 68.9 | 98.6 | 68.4 | +30.2 |
| Retail turnover | 99.3 | 101.9 | 105.8 | 101.8 | 98.2 | 105.2 | -7.0 |
| Wholesale trade turnover | 96.9 | 105.0 | 112.1 | 84.9 | 108.6 | 92.2 | +16.4 |
| Foodservice industry turnover | 99.9 | 109.3 | 107.1 | 100.8 | 76.6 | 104.3 | -27.7 |
| Paid services to the population, total ¹² | 102.5 | 103.4 | 101.8 | 99.7 | 83.2 | 99.3 | -16.1 |

Sources: Kaliningradstat 2020b; 2020c; the author's estimates.

A graphic illustration of this approach is given in Figure 7 exemplified by the retail trade segment.

⁸ The year 2016 was chosen as a starting point, as the events of 2014 in Ukraine led to an introduction of mutual economic sanction regimes along the line "Russia – conventional West" at the end of the year. This had a negative impact on the industrial co-operation of Kaliningrad enterprises with European companies that had developed over many years. Sanctions lowered the performance of the Kaliningrad Region in 2015, so this year cannot be considered free from the situational factor. Volatility and short-term downturn in the region's economy gave way in 2016 to moderate growth. Therefore, 2016 and the subsequent three years can be considered quite free from the situational factor.

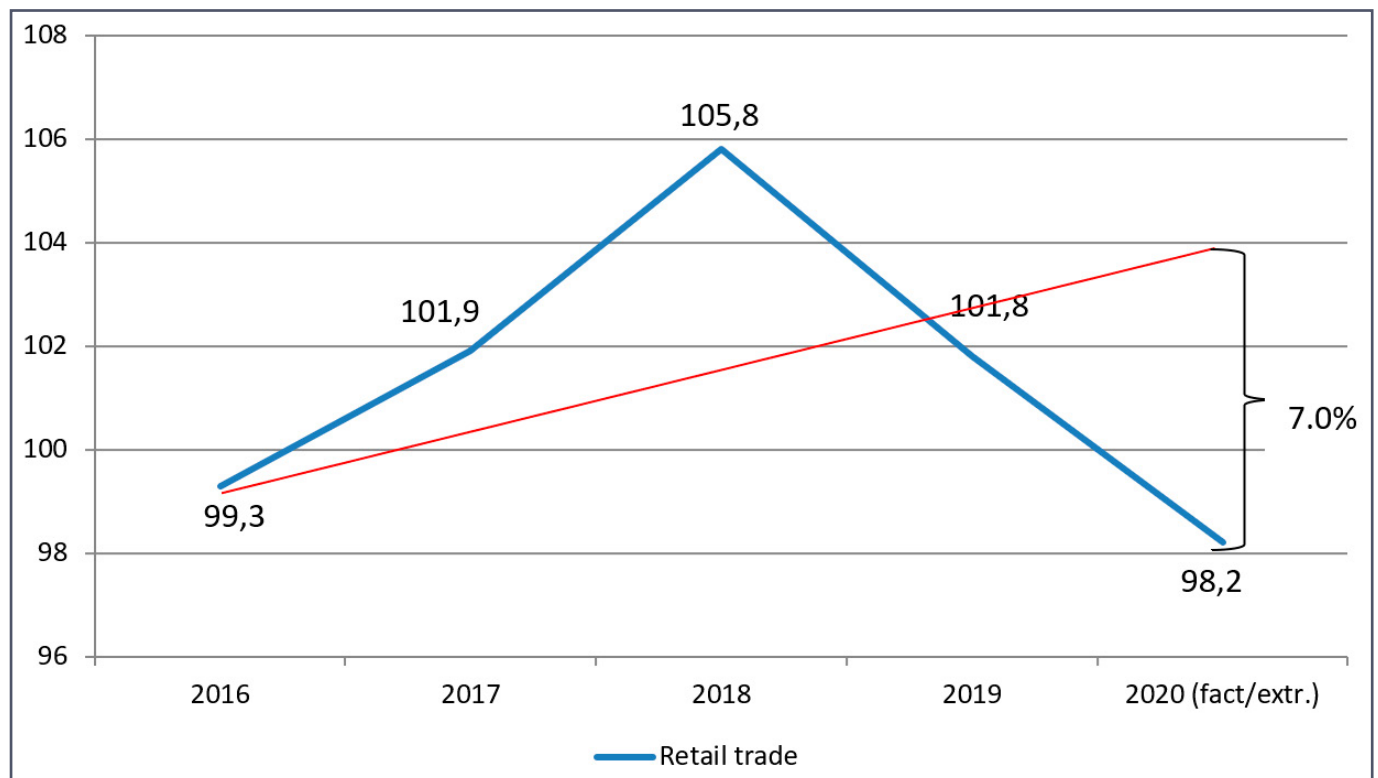
⁹ Preliminary data (PrD) of the year 2020

¹⁰ Linear extrapolation (LiE) of industry trends for 2016 - 2019

¹¹ Difference = PrD – LiE

¹² Paid services to the population include transport services, hairdressing services, cultural services, services of the education system, services of physical culture and sports, repair and making shoes, clothes, and furniture on custom order, services of rental companies and several other services. However, the paid services do not include activities in the field of trade, public catering services, services of financial and insurance organisations, provision of services to legal entities and some other services.

Figure 7. Indices of production in the Kaliningrad Region in 2016 – 2020, %



Note: The blue line describes the real development of retail trade. In turn, the red line offers the general trend based on the extrapolation.

Sources: Kaliningradstat 2020b; 2020c; the author's estimates.

Retail trade: The estimates show that in 2020 a decrease in expected indices of production in the Kaliningrad Region was of different degrees:

- substantial recession involved in foodservices (a decrease under pandemic is estimated to be at 28% over the year);
- considerable recession in a segment of paid services to the population (a decline by 16%) and agriculture (decreased by 13%); and
- a situational decrease in manufacturing industries (dropped by 7.5%) and retail trade (decreased by 7%).

At the same time, the construction industry in the Kaliningrad Region and wholesale trade showed relative stress resistance. In view of the forecast of the further development of pandemic in the country, as well as of the short-term trends in demand and supply, the following assumptions can be made about the performance / recovery of individual sectors of the economy of the Kaliningrad Region.

