

Announcement by the Ministry of Health regarding the decisions of the Council of Ministers

At today's meeting of the Council of Ministers, the Minister of Health, Mr Michalis Hadjipantela, presented the recommendations of the members of the Scientific Advisory Committee that were discussed at yesterday's meeting, during which the data recorded by the Tracing Team, by the hospitals of the State Health Services Organisation and the rates of vaccination coverage of the population were analysed and evaluated. According to data from the Epidemiological Surveillance Unit of the Ministry of Health, 15,494 positive cases were recorded within the community from 22 to 28 January 2022 and an increase in daily positive cases is recorded in all age groups, with the exception of the 50-69 age group. The Ministry of Health once again appeals to citizens to show responsibility and faithfully respect the health protocols. The Ministry of Health is constantly vigilant and evaluates all scientific and/or epidemiological data together with the Scientific Advisory Committee.

The Council of Ministers at today's meeting decided:

- a) As of 4 February 2022, the lifting of the entry ban to children without a vaccination history of 12-17 years, **in catering establishments, cafes, theatres, cinemas and performance spaces.**
 - Entry to these places will be allowed upon presentation of a negative **72-hour laboratory PCR test or Rapid test**, provided that they are accompanied by a parent/guardian who has completed his/her vaccination scheme.
- b) As of 4 February 2022, the reduction of the time period for administering the booster/3rd dose of the vaccine from 5 months and 2 weeks to 5 months.
- c) The introduction of the measure "test to stay" in the National Guard.
 - The implementation date of the measure will be announced after consultation with the Ministry of Defence.
- d) As of 4 February 2022, workers in senior people's homes and closed structures who hold a valid vaccination or recovery certificate must present a **72-hour PCR or Rapid test** and workers with no vaccination history must present a **24-hour PCR or Rapid test.**
