

The Lithuanian health system is centrally organised and supervised by the Ministry of Health, with implementation roles delegated to national institutes and regional public health authorities. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Lithuania activated an interinstitutional response mechanism involving the Ministry of Health, the National Public Health Centre under the Ministry of Health and Health Emergency Situations Centre. Research funding was reoriented to support urgent public health needs, and collaboration with academic institutions was strengthened. Lithuania does not yet have a dedicated R&I strategy focused solely on pandemic preparedness but contributes to European initiatives in health research, antimicrobial resistance, and digital innovation. National research efforts are coordinated primarily through the Research Council of Lithuania and supported by open science and health data platforms. Infrastructures such as clinical trial centers, university hospitals, and biobanks are in place and contribute to EU-level collaborations.

R&I Policies and Strategies

The information is not exhaustive and should be updated regularly.

Country has a dedicated strategy for research and innovation related to pandemic threat? No dedicated R&I strategy focused solely on pandemic preparedness

Country has an open science portal with information on publicly financed scientific research? Lithuania Open Data Portal (Hosts an official “COVID 19 pandemic data” dataset, with comprehensive CSV/JSON/JSONL feeds sourced from the State Data Agency)

R&I portal <https://data.gov.lt/datasets/1670/>

Country has R&I webpage on Antimicrobial resistance (AMR), Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) threats, COVID-19, Mpox, Other WHO viral risks, Statistics: Infectious Disease Incidence in Lithuania

Website open science/ open data initiative with respect to pandemic threats, such as COVID-19 open

Name	URL	Short Description
AMR	https://www.hi.lt/uploads/Institutas/projektai/BSI_projektas/BSI_tinklapiui.pdf	
AMR	https://vmvt.lt/gyvunu-sveikata-ir-gerove/gyvunu-sveikata/veterinariniai-vaistai-ir-biocidai/veterinariniai-vaistai	
AMR	https://www.hi.lt/drive-ams/	
AMR	https://www.hi.lt/antimikrobinio-atsparumo-valdymo-pletojimas	
AMR	https://www.hi.lt/antibiotiku-vartojimo-ataskaitos	
AMR	https://nvsc.lrv.lt/lt/uzkreciamuju-ligu-valdymas/antimikrobinis-atsparumas-1/	
CBRN	https://lt72.lt	
COVID	https://osp.stat.gov.lt/covid-dashboards	Corona outbreaks, vaccination, hospitalisation status dashboard
COVID	https://koronastop.lrv.lt/lt/	Relevant information about COVID-19 in Lithuania
Mpox	https://nvsc.lrv.lt/lt/uzkreciamuju-ligu-valdymas/uzkreciamosios-ligos/bezdzioniu-raupai/	
State Data Agency (Valstybės duomenų agentūra, formerly Statistics Lithuania)	https://osp.stat.gov.lt/covid-19-lietuvoje-statistika	Publishes official datasets and interactive dashboards on COVID 19, including cases, hospitalisations, vaccinations, and more.
Statistics: Infectious Disease Incidence in Lithuania	https://www.hi.lt/visuomenes-sveikatos-technologiju-centras-visuomenes-sveikatos-inovaciju-skyrius/	
Statistics: Infectious Disease Incidence in Lithuania	https://nvsc.lrv.lt/lt/administracine-	

Country has coordinating structures to link public health needs and research needs?

There is no formal national coordinating structure specifically designed to align public health needs with research needs in Lithuania. Coordination happens through ad hoc collaboration between ministries, universities, and research funders—but it lacks a systemic, institutionalised mechanism

R&I Infrastructures

The initiatives are listed in alphabetical order, the list is not exhaustive and should be updated regularly.

Country has the following research infrastructure for infectious diseases and outbreaks available, or under construction