Table 5. Performance in the Kaliningrad Region by sector

| Sectors | Development in 2020 under pandemic | Forecasts about performance in short run (2021 – 2022) |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Farming | Considerable recession | Recovery at pre-crisis level. Prerequisites: 1) lifting restrictions; and 2) general recovery of the sector as a result of structural changes. |
| Manufacturing | Situational decrease | Recovery at pre-crisis level. Prerequisites: 1) lifting restrictions; and 2) recovery of purchasing power. |
| Construction industry | Sustainable development | Growth momentum. Prerequisites: 1) lifting restrictions; and 2) government support for mortgage lending. |
| Retail trade | Situational decrease | Recovery at pre-crisis level. Prerequisites: 1) lifting restrictions; and 2) recovery of purchasing power. |
| Whole sale | Sustainable development | Moderate growth. Prerequisites: region's main sectors' getting to pre-crisis level. |
| Foodservice industry | Substantial recession | Considerable growth. Prerequisites: 1) lifting restrictions; 2) recovery of purchasing power; 3) policy of encouraging Russians' spending their holidays inside the country ("tourist cashback"); 4) restricting Kaliningraders' entry into neighbouring countries. These factors objectively increase the demand for recreation, hospitality and entertainment services in the Kaliningrad Region. |
| Paid services to the population | Considerable recession | |

An unexpected and longstanding COVID-19 pandemic, which the world has been experiencing painfully, has had a multifaceted impact on social relations and manufacturing that will remain in the Russian exclave in long run (Tirskih et al. 2021). The general public and business community in the Kaliningrad Region have already changed for the better their attitude to distant education, remote working, digitalisation, health care and care for personal health. It should be noted that the significant social and technological changes that took place in the Russian exclave during the fight against the effects of the pandemic largely coincide with the trends characteristic of the countries of the Baltic Sea region as a whole (Liuhto 2020).

5. Conclusions

The joint efforts of healthcare structures, sanitary and epidemiological surveillance, other state authorities and society as a whole aimed at preventing coronavirus spread are leading in the Kaliningrad Region to a gradual decrease in the number of cases, and the number of patients with community-onset pneumonia is decreasing. As of March 2021, the epidemic threshold was not exceeded in any age category; vaccination of the population is under way. Business events are allowed, provided relevant recommendations are observed. Restrictions on the occupancy of theatres, concert halls, sports halls and venues are being eased. Instead of 50%, there will be 70% of stationary seats for the public.

The outcomes of COVID-19 pandemic running in Russia testify to the effectiveness of the comprehensive measures taken. Medical and public measures that were taken ensured a reduction of losses at early stages of virus spread, while Russian science made it possible in the following months to reduce mortality among patients with coronavirus and by August 2020 to develop national vaccines. At the beginning of 2021, the rollout of mass vaccination is expected; its successful implementation should mark the final stage in the battle against the pandemic in Russia.

The economy of the Kaliningrad Region is expected to start recovering in 2021, but one should not hope for its significant growth relative to the indicators achieved in 2019. The recovery of retail trade and services will take time, since not all restrictions imposed have been lifted yet and, just as important, the residents of the region have developed other priorities and preferences during the year of the pandemic.

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Appendix 1. GDP growth rates for the period 2009-2019 (% , compared to the previous year)

| | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | Average 2009-2019 |
|--------------------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|----------------------|
| EU19 | - 4.5 | 2.1 | 1.7 | -0.9 | -0.2 | 1.4 | 2.1 | 1.9 | 2.6 | 1.9 | 1.3 | 1.4 |
| Denmark | - 4.9 | 1.9 | 1.3 | 0.2 | 0.9 | 1.6 | 2.3 | 3.2 | 2.0 | 2.4 | 2.3 | 1.8 |
| Estonia | -14.4 | 2.7 | 7.4 | 3.1 | 1.3 | 3.0 | 1.8 | 2.6 | 5.7 | 4.8 | 4.3 | 3.7 |
| Finland | - 8.1 | 3.2 | 2.5 | -1.4 | -0.9 | -0.4 | 0.5 | 2.8 | 3.3 | 1.5 | 1.1 | 1.2 |
| Germany | - 5.7 | 4.2 | 3.9 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 2.2 | 1.5 | 2.2 | 2.8 | 1.3 | 0.6 | 1.9 |
| Latvia | -14.2 | -4.5 | 6.3 | 4.1 | 2.3 | 1.9 | 3.3 | 1.8 | 3.8 | 4.3 | 2.2 | 2.5 |
| Lithuania | -14.8 | 1.5 | 6.0 | 3.8 | 3.6 | 3.5 | 2.0 | 2.6 | 4.2 | 3.6 | 3.9 | 3.5 |
| Netherlands | - 3.7 | 1.3 | 1.6 | -1.0 | -0.1 | 1.4 | 2.0 | 2.2 | 2.9 | 2.4 | 1.7 | 1.4 |
| Poland | 2.8 | 3.6 | 5.0 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 3.3 | 3.8 | 3.1 | 4.9 | 5.3 | 4.1 | 3.6 |
| Sweden | - 4.3 | 6.0 | 3.2 | -0.6 | 1.2 | 2.7 | 4.5 | 2.1 | 2.6 | 2.0 | 1.2 | 2.5 |
| Norway | - 1.7 | 0.7 | 1.0 | 2.7 | 1.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 1.1 | 2.3 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 1.5 |
| Russia | - 7.8 | 4.5 | 4.3 | 4.0 | 1.8 | 0.7 | -2.0 | 0.2 | 1.8 | 2.5 | 1.3 | 1.0 |
| Kaliningrad Region | - 8.5 | 7.6 | 4.6 | 4.7 | 1.0 | 4.6 | -1.5 | 2.2 | 2.0 | 3.3 | 1.6 | 2.0 |

