

Covid-19 | 14th Stakeholder Communiqué | 5th February 2021

Dear Team-Member, Customer, Supplier, Contractor, Neighbor, and all other Stakeholders,

We are probably past the half way of this pandemic and vaccines may be on the horizon but the virus is still causing havoc.

In most of our locations the Covid-19 situation can be considered relatively stable and under control, with none, to very few cases, being detected. Regrettably, our site in Portugal is heading in the opposite direction. Portugal is currently the country with the most COVID-19 cases in the world per million people (>1200 cases, rolling 7-day average) and the country with the most daily new confirmed COVID-19 deaths per million people¹.

Our company has made substantial efforts since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic to deploy procedures and rules to reduce and minimize the impact of the pandemic on our people and operations. The current situation in Portugal creates an unprecedented set of challenges well beyond our control, these may impact both our manufacturing facility in Sete Casas and our R&D facility in Lumiar. Overall, we went from 13 new positive cases identified in the entire month of December 2020 to almost the same number of new cases identified in Portugal per week in January.

On November 28th we started to test every week 100% of our Team Members and contractors that are on site (>800 individuals). This has allowed us to detect asymptomatic positive cases, and although the number was low in each of the first 7 weeks (on average, 1 asymptomatic positive case per week), during the last 2 weeks the number jumped to 15. Fortunately, we have not had one seriously ill case since March.

Covid-19 is driving involuntary absenteeism. While we have so far managed to cope with this new level of complexity thanks to our flexible team concept, and despite our best efforts, it is not unreasonable to assume that we may experience interruptions on certain production lines if the situation endures or gets worse.

Looking at the data and the modelling, even in the worst case scenario, the production interruptions would not be long ones. Because Portugal has been in tight lock-down for 3 weeks, the chains of infection will soon break down sufficiently for the curve of new infections to invert.

We remain committed to getting through these difficult times. We have a great team, customers have sent us words of appreciation and support. This is just one more hurdle we will overcome.

For all other on-going activities see our webpage [Covid-19/Coronavirus](#).
Act safe!

Guy Villax
Chief Executive

[Click here for our previous External Stakeholder Communiqués](#)
For more information, please contact Isabel Pina at Hovione Communications
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¹ Latest available data in accordance with "Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19)", published online at [OurWorldInData.org](https://www.ourworldindata.org), created in collaboration between the University of Oxford and the non-profit organization Global Change Data Lab.