



GEORGIA Brief 2020

Actions Taken in Georgia in Terms of COVID-19

Pandemic of COVID-19 caused by the novel coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) has been spreading rapidly across the globe. To mitigate potential harm associated with COVID-19, provide timely response and ensure stability for all sectors, the Government of Georgia (GoG) has initiated an effective multi-sectoral collaborative work at the earliest stage.

National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC) established and activated Public Health Emergency Operation Center (PHEOC), where the structure of Incidence Management System (IMS) was developed. On 4th of February Georgia had already laboratory diagnostic capacity and at the same time country started to take various measures against the potential importation and spread of COVID-19 in the country such as suspension of flights with high risk countries (29 January), the closure of borders, thermal screening at the airports and controlling the international travelers coming to Georgia.

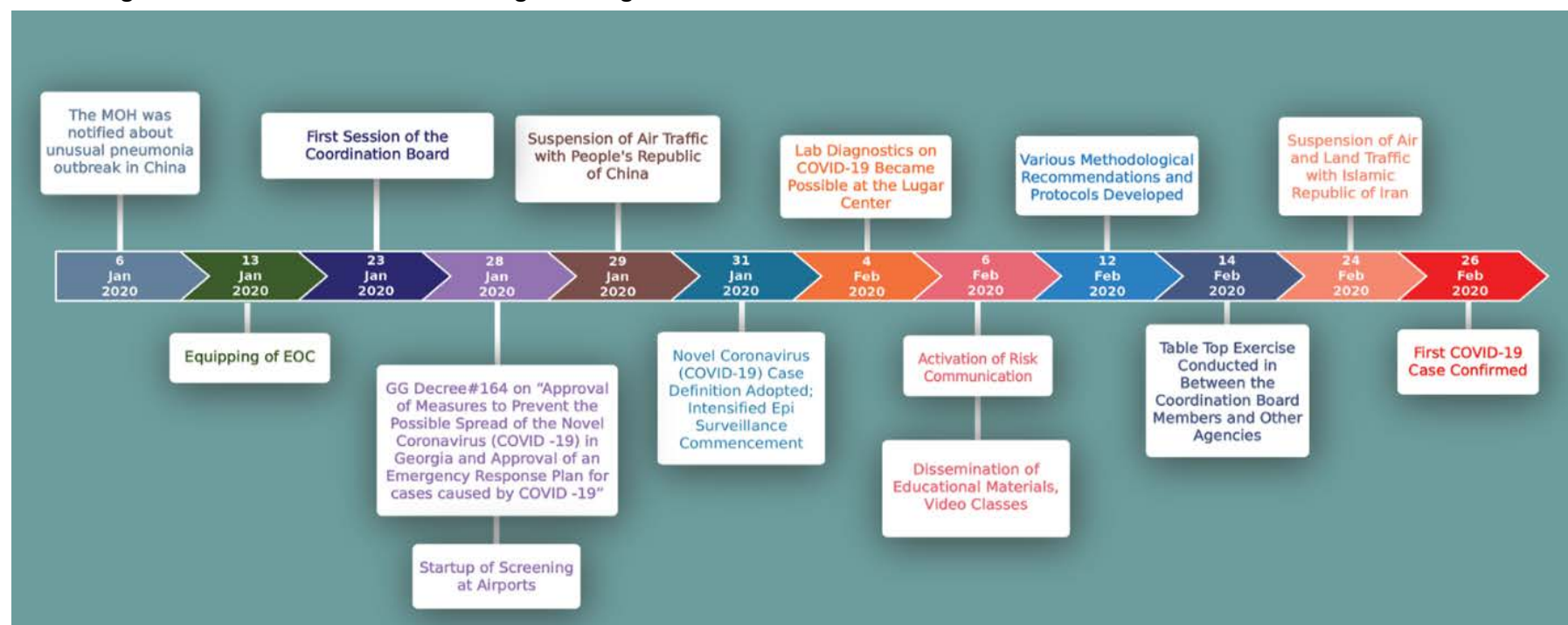


Figure 1 January

After the first confirmed case, country has **strengthened control measures** by close multi-sectoral collaboration between different structures, which were involved in COVID-19 response.