Sources: Rosstat 2020a; Eurostat 2021; the author's estimates

Appendix 2. Indices of the volume of gross regional product in the North-West Federal District of Russia, as % over the previous year

| | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | Average for 2006- 2019 | Rank |
|--------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------------------------------|------|
| Russian Federation | 108.3 | 108.3 | 105.7 | 92.4 | 104.6 | 105.4 | 103.1 | 101.8 | 101.3 | 99.4 | 100.8 | 101.8 | 102.8 | 101.6 | 102.6 | |
| North-West Federal District | 107.7 | 109.0 | 104.7 | 94.9 | 104.4 | 106.1 | 103.8 | 100.3 | 100.9 | 101.5 | 101.7 | 100.5 | 101.9 | 101.7 | 102.7 | |
| Karelia | 105.1 | 108.5 | 95.4 | 87.6 | 104.4 | 102.2 | 101.5 | 100.7 | 100.1 | 100.4 | 100.1 | 100.6 | 101.1 | 100.3 | 100.5 | 9 |
| Komi | 108.6 | 99.6 | 103.3 | 98.5 | 102.6 | 105.7 | 101.8 | 96.7 | 95.7 | 98.3 | 98.5 | 96.0 | 98.5 | 100.9 | 100.2 | 10 |
| Arkhangelsk Region | 107.2 | 112.2 | 100.0 | 102.2 | 100.8 | 101.7 | 100.6 | 101.1 | 102.0 | 103.3 | 102.6 | 101.8 | 99.1 | 100.2 | 102.6 | 5 |
| including Nenets Autonomous District | 114.6 | 118.7 | 86.7 | 122.6 | 95.9 | 88.7 | 94.9 | 99.4 | 103.6 | 109.3 | 108.6 | 98.3 | 92.2 | 99.6 | 101.8 | 6 |
| Vologda Region | 104.8 | 105.1 | 96.7 | 87.1 | 105.7 | 106.9 | 104.8 | 95.7 | 103.0 | 101.3 | 100.1 | 100.6 | 102.4 | 99.3 | 100.8 | 8 |
| Kaliningrad Region | 115.3 | 119.9 | 104.7 | 91.5 | 107.6 | 104.6 | 104.7 | 101.0 | 104.6 | 98.5 | 102.2 | 102.0 | 103.3 | 101.6 | 104.4 | 1 |
| Leningrad Region | 111.2 | 106.3 | 105.3 | 99.6 | 105.4 | 106.5 | 106.2 | 98.6 | 100.2 | 104.6 | 101.8 | 101.4 | 104.2 | 102.8 | 103.8 | 2 |
| Murmansk Region | 102.7 | 102.2 | 99.8 | 91.2 | 99.4 | 99.8 | 100.5 | 100.8 | 101.3 | 101.2 | 100.6 | 101.7 | 100.8 | 105.1 | 100.4 | 11 |
| Novgorod Region | 104.0 | 105.5 | 108.2 | 98.9 | 102.3 | 103.7 | 108.4 | 101.9 | 105.2 | 102.2 | 101.6 | 101.9 | 97.9 | 102.2 | 103.1 | 4 |
| Pskov Region | 104.9 | 105.6 | 103.1 | 93.8 | 105.6 | 106.5 | 100.1 | 100.5 | 99.5 | 98.0 | 100.7 | 100.8 | 101.7 | 102.7 | 101.6 | 7 |
| St. Petersburg | 108.3 | 113.1 | 109.3 | 94.3 | 105.5 | 108.3 | 104.3 | 101.8 | 101.0 | 101.4 | 102.3 | 100.2 | 102.7 | 101.8 | 103.7 | 3 |

Sources: Rosstat 2020b; the author's estimates

Appendix 3. Indices of the volume of industrial output in manufacturing sector in North-West Federal District of Russia, as % over the previous year

| | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | Average for 2006-2019 | Rank |
|--|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------------------|-------|
| Russian Federation | 108.4 | 110.5 | 100.5 | 84.8 | 110.6 | 108.0 | 105.1 | 100.5 | 102.1 | 94.6 | 100.1 | 101.1 | 106.3 | 106.8 | 102.2 | |
| North-West Federal District | 104.7 | 108.8 | 99.4 | 87.2 | 112.5 | 113.6 | 104.7 | 99.8 | 96.6 | 94.4 | 102.2 | 105.7 | 103.5 | 104.2 | 102.3 | |
| Karelia | 101.6 | 122.0 | 97.2 | 67.1 | 106.8 | 100.9 | 102.0 | 86.3 | 103.2 | 99.2 | 103.3 | 104.2 | 107.5 | 106.3 | 101.3 | 10 |
| Komi | 105.4 | 119.4 | 92.0 | 97.9 | 102.4 | 114.8 | 102.1 | 102.4 | 101.3 | 86.3 | 99.4 | 104.3 | 99.5 | 100.0 | 101.7 | 8 - 9 |
| Arkhangelsk Region | 95.3 | 112.9 | 103.9 | 96.3 | 126.9 | 96.8 | 95.1 | 102.4 | 66.8 | 101.1 | 88.6 | 118.4 | 97.9 | 100.0 | 102.3 | 7 |
| Nenets Autonomous District | 106.1 | 102.1 | 110.1 | 94.9 | 84.6 | 118.2 | 89.3 | 90.5 | 108.1 | 102.9 | 117.0 | 75.5 | 91.4 | 114.5 | 100.9 | 11 |
| Arkhangelsk Region, excl. Nenets Autonomous District | ... | 113.1 | 103.6 | 96.3 | 127.3 | 96.5 | 103.9 | 110.0 | 66.3 | 101.1 | 88.5 | 118.9 | 98.0 | 99.9 | 101.8 | |
| Vologda Region | 107.4 | 105.0 | 95.1 | 90.6 | 112.1 | 106.2 | 101.7 | 102.5 | 103.2 | 101.6 | 101.8 | 103.4 | 104.8 | 103.6 | 102.5 | 6 |
| Kaliningrad Region | 131.0 | 128.1 | 101.2 | 93.0 | 130.2 | 168.3 | 103.2 | 99.1 | 113.7 | 91.2 | 101.5 | 102.4 | 106.6 | 101.1 | 109.7 | 1 |
| Leningrad Region | 129.5 | 101.7 | 100.1 | 98.9 | 116.3 | 114.2 | 107.7 | 97.0 | 99.6 | 98.6 | 105.2 | 102.1 | 103.6 | 106.0 | 104.6 | 2 - 3 |
| Murmansk Region | 101.0 | 93.6 | 95.5 | 95.5 | 101.6 | 101.8 | 105.2 | 99.1 | 100.8 | 112.0 | 101.1 | 115.8 | 101.8 | 112.3 | 102.6 | 5 |
| Novgorod Region | 102.6 | 106.8 | 100.2 | 86.2 | 118.0 | 112.5 | 103.6 | 105.4 | 114.6 | 100.3 | 106.8 | 105.2 | 101.9 | 105.6 | 104.6 | 2 - 3 |
| Pskov Region | 107.1 | 108.9 | 105.1 | 86.0 | 118.2 | 120.8 | 99.3 | 100.6 | 95.0 | 104.3 | 106.8 | 104.4 | 101.6 | 106.9 | 104.0 | 4 |
| St. Petersburg | 97.4 | 111.4 | 103.2 | 78.9 | 109.0 | 115.4 | 105.3 | 99.0 | 93.2 | 92.7 | 103.3 | 105.3 | 104.5 | 106.2 | 101.7 | 8 - 9 |

