



## **Patience, solidarity, discipline and community spirit key to defeating COVID-19**

Patience, solidarity, discipline and community spirit will be the key to defeating the COVID-19 crisis in the coming weeks, the Principal Deputy High Representative and Brčko District Supervisor Michael Scanlan said today.

"I am deeply saddened by the news of the first fatality in Brčko caused by COVID-19 and wish to extend my condolences to the family. This sad fact reminds us of how severe the consequences can be.

COVID-19 is an invisible threat to all of us. The only way to protect ourselves, our loved ones, friends, neighbours and the community is to strictly observe the social distancing measures in place and staying in isolation if required.

It will get hard as spring weather and sunny days will tempt us all to go outdoors, especially for families with small children, as I know myself. But right now, it is essential to avoid contracting and spreading the coronavirus.

If the spread is contained and the outbreak avoided, we will get through this crisis faster, with no more fatalities. If it is not contained, the healthcare system will be challenged, the crisis will drag on, and the economic dislocation will be greater.

The Government, District Assembly and public servants of Brčko District have done a great job, both in terms of immediate measures and laying the foundations for mitigating the economic consequences. I urge them to remain focused, committed, and supportive of each other and to continue to lead by example to inspire every resident of the District to do their part.

No one is saying the prolonged distancing and isolation is easy, but if coronavirus is contained there will be plenty of opportunities to enjoy the summer and get back to the work of bringing good private-sector jobs to the District and improving the quality of life for everyone. I assure you I am doing my part, along with my family, and all my colleagues at OHR. We follow the rules, and I hope everyone in Brčko will continue to do the same for the benefit of the entire community," concluded the Supervisor.