Name of Infrastructure	Type of Infrastructure	URL	Max. Capacity	Available at	Open to Other Research Communities?
Vilnius University Life Sciences Center (VU GMC)	BSL-2+/partial BSL-3 (molecular diagnostics, virus studies)	https://www.gmc.vu.lt/en/ https://www.gmc.vu.lt/en/ibt/ibt-departments/immunology	Not disclosed publicly	Academia	Yes (on collaboration)
The Infectious Diseases Center at Vilnius University Hospital Santaros Klinikos (part of the Infectious disease cluster in Lithuania)	High-level clinical isolation unit, BSL-3, Clinical trial unit, Emergency units, Reference network	https://www.santa.lt/infekciniu-ligu-centras-apie-centra/ https://esinvesticijos.lt/nauienos/pandemijos-pamokos-lietuvoje-kuriamas-infekciniu-ligu-klasteris	Not disclosed publicly	Academia/Hospital	Yes (limited clinical research)
Lithuanian Biobank Network (Vilnius University Hospital Santaros Clinics, Vilnius University, State Research Institute Innovative Medicine Centre, Lithuanian University of Health Sciences, Kaunas Clinics, Lithuanian University of Health Sciences Hospital)	Reference centres of excellence, Biobank with infectious disease samples (e.g., COVID-19)	https://www.bbmri-eric.eu/national-nodes/lithuania/ https://www.hotc.lt/biobankas/	Varies by site	Academia	Yes (application-based)
Departments of the National Public Health Centre under the Ministry of Health	Emergency intervention units, reference functions, operates as Lithuania's national public health preparedness and response authority, developing protocols for biological incidents, pandemics, and CBRN threats	https://npsc.lrv.lt/lt/struktura-ir-kontaktine-informacija/istaigos-padaliniu-uzduotys/uzkrechiamuju-ligu-valdymo-skyrius/	National-level capacity	Government	Partial (for public health partners)

VU Medical Science Centre	BSL-3, Biobank, genetic research laboratories, Reference centres of excellence	https://www.mf.vu.lt/en/research/medical-science-centre	Not disclosed publicly	Academia	Yes
Vilnius University Hospital Santaros Klinikos	Clinical trial units, Reference centres of excellence	https://www.santa.lt/science-and-innovation/		Hospital	Yes
National Public Health Surveillance Laboratory	BSL-3, CBRN preparedness	https://nvspl.lrv.lt/lt/		Government	Yes

Country supporting the participation to the following ESFRI initiatives relevant for infectious diseases

BBMRI;
EU-AMRI, through BBMRI-Eric
ISIDORE, through BBMRI-Eric
EUP OHAMR

Website network of clinical trials (e.g. to facilitate the access to clinical trials) the country is involved in

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/global-research-on-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov/solidarity-clinical-trial-for-covid-19-treatments>
<https://www.combacte.com/>
<https://vaccelerate.eu/>

Budget mobilisation mechanisms and funding sources

The information is not exhaustive and

should be updated regularly.

Basic Research

url <https://www.lmt.lt> Funded by the Research Council's competitive "Researcher Groups" scheme (bottom-up, fundamental science). URL: <https://lmt.lrv.lt/en/research-funding/researcher-groups-projects/>
<https://smsm.lrv.lt>

funding for basic research accessible for industry?

source of funding Public (research) agencies

Applied Research

url <https://www.lmt.lt> ERDF-funded SMART schemes fund R&D with commercialisation potential. URL:

<https://lmt.lrv.lt/en/research-funding/national-programmes/covid-19-rd-implementation-scheme-smart/>

<https://inovacijuagentura.lt>

<https://sam.lrv.lt>

<https://smsm.lrv.lt>

funding for applied research accessible for industry?

source of funding Public (research) agencies

Translational Research

url <https://www.lmt.lt> ERDF-funded SMART schemes fund R&D with commercialisation potential. URL: <https://lmt.lrv.lt/en/research-funding/national-programmes/covid-19-rd-implementation-scheme-smart/>

<https://inovacijuagentura.lt>

<https://sam.lrv.lt>

<https://smsm.lrv.lt>

funding accessible for industry?

source of funding Public (research) agencies

Clinical Research (in general)

url <https://sam.lrv.lt>

Backed via national clusters (e.g. Stem Cell & Regenerative Medicine) and RCL funding. URL:

<https://scienceeurope.org/about-us/members/?type=Research+Funding+Organisation+%28RFO%29> (see LMT's role in health funding)

<https://www.lmt.lt> (some clinical studies)
 funding accessible for industry?
 source of funding Public (research) agencies
 phase funded?

Clinical Research (in pandemic phase)

url LMT issued short-term calls for COVID-19 clinical/public health studies (~€10 M). URL: <https://lmt.lrv.lt/en/research-funding/national-programmes/covid-19-rd-implementation-scheme-smart/>
 funding accessible for industry?
 source of funding Public (research) agencies
 phase funded ?