Sources: Rosstat 2020c; the author's estimates

Appendix 4. Indices of the volume of industrial output in manufacturing sector in North-West Federal District of Russia, as % over the previous year

| Date ¹³ | Event |
|------------------------------|--|
| Event category ¹⁴ | |
| 31.12.2019 (–31) M | In China (Wuhan), cases of pneumonia caused by a new coronavirus infection are reported. |
| 07.01.2020 (–24) W, M | Chinese scientists identify a causative agent 2019-nCoV of the disease. WHO gives an official name to the pathogen - SARS-CoV-2; the disease it causes is named COVID-19. Numerous alarming publications appear in international and domestic media. |
| 11.01.2020 (–20) R, M, KR | Epidemiological surveillance measures at international checkpoints of the Kaliningrad Region are enhanced. |
| 12.01.2020 (–19) W, M | Chinese scientists make publicly available data on 2019-nCoV genome sequences. |
| 20.01.2020 (–11) W, M | Head of special commission of the State Health Committee of the People's Republic of China officially confirms SARS-CoV-2 transmission from person to person. |
| 21.01.2020 (–10) M | Rospotrebnadzor of Russia: - identifies means for laboratory diagnosis of the new coronavirus; - develops and publishes interim guidelines for the diagnosis of coronavirus. |
| 23.01.2020 (–8) M, KR | The Kaliningrad Region tests readiness of its virological laboratory for coronavirus detection. |
| 24.01.2020 (–7) R, KR | To prevent introduction and spread of infection caused by SARS-CoV-2 in Russia, heads of the Russian constituent entities are recommended to adopt regional plans for sanitary and epidemic prevention measures, including measures to strengthen the current disinfection regime. |
| 25.01.2020 (–6) R, M, C | The Russian Ministry of Healthcare opens an information section on its website dedicated to the new coronavirus. |
| 26.01.2020 (–5) M, C | Rospotrebnadzor of Russia publishes recommendations to citizens on new coronavirus prevention. |
| 28.01.2020 (–3) R, M, KR | The Kaliningrad Region approves an operational Action Plan to prevent introduction and spread of coronavirus infection. |

¹³ In brackets days to/from "Day 0", i.e. the date of official registration of the first COVID-19 cases in Russia.

¹⁴ Event categories: C = events connected to social sphere and media coverage; F = events related to economic sphere; KR = events directly related to the Kaliningrad Region; M = events related to the health sector, sanitary and epidemiological measures; R = events related to public administration; and W = global-scale events or events happening outside Russia.

| Date ¹³ | Event |
|------------------------------|---|
| Event category ¹⁴ | |
| 29.01.2020 (-2) | In Russia, the composition of the interdepartmental emergency response centre is approved to monitor the situation with coronavirus spread. |
| R, M, KR | The Kaliningrad Regional Interdepartmental Commission on prevention and control of infectious, socially significant and other diseases holds a meeting. |
| 30.01.2020 (-1) | At an emergency meeting, WHO recognises COVID-19 as an Emergency of International Concern. |
| W, R, M | |
| 31.01.2020 (0) | The first two cases of coronavirus infection are registered on the territory of the Russian Federation (both the cases are citizens of China). |
| M | |
| 31.01.2020 (0) | The Russian Government includes COVID-19 on the list of diseases that constitute a danger to other people in the community. |
| R, M | |
| 31.01.2020 (0) | Rospotrebnadzor determines a temporary procedure for actions of specialists involved in sanitation and epidemic prevention measures in case of a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 case. |
| M | |
| 07.02.2020 (+7) | The Bank of Russia decides to cut the key rate by 25 basic points up to 6% per annum amid risks of significant slowdown in global economy. |
| F | |
| 11.02.2020 (+11) | Rospotrebnadzor receives a registration certificate for a test system for detecting COVID-19, developed at the Vector State Research Centre for Virology and Biotechnology. |
| M | |
| 11.02.2020 (+11) | Mass testing for COVID-19 starts in Russia, including the Kaliningrad Region. |
| M, KR | |
| 02.03.2020 (+31) | The Moscow Department of Health confirms information about the first in Russia and in Moscow Russian citizen with proven coronavirus. |
| M | |
| 06.03.2020 (+35) | The first positive test is confirmed in the Kaliningrad Region (a person returned from a trip to Italy). |
| M, KR | |
| 11.03.2020 (+40) | WHO declares the outbreak of the new type of coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19). |
| W, M, KR | The first meeting of the emergency response centre on imposing measures aimed at preventing the introduction and spread of the new coronavirus infection on the territory of the Kaliningrad Region (hereinafter - the emergency response centre KR) takes place. |
| 14.03.2020 (+43) | By order of the Head of the Government of the Russian Federation, the Co-ordination Council for fighting coronavirus is established. |
| R | |
| 14.03.2020 (+43) | The Russian Ministry of Education issues recommendations to the regions on temporary transfer of schools to distance learning to contain the coronavirus infection. |
| R, M, C, KR | The Russian Ministry of Science and Higher Education issues an order recommending to temporarily transfer higher education institutions to distance learning from March 16, 2020. |

