In the face of the COVID-19 crisis, the European Commission’s top priority is safeguarding the health and well-being of its citizens, using all the tools at its disposal.

The EC has taken a multi-faceted approach:

1. **EU Solidarity for Health Initiative**
   - Launched on 2 April
   - Aimed directly at supporting health care systems of EU Member States
   - Provides €6 billion to meet needs of European health systems

2. **Crisis Coordination Strategy**
   - Video conferences at the level of the European Council
   - Regular discussions with Health Ministers
   - Meetings of the Health Security Committee
   - Rapid exchange of information
   - Extensive monitoring
   - Coordination of response measures

3. **Ensuring High-quality Coronavirus Testing**
   - Set standards for testing kit quality
   - Establish a network of reference laboratories
   - Fight against counterfeit devices
   - Coordinate fair distribution of kits and devices

4. **Commission Guidelines**
   - Focus on patient mobility across borders
   - Cross-border medical assistance
   - Relieving the burden on national health systems
   - Steps for reimbursement of healthcare costs
   - Encouraging the use of bilateral/regional agreements

The EC set up an advisory panel on coronavirus composed of seven expert epidemiologists and virologists from EU Member States to formulate science-based EU response guidelines and coordinate risk management measures.

In addition, notifications of serious cross-border health threats are made through the Early Warning and Response System.

The EU-Japan Webinar Series: Webinar 5, 30 July 2020 on Public Health

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