

The effort to increase the vaccination coverage continues – The target for the vaccination of 65% of the population with the 1st dose has been achieved

The first target set by the Ministry of Health for the vaccination of 65% of the population that can be vaccinated with at least the first dose, within the first half of the year, has been achieved. With the percentage of the population that has received the 1st dose of the licensed vaccines having reached 64.6%, and the percentage of those fully vaccinated having reached 50.2%, the effort is intensified, in order to achieve a higher vaccination coverage in the coming months, which will offer multiple social and economic benefits to the society as a whole.

In relation to the vaccination coverage per age group, until June 30, **28.5%** of individuals aged **18-19**, **36.5% of individuals aged 20-29**, and **53.5% of individuals aged 30-39** have been vaccinated with at least the 1st dose. In the age groups **40-49**, **50-59** and **60-69**, the vaccination rate is at **73.4%**, **72.3%** and **82.2% respectively**. Finally, the vaccination shield reached a very high percentage in the older ages, with the vaccination rate reaching **91.7% for the age group of 70-79**, and **92.2% for individuals over the age of 80**. At the same time, the Vaccination Portal was made available yesterday for all individuals aged 16 and over. Yesterday, 3,085 appointments were arranged, out of which 2,200 concerned the vaccination of individuals aged 16 and 17.

In relation to vaccinations per district, until June 30, **Pafos** continues to rank first at **73.8%**, followed by the **Districts of Ammochostos and Lefkosia at 65.9% and 65.5% respectively**. In the **District of Lemesos 62%**, and in the **District of Larnaka 60.1%** have received at least the 1st dose.

Given that the virus mutates and the new strains become more aggressive, causing **significantly increased transmission and more serious illness, especially among unvaccinated individuals**, there is a need for additional vaccination coverage **in order to increase the immunity of the population and to limit to the greatest extent possible the spread of the virus**.

The Government's efforts are focused on this goal, in order to **protect public health** and, by extension, **create conditions that will primarily lead citizens and businesses back to normality with safety, and at the same time make our country a safe destination for foreigners**.

01.07.2021