Cyprus ranks first in Europe in terms of testing and 5th in the EU in terms of vaccination coverage

According to the data published by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), Cyprus ranks 1\textsuperscript{st} among the EU states in terms of conducting tests. With 35,947 tests per 100,000 of population, Cyprus continues to utilize the practice of targeted testing in the community, thus strengthening its policy of continuous surveillance of the epidemiological picture in the country.

The monitoring of the epidemiological indicators through increased tests is used as a tool, through which the 2\textsuperscript{nd} pillar of the strategy is activated, namely that of tracking. The early detection of positive cases allows for immediate intervention in areas where outbreaks occur, so as to limit the spread of the virus.

In the week of March 15-21, 314,182 tests were carried out (PCR and rapid antigen test), out of which the 291,789 concern rapid antigen tests that were carried out through the program of the Ministry of Health. This equals to a testing percentage, in a one-week period, of more than 20\% of the population over the age of 12.

At the same time, according to the planning and the availability of vaccines, the vaccination coverage of the population continues, with special emphasis during this period on the vaccination of individuals falling into the vulnerable groups of the population.

As of March 21, 131,623 vaccinations were carried out, of which 37,109 concerned individuals who had completed their vaccination, having received both doses. Regarding the vaccination of vulnerable groups, 1,714 individuals falling into the vulnerable groups have been vaccinated so far with the 1\textsuperscript{st} dose. Actions are already being taken to increase the vaccination rate of vulnerable individuals, in an effort to reduce the risk of serious illness. In addition, the 1\textsuperscript{st} dose has already been administered to 225 bedridden patients by mobile units, through the established procedure.

According to the data published on the website OurWorldInData, the practice followed by Cyprus of administering available vaccines without delay, places it in the 5\textsuperscript{th} place, as it has administered 14,78 doses per 100 inhabitants.
Acknowledging that vaccination is the weapon that can save lives, the Ministry of Health focuses its attention on intensifying the vaccination of the population, that is expected to contribute to the protection of Public Health and lead to normality, as soon as possible.