After the announcement of community transmission (March 20) the measurements which helped the flattening the curve were the declaration of state of emergency (March 21), “commandant hour”, the quarantine of highly affected municipalities (March 23) and at last total quarantine was enforced (March 31).

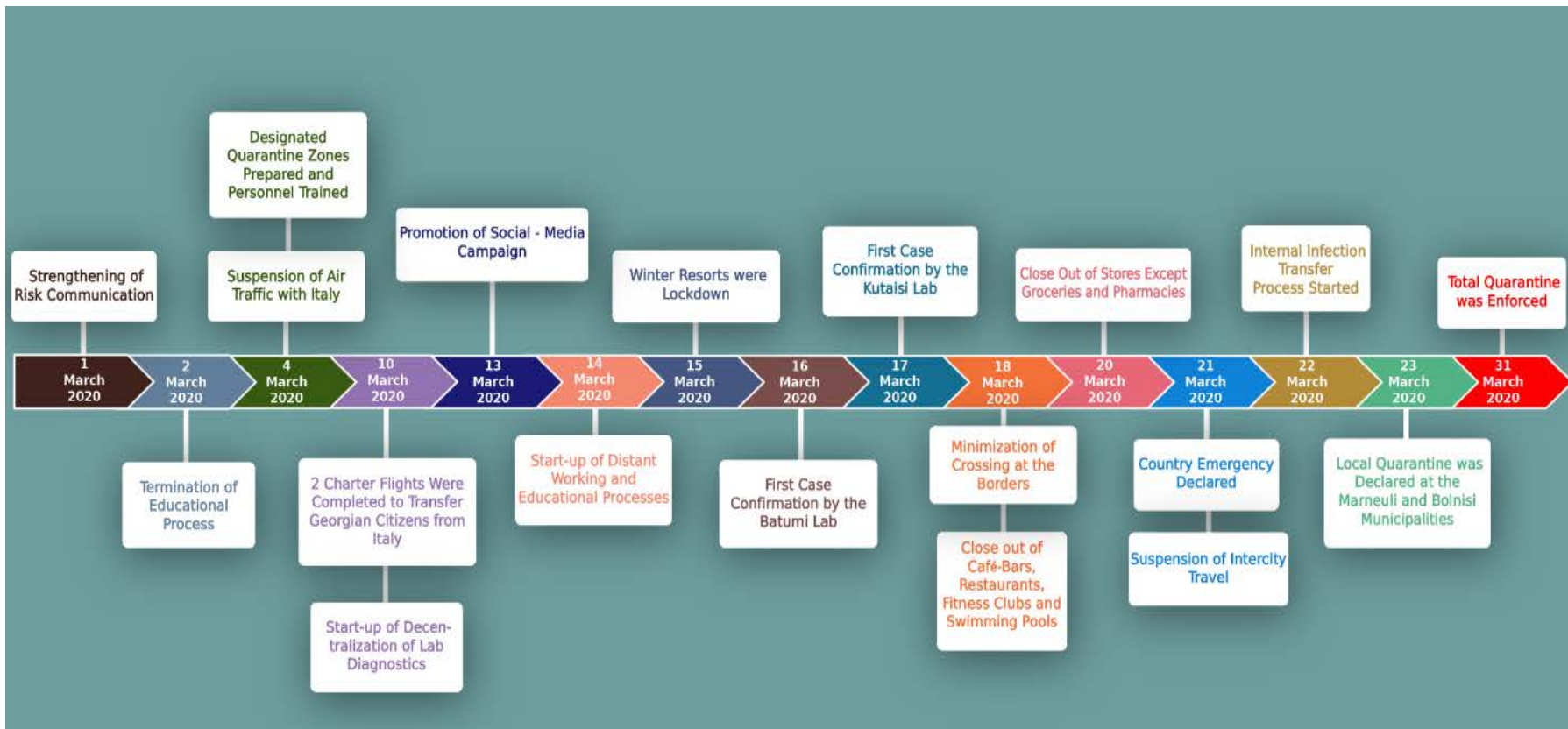


Figure 2 March

In April the country was **managing the spread of the virus** by awareness raising and “stay home “campaigns, new platform for communication with population was adopted.

