

Over 402,000 rapid tests in the 1st half of February – Continuous surveillance of the epidemiological picture is the main aim

Over 402,000 rapid antigen tests were performed in the period from 1 to 14 February, within the framework of the screening programmes of the general population and employees, carried out by the Ministry of Health.

The main aim of the programmes is the **continuous epidemiological surveillance of the country in real time** and the timely intervention in case the epidemiological indicators aggravate. More specifically, the weekly screening program of employees aims to **ensure the safety in the workplaces as well as the continuation of the smooth operation** of the private businesses as well as the Departments of the public and the wider public sector.

It is reminded that, according to the Decree of February 12th, employers in businesses, as well as the Heads of Departments/Services in the public and wider public sector, have the responsibility to coordinate the rapid testing of employees, so that the **mandatory weekly testing of personnel**, through the rapid antigen test, is ensured as follows:

- Businesses/services employing **up to 3 people, all employees** should be tested.
- Businesses/services employing **between 4 to 10 people, at least 4 employees** should be tested.
- Businesses/services employing **more than 11 people, at least 4 people or 20% of employees should be tested, whichever is higher in number.**

In addition, the program concerns **the self-employed, who have to undergo a rapid test on a weekly basis**, i.e. electricians, plumbers, etc., who have to present a negative certificate in case it is requested by their customers.

Finally, **domestic employees and/or people who are responsible for the care of elderly or disabled people or persons who are unable to take care of themselves** are also obliged to undergo a rapid antigen test.

The rapid test results are valid for a period of 7 days.

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