| Date ¹³ | Event |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Event category ¹⁴ | |
| 16.03.2020 (+45) R, F, KR | <p>The Russian Prime Minister announces a first package of economic support measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - anti-crisis fund is established in Russia amounting at 300 billion roubles; - tax incentives are introduced for a number of industries (tourism and aviation, for example); access to credits for SMEs is facilitated, as well as regulation in the field of transportation of goods; people are allowed to order non-prescription medicines via the Internet. <p>The Government of the Kaliningrad Region issues a decree on high alert regime introduction.</p> |
| 16.03.2020 (+45) R, C | The Russian Government launches the Stopkoronavirus.rf portal to update the population on coronavirus infection spread in Russia, on preventive measures and to refute false information. |
| 16.03.2020 (+45) R, C, KR | Temporary restrictions are introduced on passenger air traffic between Russia and the European Union countries. |
| 17.03.2020 (+46) R, C, KR | <p>Work of institutions (museums and organisations involved in exhibition activities, theatres, philharmonic societies, circuses and other organisations) under the Russian Ministry of Culture is suspended.</p> <p>Free attendance is introduced at schools and kindergartens of the Kaliningrad Region from 16.03.2020.</p> |
| 17.03.2020 (+46) F | <p>The Russian Government and the Bank of Russia launch first measures to support the Russian economy. The package of measures is aimed at ensuring financial stability, maintaining the sustainability of sectors and industries of the economy, supporting the population and regional budgets.</p> <p>A high alert mode is introduced in the Kaliningrad Region on 17.03.2020 – sports, entertainment, public and other mass gathering events with over 300 participants are prohibited.</p> |
| 18.03.2020 (+47) R, M, C, KR | <p>The entry of all foreign citizens and stateless persons to the territory of Russia is restricted.</p> <p>COVID-19 testing network is extended over to private medical facilities in the Kaliningrad Region.</p> |
| 18.03.2020 (+47) W, C, KR | Entry of foreign citizens into the EU countries, including Russians, is restricted. |
| 19.03.2020 (+48) M | The first case of death of patient with confirmed coronavirus is registered in Russia (in Moscow). |
| 19.03.2020 (+48) R, M, KR | A high alert regime under pandemic is introduced in all constituent entities of the Russian Federation. |
| 19.03.2020 (+48) M, KR | The Resolution of the Chief State Sanitary Doctor of the Russian Federation comes into force, according to which everyone arriving in Russia must be ensured isolation for 14 days and testing. |

| Date ¹³ Event category ¹⁴ | Event |
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| 20.03.2020 (+49) M, KR | <p>The Vector State Scientific Centre for Virology and Biotechnology of Rospotrebnadzor begins testing new coronavirus vaccine.</p> <p>In Kaliningrad, construction of a prefabricated complex for a new infectious disease hospital starts using the resources of the Russian Ministry of Defence. The area of the new hospital is 6,467 m², its capacity is 100 beds, including 50 intensive care beds.</p> |
| 23.03.2020 (+52) R, KR | <p>The Russian Ministry of Education takes a decision to transfer Russian schools to a vacation mode or distance learning from 23.03.2020 to 12.04.2020.</p> <p>From March 25, universities subordinate to the Russian Ministry of Science and Higher Education are transferred to distance learning.</p> <p>From March 23, the Government of Kaliningrad Region temporarily shifts for remote working.</p> |
| 25.03.2020 (+54) R, F | <p>Address from the President of Russia in connection with coronavirus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - introduction of a non-working week from 30.03.2020 to 03.04.2020 at a full salary; - introduction of priority measures to support citizens (allowances and payments to families with children); - tax incentives for SMEs, credit holidays, etc.; and - postponement of voting on amendments to the Constitution of the Russian Federation. |
| 25.03.2020 (+54) M | <p>The Central Research Institute of Epidemiology of Rospotrebnadzor develops and registers a highly sensitive diagnostic test for detecting RNA of the new coronavirus and SARS-Cov-2, as well as MERS-Cov-related viruses.</p> |
| 26.03.2020 (+55) W | <p>Virtual G20 summit is conducted on COVID-19 spread (the coronavirus G20).</p> |
| 27.03.2020 (+56) R, KR | <p>The Russian Government introduces a ban on regular and charter flights to and from abroad, with the exception of flights allocated for returning Russians who stay abroad.</p> <p>In the Kaliningrad Region, booking of places, reception of people at holiday centres, recreation centres, spa retreats, year-around health children's camps and hotels in resort towns in municipalities of the region, regardless of the form of ownership, are prohibited up to 01.06.2020.</p> <p>A temporary restriction is imposed from 00:00 on March 28 to April 5 on the operation of wholesale, wholesale and retail and retail trade facilities, with the exception of chemist's shop and pharmacy branches, as well as wholesale and retail trade facilities in regard to the sale of essential food products.</p> <p>Medical organisations in the region temporarily switch to a new mode of operation.</p> |
| 28.03.2020 (+57) R, KR | <p>Governor Anton Alikhanov's addresses the residents of the Kaliningrad Region.</p> |
| 30.03.2020 (+59) R, KR | <p>The Russian Government introduces temporary restrictions on crossing the state border of Russia at all border checkpoints (road, rail, pedestrian, river and mixed), including the land section of the Russian-Belarusian state border.</p> |

| Date ¹³ | Event |
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| Event category ¹⁴ | |
| 31.03.2020 (+60) R, F, KR | <p>The Bank of Russia and the Russian Ministry of Finance prepare amendments to the legislation on the provision of “credit holidays” – a grace period for repayment of the principal debt and interest on a loan – to citizens, individual entrepreneurs, SMEs.</p> <p>From March 31, the Kaliningrad Region introduces a “self-isolation mode”.</p> |
| 02.04.2020 (+62) R, F, KR | <p>Address of the President of Russia in connection with coronavirus: extension of the non-working days period until the end of April; providing heads of regions with additional powers to establish regimes on the territory of a particular region, based on the current situation regarding COVID-19 spread.</p> <p>The Kaliningrad Region creates terms for obtaining soft loans (up to ten million roubles at 0.1% per annum) to SMEs most affected by the consequences of the coronavirus.</p> |
| 03.04.2020 (+63) R, F | The Russian Government introduces a six-month moratorium on the initiation of bankruptcy proceedings against debtors affected by coronavirus or included on the list of strategic industrial facilities. |
| 03.04.2020 (+63) R | The list of sectors of the Russian economy most affected by the deteriorating situation as a result of the new coronavirus spread is adopted. |
| 06.04.2020 (+66) R, C, KR | <p>Railway communication with the Kaliningrad Region and with Belarus is temporarily suspended from 06.04.2020.</p> <p>From April 6, schools in the Kaliningrad Region are transferred to distance learning.</p> |
| 08.04.2020 (+68) R, F, C | <p>Meeting of the President of Russia with heads of regions on fighting COVID-19 spread in Russia.</p> <p>Support measures are announced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - from April, for 3 months, a monthly payment of 25,000 to 80,000 roubles is established for medical personnel, additional insurance guarantees are proposed; - social support measures are offered (including payments to families with children aged three to seven years, in case of parents’ losing work; setting the unemployment benefit rate at the level of the minimum wage); and - business support measures are put forward (including a half-year deferral in payment of social contributions to insurance funds). |
| 10.04.2020 (+70) M | <p>State registration of ELISA test systems for the detection of antibodies SSC VB Vector.</p> <p>In the Kaliningrad Region, the “self-isolation mode” is extended to 19.04.2020.</p> |
| 16.04.2020 (+76) R, F, KR | <p>The Government of the Kaliningrad Region allocates 85 million roubles in subsidies to small businesses affected by the coronavirus.</p> <p>In the Kaliningrad Region from 16.04.2020, one’s journey to work must be confirmed.</p> |
| 17.04.2020 (+77) R, F, KR | The Kaliningrad Region Government allocates 500 million roubles to fight COVID-19. |