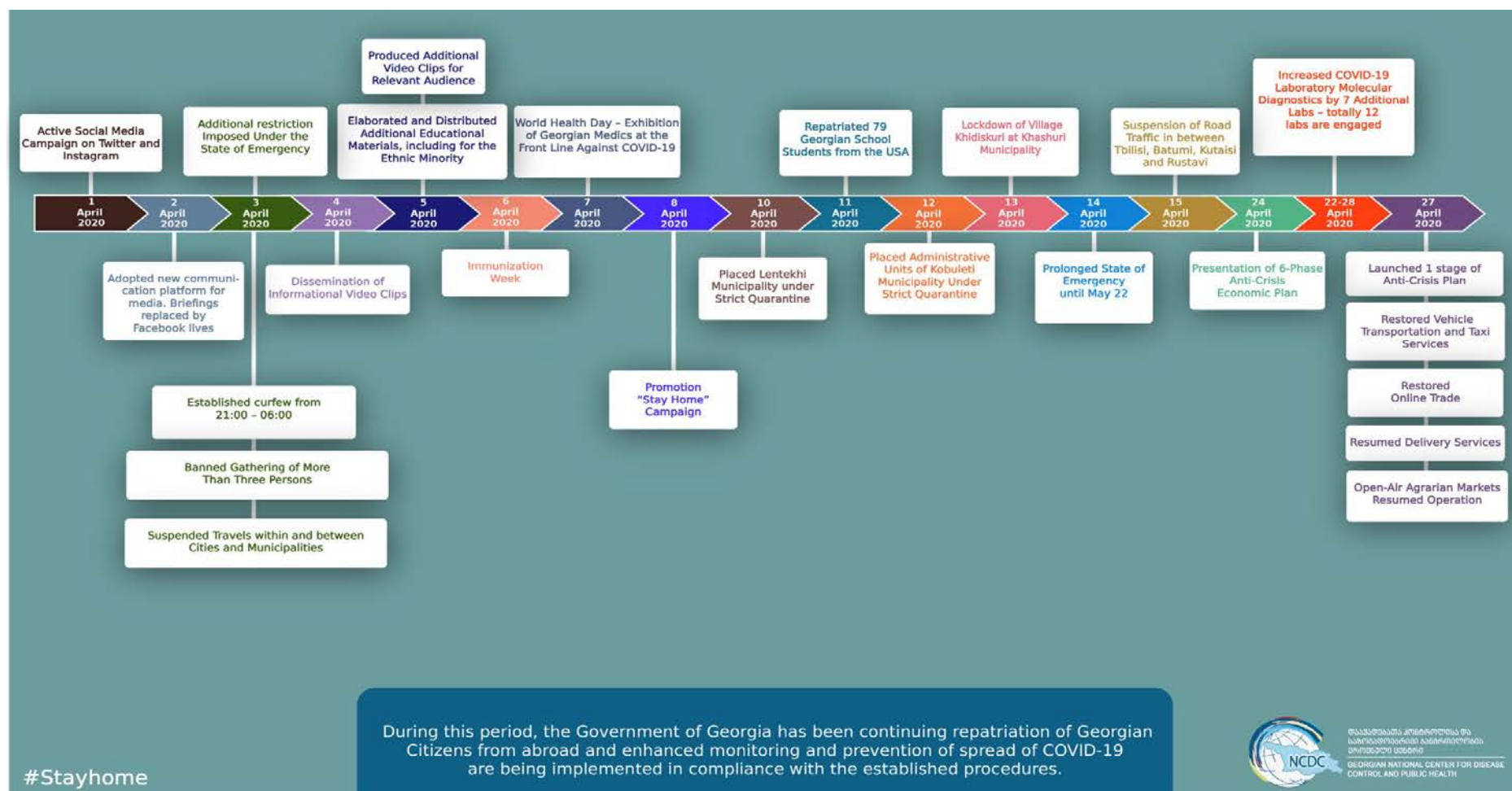


Figure 3 April

From the end of April and May step-by-step country was relaxing measures after the lockdown and **reopening and removing** the restrictions.

