Modes of Emergency during Covid Pandemic in Lithuania: 2020-2022

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(working notes)

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Research Council of Lithuania

Most significant events in 2020 managing pandemic

February 26: emergency declared

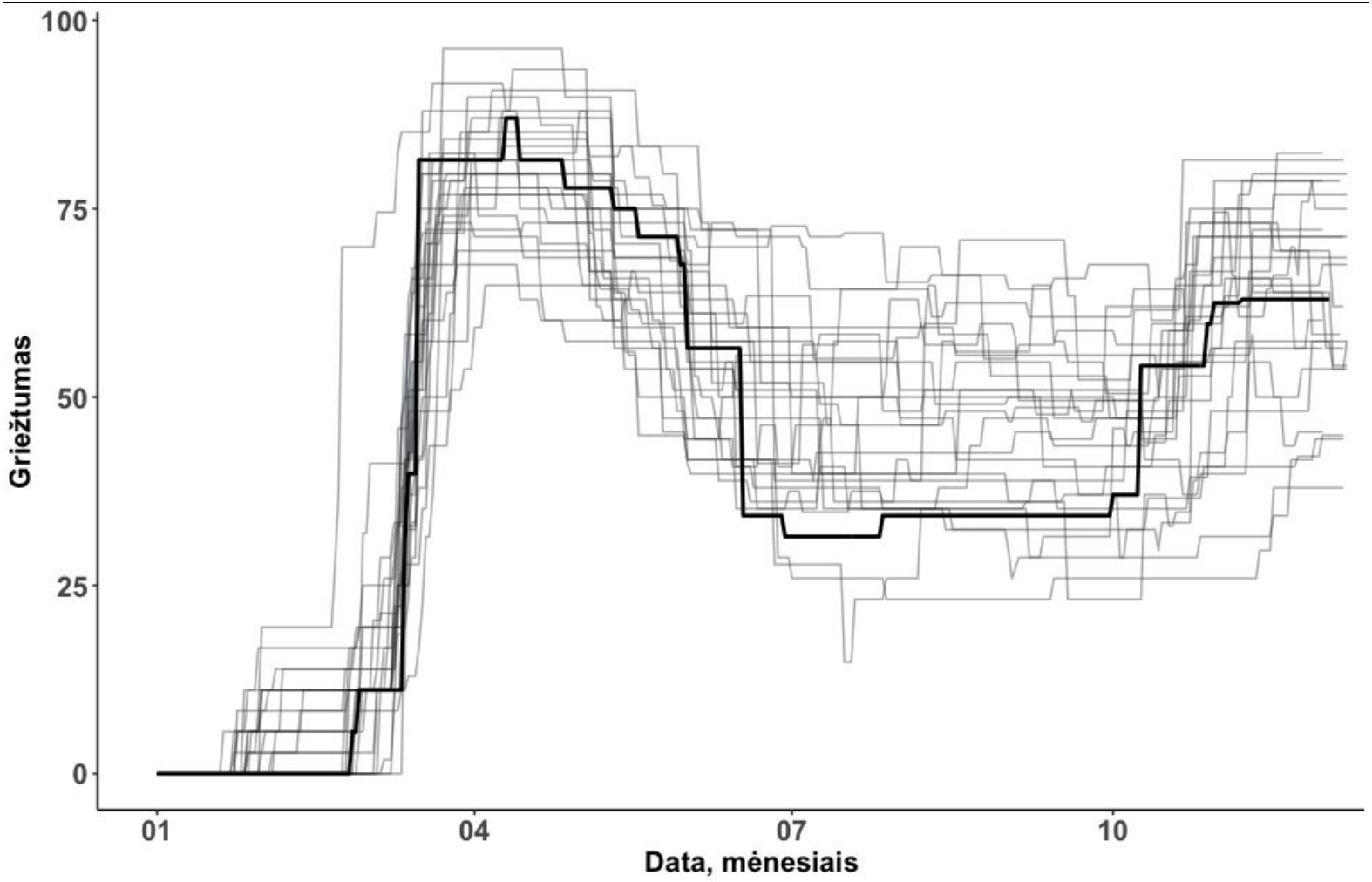
March 16: start of quarantine

June 16: end of quarantine

October 21: new restrictions

November 7: new quarantine

December: “Christmas ban”


100
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Griežtumas
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Data, mėnesiais

Most significant events in 2021 managing pandemic

Strict quarantine with movement limitations till April 6

May 24: Pass of Possibilities

May 31: Mass vaccination

July 1:

- EU Covid certificates
- **end of quarantine,** but still emergency
- +**Belarus “extraordinary situation”**
- **+state of emergency** at the border from 11-10 till 01-15

Most significant events in 2022 managing pandemic

February 24, 2022: **state of emergency** (Russia aggression on Ukraine)