| Date ¹³ | Event |
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| Event category ¹⁴ | |
| 18.04.2020 (+78) R, F, C, KR | Museums, zoos, and a number of non-food trade facilities are added on the list of sectors of the Russian economy most affected by coronavirus spread. |
| 20.04.2020 (+80) R, M, KR | Rospotrebnadzor develops recommendations for transport sector organisations on how to conduct activities in conditions of coronavirus spread. |
| 21.04.2020 (+81) R, M, KR | Rospotrebnadzor sends recommendations to executive authorities of the Russian constituent entities on organising work in the service sector for COVID-19 prevention (non-food stores, servicing companies for road transport, ateliers, laundries and dry cleaners, beauty salons and hairdressers). |
| 22.04.2020 (+82) R, F, C | Orders are issued by the President of Russia to support the construction industry (preferential mortgage at a rate of 6.5% until November 1, 2020 within three million roubles (eight million in four regions), compensation of interest on loans for construction companies, government guarantees to DOM RF ¹⁵ in the amount of 50 billion roubles, as well as other measures). |
| 24.04.2020 (+84) M, F, KR | The Bank of Russia lowers the key rate by 50 basic points (to 5.5%) in order to stimulate the Russian economy under pandemic. A case of group COVID-19 incidence is detected in the regional clinical hospital (Kaliningrad). |
| 24.04.2020 (+84) F, C, KR | Medium and large enterprises from the affected industries, along with small and micro-businesses, can also receive interest-free loans to pay salaries. |
| 24.04.2020 (+84) F | A possibility of receiving subsidies from the federal budget is provided to credit organisations to reimburse lost income on loans issued to strategic organisations to replenish their working capital. |
| 25.04.2020 (+85) C, KR | In a number of regions (Kaliningrad, Kirov and Leningrad regions, and Crimea), weakening of quarantine measures regarding the opening of multifunctional centres of public services, beauty salons, clothing and footwear stores is considered. |
| 28.04.2020 (+88) C, KR | The non-working period is extended in Russia until 05.11.2020. |
| 04.05.2020 (+94) F, KR | Orders are issued by the President of Russia to support the automotive industry (early purchases of cars in May – July, previously planned for 2020-2022; allocation of seven billion roubles for preferential car loans; allocation of five billion roubles for the purchase of ambulances, other measures). |
| 05.05.2020 (+95) F, KR | Payment schedule of budget loans is adjusted for regions: full exemption from debt repayment in 2020 and payment of 5% of the debt in 2021-2024. |
| 08.05.2020 (+98) M | Rospotrebnadzor publishes guidelines for determining indicators that could serve as basis for a phased removal of restrictive measures. |

¹⁵ The joint stock company DOM.RF is a financial development institution in the housing sector. It was established in 1997 by a decree of the Russian Government to facilitate the implementation of the state housing policy.

| Date ¹³ Event category ¹⁴ | Event |
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| 09.05.2020 (+99) F | Orders are issued by the President of Russia, aimed at increasing support for the economy through bank lending mechanisms (changing the criteria that organisations must comply with, as well as improving the criteria for determining the types of activities actually carried out by organisations applying for state support, increasing guarantees to Vnesheconombank (VEB), increasing maximum loan size for strategic companies, other measures). |
| 11.05.2020 (+101) R, F, C, KR | <p>Changes are introduced to existing set of restrictive measures and new measures to support the population and business are proposed (within the framework of the meeting held by the President of Russia):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ending of the non-working period from 12.05.2020 (maintaining general sanitary requirements); - social support measures: from April to June, additional payments will be made to families eligible for maternity capital in the amount of 5,000 roubles per month for each child under three years of age; from 01.06.2020 families with the income per family member below the subsistence level will be able to receive payments for children aged three to seven inclusively. One-time payment of 10,000 roubles is offered for each child aged 3 to under 16 years; - measures to support business: from 01.06.2020 a special loan programme to support employment is launched (for enterprises in the affected industries, as well as for socially oriented NGOs); obtaining a six-month deferral in taxes and insurance payments for enterprises in the affected industries with the possibility to liquidate them smoothly, throughout the year; providing all self-employed citizens with "tax capital" in the amount of one minimum wage, with which they will be able to pay taxes; capital of regional institutions that provide financial support to small and medium-sized businesses will be increased by 12 billion roubles (funds are included in the national project "Support to small and medium-sized businesses" for the coming years). |
| 15.05.2020 (+105) M, KR | Construction of a multifunctional medical centre of the Ministry of Defence, with the capacity of 100 beds, is completed in Kaliningrad. Construction took 56 days. |
| 29.05.2020 (+119) F, C, KR | Refund of the tax paid for 2019 is offered to self-employed citizens (1.6 billion roubles allocated). |
| 30.05.2020 (+120) M | The Russian Ministry of Healthcare approves the first in Russia medicine for coronavirus. |
| 02.06.2020 (+123) R | <p>The President of Russia orders the Russian Government to prepare proposals to detail the composition of the national projects.</p> <p>The Prime Minister presents to the President of Russia the National Action Plan ensuring the re-establishment of employment and incomes of the population, economic growth and long-term structural changes in the economy (nine sections, about 500 measures in total).</p> |
| 03.06.2020 (+124) M, C, KR | Provision of scheduled medical assistance to citizens in medical institutions is resumed. |
| 05.06.2020 (+126) R, C, KR | The Kaliningrad Region is one of the pioneers among Russian regions to begin lifting restrictive measures. |