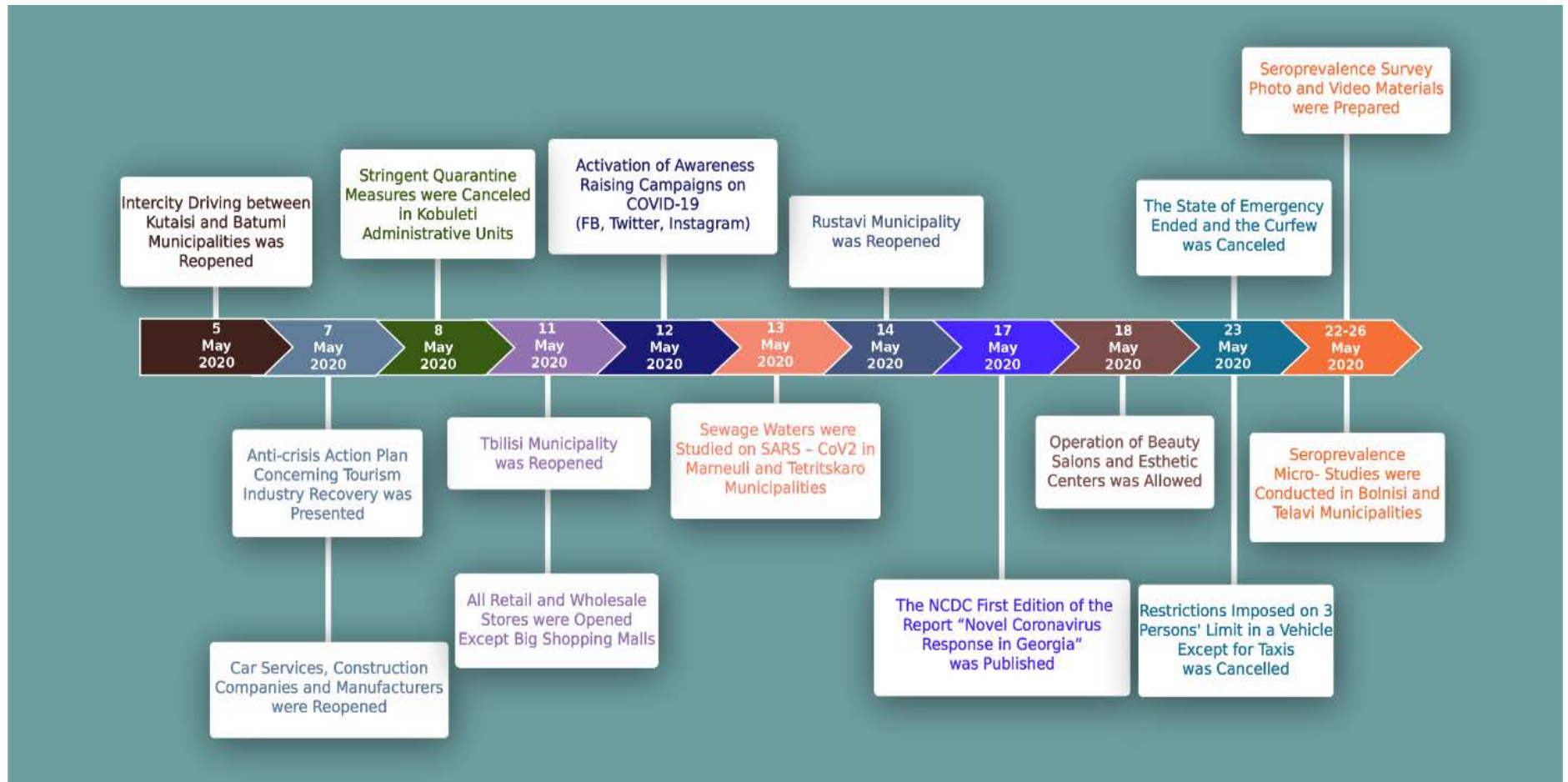


Figure 4 May

In June and July seroprevalence study and trainings were conducted in the regions of Georgia, risk communication plan was developed, webinars with ethnical minorities were held. Already in August the state border of Georgia was opened unconditionally for 5 out of 27 EU member states (Germany, France, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania) and the testing of international truck drivers at the borders started.

