

## **Le président Poutine appelle le Premier ministre Pashinian pour lui offrir son aide**

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) — Russian President Vladimir Putin telephoned Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan on Monday to congratulate him on his 45th birthday anniversary and offer Russia's assistance for ongoing efforts to stop the spread of coronavirus in Armenia.

The phone call was reported shortly after Pashinyan announced that he and members of his family have tested positive for the virus. According to official Russian and Armenian sources, Putin wished them a speedy recovery from the disease.

An Armenian government statement on the conversation said the two leaders then talked about the pandemic and "possible further developments." "In this context they discussed cooperation between the health ministries of the two countries," it said.

"President Vladimir Putin emphasized the Russian Federation's readiness to assist Armenia in the fight against the pandemic," added the statement.

According to the Kremlin's readout of the phone call, Pashinyan thanked Putin for the Russian assistance already provided to his country.

In early April, the Russian military sent a team of medics and special equipment to Armenia to help authorities there detect and prevent coronavirus cases among Armenian and Russian military personnel serving in the country. The equipment included a coronavirus testing lab and a sample collection system for COVID-19 tests.

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