

Vaccination Portal opens for individuals who use biological agents or other immunosuppressive medicines

161,526 vaccinations by April 3rd (1st dose: 114,660 and 2nd dose: 46,866)

On the basis of the vaccination planning for COVID-19, the Ministry of Health continues to implement the National Vaccination Plan, having set as a top priority the vaccination coverage of individuals who fall into groups with an increased risk for serious illness.

According to the hierarchy set up by the ad hoc Committee, which was established for this purpose, priority for vaccination will be given to **individuals who actively use biological agents or other immunosuppressive medicine.**

Individuals who fall into the above categories should proceed to the scheduling of their vaccination appointment, through the Vaccination Portal, **from Monday, April 5th, at 8 a.m., until Tuesday, April 6th, at 7 p.m.** The arranged appointment can be rescheduled for the same type of vaccine, if deemed necessary for medical reasons, by their treating physician, with appropriate justification.

The Vaccination Portal will operate in the usual manner, and those interested will be informed of the type of vaccine available at each Vaccination Centre. **A total of 5,891 vaccination appointments with Pfizer and AstraZeneca vaccines will be available.**

It is noted that the correct registration of the patients' medical data in the General Health System (GESY) Software by their treating physicians is necessary. Patients who have priority for vaccination are informed via a text message on the mobile phone number registered in their personal file in the Software.

For technical reasons, patients receiving biological agents **upon request and approval by the Pharmaceutical Services**, will be able to arrange a vaccination appointment at the next opening of the Vaccination Portal. Patients taking high doses of corticosteroid continuously will receive a different treatment and information in the coming period.

Patients who are not beneficiaries of the General Health System (GESY) or receive medicines that fall into these categories from the private sector, **will be given priority for vaccination**, based on the above criteria, upon confirmation by their treating physician and after sending a relevant e-mail to the e-mail address emvoliasmos.eidikes@moh.gov.cy. The email should express the patient's interest for vaccination, quoting his/her Identity Number/Identification Document Number, contact telephone number, and stating that he/she falls into the group of individuals who actively use biological agents or other immunosuppressive medicine, attaching the relevant certificate by the treating physician.

By April 3rd, **161,526 vaccinations have been administered, out of which 114,660 concern the administration of the 1st dose, and 46,866 concern the administration of both doses.** The 1st dose was administered to 6,374 individuals falling into the vulnerable groups, and to 521 bedridden individuals, while the vaccination has begun in closed structures and 158 individuals in the Central Prisons have been vaccinated with the 1st dose.

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