| Date ¹³ | Event |
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| Event category ¹⁴ | |
| 17.06.2020 (+138) M | Clinical trials of vaccines against COVID-19 begin in Russia. |
| 19.06.2020 (+140) F | The Bank of Russia cuts its key rate by 100 basic points (up to 4.5%) amid prolonged restrictive measures and a drop in external and domestic demand. |
| 19.06.2020 (+140) R, C, KR | The Kaliningrad Region moves over to the second stage of lifting restrictions. |
| 20.06.2020 (+141) | The draft of the national plan for economic recovery is sent to the President of Russia. |
| 23.06.2020 (+144) R, F, C | Vladimir Putin's address to the citizens of Russia: additional measures are announced to support the population and business (extension until August of incentive payments to medical staff who directly provided assistance to patients with coronavirus infection, as well as to employees of social welfare institutions until September 15; additional payment of 10,000 roubles for each child "aged 0 to 16" in July; extension till July and August of effect of all decisions taken to support the labour market, on increased unemployment benefits, on payments to children in families with temporary unemployed parents, an increase in the personal income tax rate from 13% to 15% for those with annual income over five million roubles; and other measures). |
| 26.06.2020 (+147) R, F, C | The list of economy sectors most affected by COVID-19 spread is supplemented by the following sectors: intercity passenger transportation by rail; activities of maritime passenger transport; and activities of inland waterway passenger transport. |
| 30.06.2020 (+151) R, M, C, KR | The decree of the Chief State Sanitary Doctor of the Russian Federation introduces sanitary and epidemiological requirements for those applying for a job and working at social infrastructure facilities for children and youth under COVID-19 spread (educational, leisure, sports, health and other institutions, including those providing supervision and care for minors). The Kaliningrad Region starts a phased lifting of restrictive measures related to coronavirus infection. |
| 01.07.2020 (+152) R, F, C | Summer tourist season begins in Russia; restrictive measures are tentatively lifted in tourism sphere in a number of regions, including the Kaliningrad Region. Railway communication between the Kaliningrad Region and mainland Russia is resumed. |
| 03.07.2020 (+154) R, M, C, KR | Rospotrebnadzor imposes restrictions on mass events for children until the end of the year; special sanitary requirements are established for schools and kindergartens during the coronavirus pandemic for the period until 01.01.2021; a temporary ban is introduced on children's stay at summer camps outside the Russian constituent entity of actual residence (with the exception of the Arctic zone, as well as Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Sevastopol). |
| 15.07.2020 (+166) R, M, KR | Small and medium-sized businesses and socially oriented non-profit organisations can receive subsidies for preventive and disinfection measures. Observation requirements for citizens arriving from abroad are lifted in the Kaliningrad Region. |

| Date ¹³ | Event |
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| Event category ¹⁴ | |
| 16.07.2020 (+167) F | The maximum size of soft loan for strategic companies and their subsidiaries is increased to five billion roubles. |
| 24.07.2020 (+175) F | The Bank of Russia cuts its key rate by 25 basic points (up 4.25%) to a new historic low. |
| 27.07.2020 (+178) R, M, C, KR | The Russian Minister of Education announces the beginning of the new school year in a conventional mode (without distance format). The third stage of lifting restrictive measures starts in the Kaliningrad Region. |
| 01.08.2020 (+183) R, M, C, KR | Obligatory self-isolation for 14 days for persons arriving in Russia by evacuation and regular flights is lifted (with the exception of foreign citizens arriving in Russia to work). Foreign citizens must provide PCR test results, Russian citizens must be tested within three days. |
| 01.08.2020 (+183) M | The Russian Minister of Healthcare announces the completion of clinical trials of coronavirus vaccine developed by the Gamaleia National Research Centre for Epidemiology and Microbiology; plans for mass vaccination from October 2020 announced. |
| 03.08.2020 (+185) M | The first stage of investigation of population immunity to COVID-19 starts in the Kaliningrad Region (held from 3 to 9 August). A total of 3,143 volunteers sign up. |
| 06.08.2020 (+188) R, M, C, KR | A list of orders by the Russian President related to the preparation of health care system for the autumn-winter period 2020-2021 is approved (financing measures for prevention of acute respiratory infections; funding the purchase of medicines, individual protective means, disinfectants, formation of their stocks; maintaining provision of special beds; organisation of free medical check-ups and vaccination campaign against the flu covering up to 60% of the population and 75% of people from risk groups, as well as vaccination against COVID-19 after state registration of vaccines; other measures). The Resolution of the Russian Government is issued: medical personnel who fought against coronavirus are entitled to early retirement considering their pensionable service period on a "one day counted as two" basis. |
| 11.08.2020 (+193) M | The vaccine developed by the Gamaleia National Research Centre for Epidemiology and Microbiology (called Sputnik V) against the new coronavirus is officially registered (the first in the world). It is planned to introduce the vaccine into civil circulation on 01.01.2021. |
| 12.08.2020 (+194) R, C, KR | Simplified formalities for obtaining pensions and social benefits for the population are extended until the end of August. The Kaliningrad Region extends the self-isolation regime for citizens aged 65 years and over. |
| 15.08.2020 (+197) M | The first batch (15,500 doses) of the first Russian coronavirus vaccine (Sputnik V) is manufactured at the Binnopharm pharmaceutical plant in Zelenograd. |
| 11.09.2020 (+224) R, C | In the Kaliningrad Region, 9,158 residents receive a regional "coronavirus" payment of 10,000 roubles. |

| Date ¹³ Event category ¹⁴ | Event |
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| 24.09.2020 (+237) R, C | <p>The procedure for travellers returning from abroad by air is changed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - travellers are supposed to fill in the questionnaire on board the plane and fill in the electronic form on the Public Services Portal of the Russian Federation before departure to the Russian Federation (when purchasing a ticket, but no later than check-in for the flight); - within three calendar days from the date of arrival on the territory of Russia, citizens of Russia must undergo a laboratory test for COVID-19 by the PCR method and place the information about the result in a special form on the Public Services Portal; - before receiving the results of laboratory tests for COVID-19, people must observe the isolation regime at the place of residence (stay). |
| 01.10.2020 (+244) M, KR | <p>The Kaliningrad Region sees effects of a second wave of pandemic: from 01.10.2020 to 31.10.2020, temporary restrictions are introduced due to coronavirus spread; a ban on business, sports, cultural, entertainment, public and other events is imposed. The exception is sports events involving the teams of Baltika football club and Lokomotiv, the Kaliningrad Region volleyball club, provided that the events are held from October 10 to October 31 without spectators. Theatres, philharmonic halls, and concert halls are allowed to operate, providing only seating places to the public and maintaining social distancing (with the occupancy of no more than 50% seats).</p> <p>Work of restaurants, cafes, canteens, bars, buffets, snack bars and other public catering establishments is limited, including those in hotels, entertainment facilities and tourist complexes.</p> <p>Citizens must use individual protective means (face masks) at retailers, markets, on public transport, at transport infrastructure facilities (train and railway stations), at departments of multifunctional centres, post offices, bank branches, medical organisations (while waiting for an appointment) and other facilities rendering services to the population.</p> |
| 05.10.2020 (+248) M, KR | <p>The second stage of investigation of population immunity to COVID-19 starts in the Kaliningrad Region (takes place from 5 to 9 October).</p> |
| 13.10.2020 (+256) M | <p>ELISA vaccine Epivakkorona undergoes State registration.</p> |
| 16.10.2020 (+259) R, M, C, KR | <p>With a view to reducing risks of COVID-19 spread during a seasonal rise in the incidence of acute respiratory viral infections and flu in Russia, the Chief State Sanitary Doctor approves the decree "On additional measures to reduce risks of COVID-19 spread during a seasonal rise in the incidence of acute respiratory viral infections and flu".</p> |