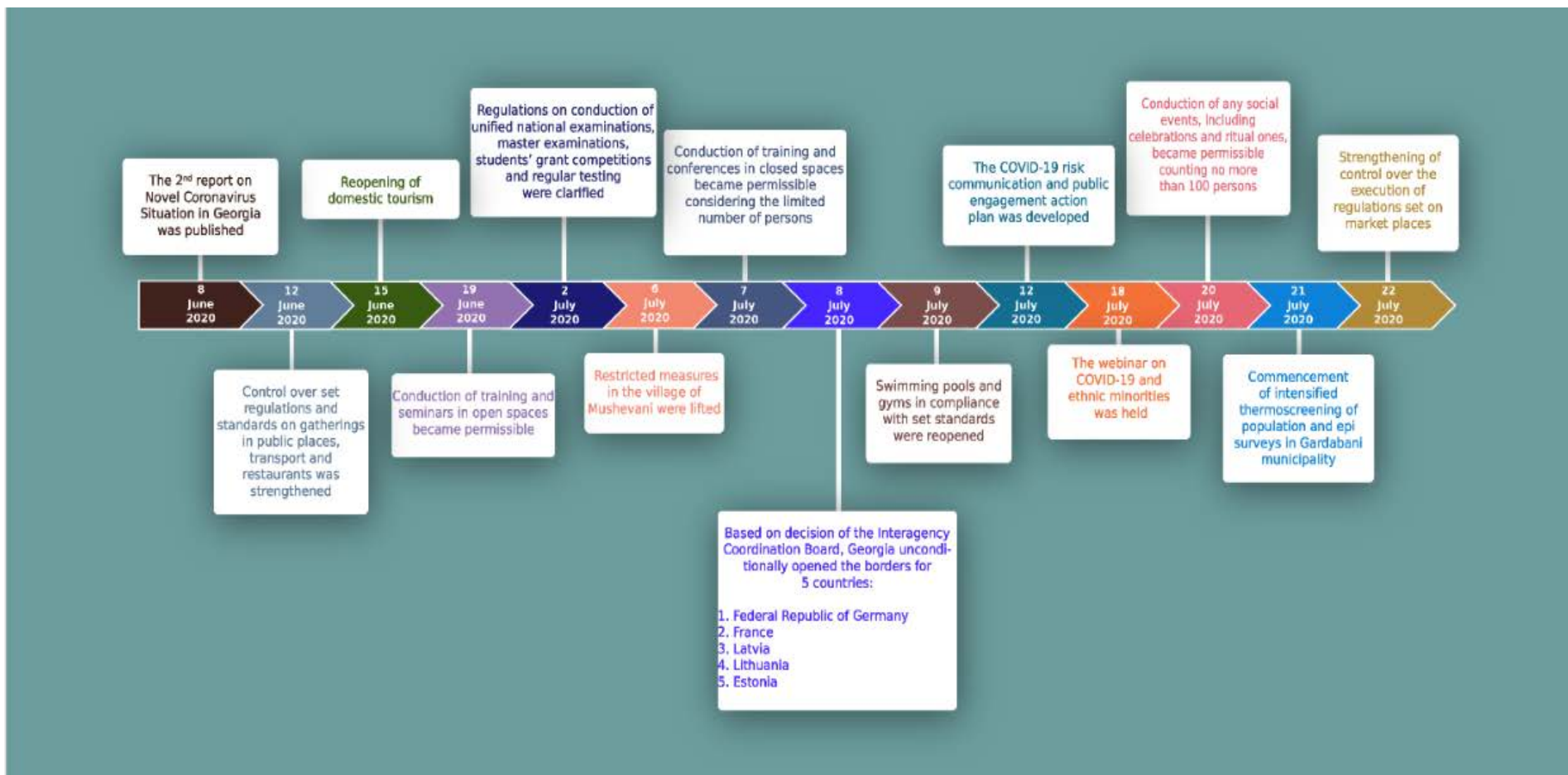


Figure 5 June-July

From the end of the August in the region of Adjara community transmission started and from September social events like anniversaries, weddings and funerals were forbidden in the country. During this period lab network was expanded, preparedness plan for strengthening healthcare sector for COVID-19 was developed and presented, social network campaigns were intensified and trainings on COVID-19 management were conducted. In the end of September on the basis of sharp increase of cases in Adjara, the trend of universal prevalence in the whole country was seen. Guidelines for home care for patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 and management of their contacts were developed.

