

Guidelines by the Ministry of Health for the release of positive COVID-19 cases

Further to the recent decision of the Council of Ministers on 3 March 2022, regarding the release of Covid-19 positive cases on day 7, the Ministry of Health informs that as of Tuesday 8 March 2022, virus-positive individuals may be released on day 7, provided that they have a negative rapid antigen test result from predefined points indicated by the Ministry of Health and do not have any active virus symptoms.

The procedure is as follows:

- On the 6th day of self-isolation, virus-positive cases will be notified by means of a text message of the place and time of sampling, at a predefined location, for a Rapid test on day 7. It is recalled that the date of the **laboratory diagnosis of the positive case is considered as day zero** (counting begins the next day).
- Due to the retroactive effect of the decision, **the first update given on Monday 7 March 2022 concerns individuals who on 8 March 2022 will have completed not only the 7th but also the 8th or 9th day after their initial diagnosis.**
- **Only laboratory tests carried out at the predefined locations of the Ministry of Health will be recognized as valid for release purposes before day 10.** (Individuals who do not follow the above procedure will be able to be released automatically on the basis of the procedure in force on day 10).
- **If the result is negative on day 7, the virus positive individual should continue his/her self-isolation until the release message by the Ministry of Health is received, on the basis of which he/she will be released the following day (Day 8) and will be able to issue the certificate of release via the portal <https://www.eudcc.gov.cy/> .**
- It is stressed that when carrying out the test for release, the same identification data, which were declared at the time of registration on the platform for positive cases, should be provided (**identification document, date of birth and telephone number**) in order to avoid technical problems and delays in release.
- If the result is positive, the individual will be able to repeat the test procedure **on day 8 or day 9 by visiting the same location, as was indicated by the Ministry of Health on day 6, or to self-isolate until the 10th day, on which he/she will be released without a further test.**

It is stressed that all social distance and protection measures (double surgical mask, or type KN95 or FFP2 protective mask) must be applied at the testing locations.

07.03.2022