| Date ¹³ Event category ¹⁴ | Event |
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| 27.10.2020 (+270) R, M, C, KR | <p>New Sanitary requirements for public catering are published and come into force on 01.01.2021.</p> <p>The Kaliningrad Region introduces temporary restrictions due to COVID-19 spread:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - mask requirement is enhanced. Besides public transport and shops, wearing personal protective equipment is obligatory in taxis, at parking lots, and in elevators; - until 01.12.2020, self-isolation is introduced for non-employed residents of the region aged 65 years and over, as well as for citizens with respiratory diseases (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, bronchial asthma), endocrine diseases (pancreatic diabetes); - employers should ensure, by agreement of the parties, a transfer to a remote work mode of at least 30% of office employees, as well as persons aged 65 years and over. |
| 03.11.2020 (+277) M, KR | <p>In the Kaliningrad Region, starting November 3, employers are recommended to transfer half of their office employees to remote work. The rules for enhanced cleaning and disinfection of premises remain in force.</p> <p>Institutions of higher professional education and their branches are recommended to shift to distance learning by 04.12.2020. Some of the universities have already worked in this mode. The terms of self-isolation for citizens over 65 years are clarified. It will run from November 3 to 16.</p> |
| 11.11.2020 (+285) M, KR | <p>According to the Regional Emergency response centre: 318,129 people have been checked for COVID-19 on an accrual basis, of which 8,195 cases have been detected (5,302 people have recovered), 106 have died, 3,117 people remain under observation.</p> <p>In the region, 1,700 beds are deployed for the treatment of pneumonia and coronavirus. 281.4 tests per 100,000 population are made every day in the Kaliningrad Region on average.</p> <p>New restrictions are introduced.</p> |
| 13.11.2020 (+287) R, C, KR | <p>Sanitary and epidemiological rules for the prevention of COVID-19 are updated.</p> <p>The Government of the Kaliningrad Region allocates funds to support the cinemas (ten million roubles) and event industry (20 million roubles).</p> |
| 21.11.2020 (+295) R, M, C, KR | <p>The national "hotline" on testing for COVID-19 is launched by the Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights Protection and Human Wellbeing.</p> <p>The Kaliningrad Region starts providing outpatients with antiviral and antibacterial medicines funded with the money from federal (38.1 million roubles) and regional (10.0 million roubles) budgets.</p> |
| 01.12.2020 (+305) R, C, KR | <p>Partial lifting of restrictions in the Kaliningrad Region starts: restrictions on the number of visitors to shops are cancelled; from 01.12.2020 school classes in the city of Kaliningrad for pupils of grades 6-10 are resumed. At the same time, additional education institutions and leisure organisations continue operating remotely until 31.12.2020.</p> <p>Colleges and universities are recommended to continue distance learning mode.</p> |

| Date ¹³ Event category ¹⁴ | Event |
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| 11.12.2020 (+315) M, C, KR | Mass vaccination against coronavirus starts in the Kaliningrad Region. Region receives the first batch of 400 doses of domestic immune-biological preparation Sputnik V. |
| 14.12.2020 (+318) M | The third stage of investigation of population immunity to COVID-19 in the Kaliningrad Region starts (takes place from 14 to 18 December). |
| 21.12.2020 (+325) W, M | Russian Rospotrebnadzor makes a statement "On a new strain of coronavirus in the UK". |
| 24.12.2020 (+328) R, C, KR | <p>Additional restrictive measures are imposed for the New Year holidays.</p> <p>From 25.12.2020 to 10.01.2021, New Year's celebrations are prohibited in educational organisations, cultural institutions, sports centres, entertainment centres, art spaces, museums, galleries, shopping centres, swimming pools, baths (saunas), photo studios, with the exception of kindergartens, which must observe previously developed requirements. This restriction also applies to street concerts and festivals.</p> <p>For schoolchildren, vacations are introduced from 28.12.2020 to 17.01.2021. Organisations of additional education, colleges and higher education institutions work in a distance form. Kindergartens work in a routine mode. Fitness centres and sports clubs cannot conduct group trainings, though no restrictions are employed to clients' independent training at such organisations.</p> <p>Restrictions on banquets, weddings, corporate events, including at workplaces, are extended until 31.12.2020.</p> <p>Work of catering establishments in shopping centres without a separate entrance is prohibited from December 25. Restriction on work of food courts and street food facilities remains in force until January 15.</p> <p>Servicing visitors at catering establishments is prohibited from 00:00 on December 31, 2020 to 00:00 on January 3, 2021.</p> <p>From 25 to 30 December, food services are allowed from 6 am to 7 pm, from 3 to 10 January - from 6 am to 9 pm. At the same time, take-away service, delivery to your home, to hotel rooms are allowed.</p> |
| 25.12.2020 (+329) R, C, KR | <p>The Government of the Kaliningrad Region allocates 40 million roubles for subsidies to support entrepreneurs from public catering and additional education sector, who, due to anti-epidemic measures, are forced to limit their economic activities until January 10, 2021.</p> <p>Decision is made on gradual opening of schools after winter holidays:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On January 11, the entire primary school (grades 1-4), as well as this year's leavers (grades 9,11), start studies; - On January 18, students of grades 5-8 and 10 resume studies. |

Source: compiled by the author from numerous official sources.

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