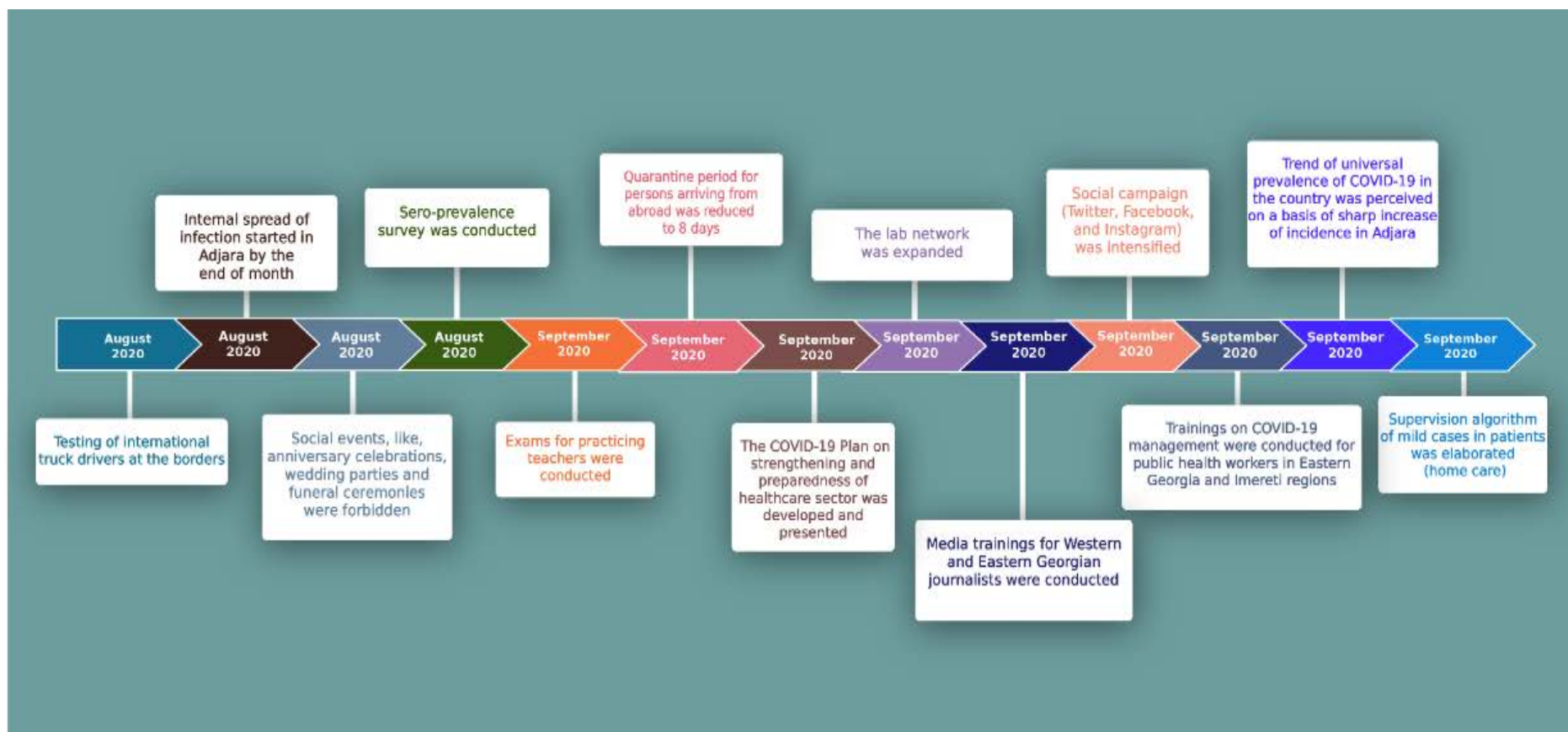


Figure 6 August-September

In October and November the phase of light lockdowns started. Apart from the restrictions the number of COVID-19 clinics and COVID-19 quarantine zones was increased. Primary healthcare system inclusion in COVID-19 response was intensified and continuous supervision on COVID-19 patients was imposed. Treatment guidelines were renewed and in the end of October the testing with Antigen and PCR was expanded throughout the whole country.