Innovation Projects

url <https://inovacijuagentura.lt>
 Supported by Innovation Agency Lithuania, merged in 2022 to boost start-ups, digital innovation, and SME partnerships. URL: <https://eimin.lrv.lt/en/structure-and-contacts/news-1/the-innovation-agency-lithuania-has-been-launched-a-one-stop-shop-for-business-start-development-and-innovation>
<https://eimin.lrv.lt>
 funding accessible for industry?
 source of funding Public (research) agencies

“Flexible” funding (funding for research that can be mobilised quickly or be reallocated quickly to focus on the new threat. In some countries it is called dedicated rapid response funds for research) is possible in case of emergencies.

<https://lmt.lrv.lt/en/research-funding/national-programmes/covid-19-rd-implementation-scheme-smart/>

Other funding :

Baltic Research Programme (EEA-funded, cross-border basic & applied research) URL: <https://lmt.lrv.lt/news/success-story-of-baltic-research-how-25-million-from-eea-mechanisms-transformed-regional-science> Participation in Horizon Europe/EIT Health, e.g. Ligence acceleration. URL: <https://eit-health.eu/news-article/raising-money-by-reducing-medical-work-how-a-lithuanian-start-up-got-accelerated-by-eit-health-so-that-it-attracted-outside-investors/> (eithealth.eu)

R&I actors, authorities and activated processes that are activated in case of a health threat

The actors are listed in alphabetical order, the list is not exhaustive and should be updated regularly.

Name	Description	url
Health Emergency Situations Centre (HESC)	Emergency operations centre activated under SAM during health threats to coordinate national operations and implement emergency measures. HESC participates in implementation of the strategy (policy) of the Government of Lithuania in the field of health emergency management; to create and implement national health emergencies' management system; to coordinate preparedness and activities of the institutions of the National Health System in case of emergency.	https://essc.lrv.lt/en/activities/
Innovation Agency Lithuania	Innovation Agency Lithuania is responsible for the Lithuanian innovation ecosystem and the promotion of innovation at all stages of business development – from developing ideas to delivering products and services to end-users. Innovation Agency Lithuania is a non-profit agency under the Lithuanian Ministry of Economy and Innovation. Funds Translational-Applied, Innovation-Industry, Supports fast-track innovation projects and SME/industry solutions to counter outbreak-related challenges.	https://inovacijuagentura.lt/?lang=en
Ministry of Economy and Innovation (EIMIN)	Ministry of Economy and Innovation (EIMIN) funds Innovation-Industry research	https://eimin.lrv.lt
Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (SMSM)	Ministry responsible for Science policy & Basic, and Translational-Applied research funding oversight : co-manages R&I funding schemes, supports LMT in reallocating calls and fast-tracking	https://smsm.lrv.lt

during health threats.

Ministry of Health (SAM)	Ministry of Health funds Clinical Studies, and Translational-Applied research and is responsible for overall coordination of health crisis response; Chair of EOC and appoints State Emergency Ops Manager.	https://sam.lrv.lt/en/
National Crisis Management Centre (NCMC)	NCMC (or NKVC) monitors potential threats	https://lrvt.lt/lt/nauijenos/nkvc-situaciju-valdymo-centras-uztikrins-nuolatine-gresmiu-salies-saugumui-stebesena/
National ethics and regulatory bodies (e.g. Health Research Ethics Committees)	May expedite ethical and regulatory reviews during outbreaks (informed by EU PREPARE model - process described by EU PREPARE).	
National Public Health Center under the Ministry of Health	Epidemiological authority manages outbreak surveillance, case investigation, data collection, and research mobilisation during infectious disease emergencies.	https://nvsc.lrv.lt/en/
National Public Health Surveillance Laboratory		http://www.nvspl.lt
Research Council of Lithuania (LMT)	Research Council of Lithuania (LMT) funds Basic, Translational-Applied, Some Clinical Studies : mobilises rapid R&D calls (e.g. COVID-19 SMART €10M scheme), fast-tracks funding, and simplifies admin for outbreak-relevant research.	http://www.lmt.lt/en
State Medicines Control Agency of Lithuania	State Medicines Control Agency of Lithuania authorises clinical trials	https://vvkt.lrv.lt/en/

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BE READY PLUS is responding to the call: HORIZON-HLTH-2024-DISEASE-17 “Pandemic preparedness and response: Maintaining and enhancing the preparatory work for a co-funded European partnership for pandemic” under grant agreement 101195079. Starting date: 01.01.2025. | End Date 31.12.2025

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