

## **Review of the directive for mandatory use of face masks by the general population**

Following a recommendation issued by the World Health Organization on 22 August 2020, the Epidemiological Monitoring Unit of the Ministry of Health has decided, after review, to adopt the new directive for the mandatory use of protective mask by the general population.

Consequently, following the review of the relevant directive, **the use of a protective mask is rendered compulsory for the general population, aged 12 years and above, in indoor areas where there is an increased gathering of people**, as these areas have been determined by the Ministry of Health.

It is clarified that the use of a mask in indoor crowded areas, is optional for children aged 6 to 12 years.

Lastly, it should be noted that, following a briefing made to the competent Ministry of Education, the above arrangements will also apply to schools.