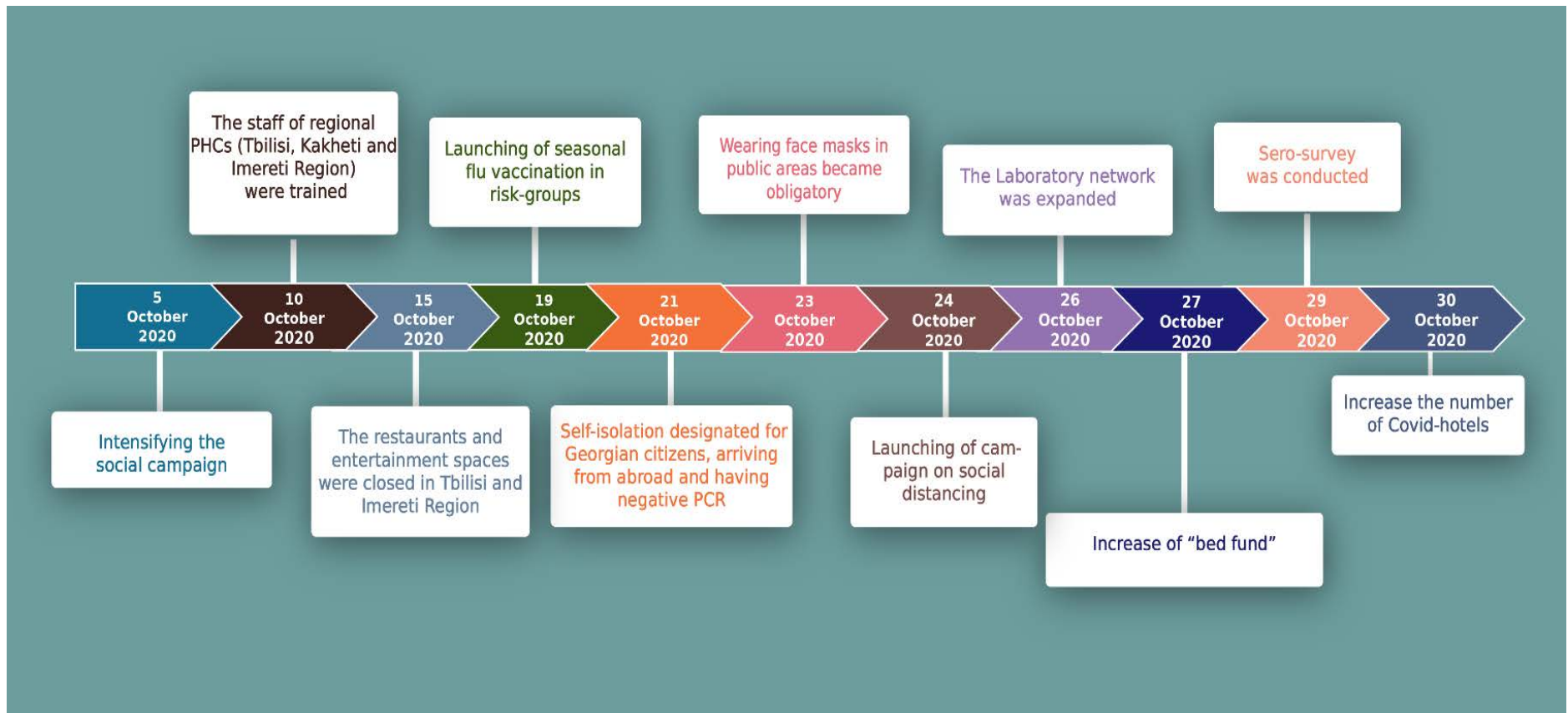


Figure 7 October