April, 2022: end of mask regime

May 1: **end of emergency over Covid**

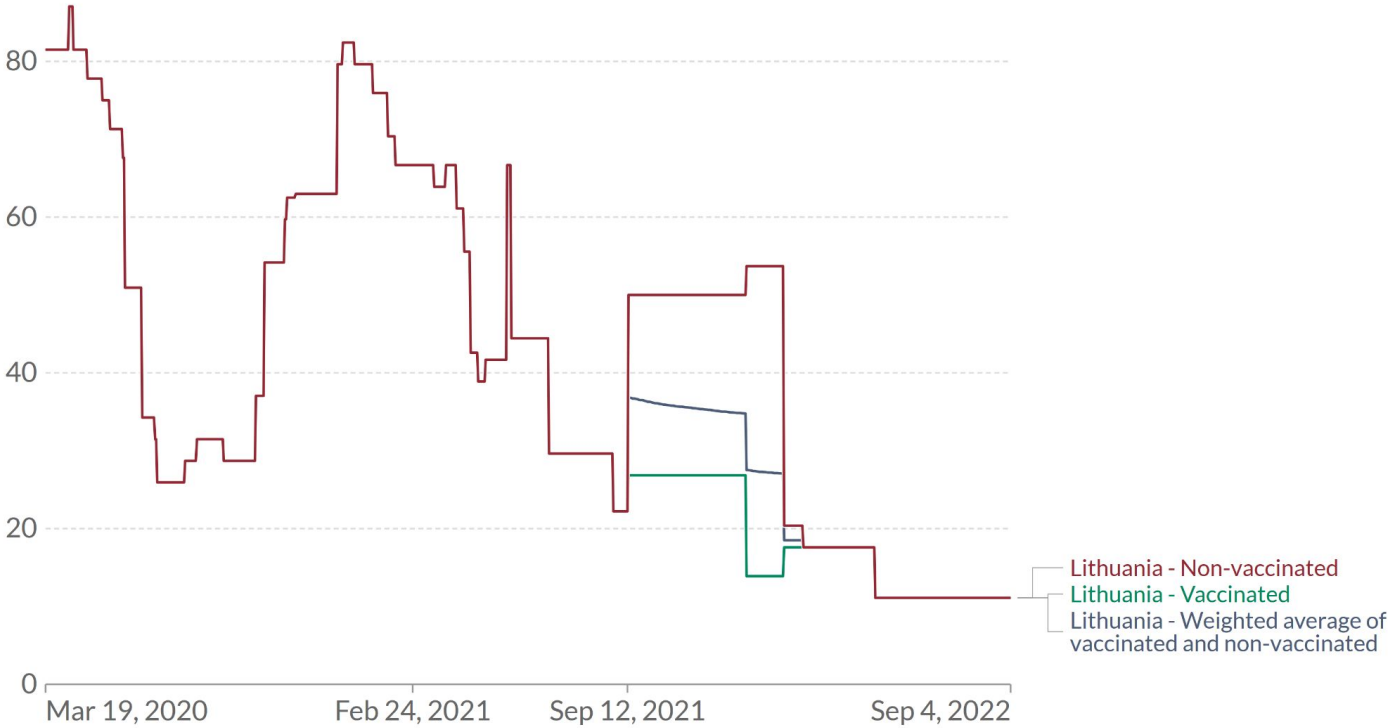
Length: 2 years + 2 months

Still emergency over “mass influx of foreigners from Belarus”

COVID-19: Stringency Index

The stringency index is a composite measure based on nine response indicators including school closures, workplace closures, and travel bans, rescaled to a value from 0 to 100 (100 = strictest).

Our World in Data



Source: Hale, T., Angrist, N., Goldszmidt, R. et al. A global panel database of pandemic policies (Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker). Nat Hum Behav 5, 529–538 (2021). https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-021-01079-8

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Policy response in “waves”

Suppression strategy in the spring 2020

  “Flatten the curve”

Mitigation strategy in the summer 2020

  “Unlock and grow”

Suppression in the autumn again (with less success) till April 2021

Problem

Initial focus o pandemic emergency, but it got enmeshed with other modes emergencies and extraordinary situations

The role and mode of three emergencies with complex regimes

Response mode (pandemic)

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crisis response paradigm

governance capacity and legitimacy

political context

crisis management logic

Crisis management logic

Control, surveillance, restrictions

Paternalistic leadership

Cooperative governance in theory, inter-institutional, “inter-sectoral” mistrust in practice

Closed/limited communication → “we just know”

Role of experts questionable

Learning (adaptation and adjustments)

Layers of Emergency (Mobility)

Pandemic emergency

“Hybrid threats” emergency

“Russian War” Emergency

Pandemic emergency

Two quarantines and emergency - Oscillating

In the beginning: whole population, territory, nation

After vaccines: divisions and layers

Obedience and personal responsibility

Consciousness/solidarity - esp with government

“Hybrid threats” emergency

For (influx/surge of) “others”

Extraordinary situation

First time declaration of state of emergency in LT history:

- Restricted to border region
- And 5 detention centers

Human rights restrictions (pushbacks, detensions)

“temporary accommodation without freedom of movement”

“Russian War” Emergency

State of exception in the whole territory

Symbolic, just in case

Yet

Will stay “till the regional security situation changes”

Normalization of exception?

What does it mean?

End of three year crisis emergencies?

Hardly

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