

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 1st 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 2nd 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.

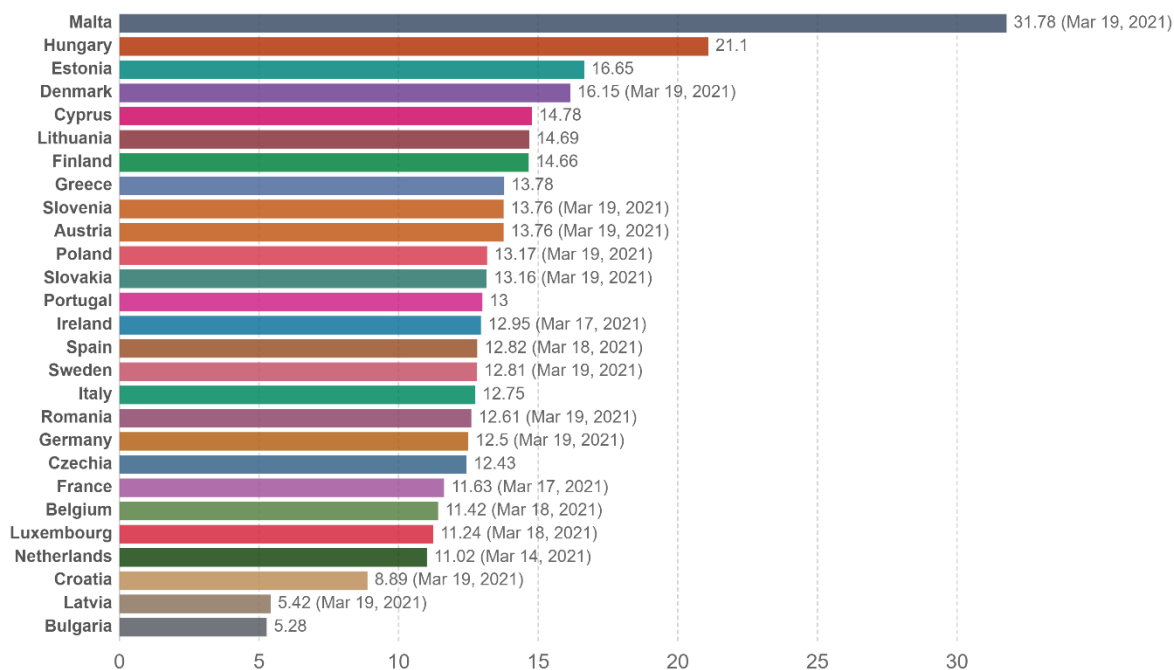
As of March 21, **131,623 vaccinations** were carried out, of which **37,109 concerned individuals who had completed their vaccination**, having received both doses. Regarding the vaccination of vulnerable groups, **1,714 individuals falling into the vulnerable groups** have been vaccinated so far with the 1st 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 1st 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 **5th place, as it has administered 14,78 doses per 100 inhabitants**.

COVID-19 vaccine doses administered per 100 people, Mar 20, 2021



Total number of vaccination doses administered per 100 people in the total population. This is counted as a single dose, and may not equal the total number of people vaccinated, depending on the specific dose regime (e.g. people receive multiple doses).



Source: Official data collated by Our World in Data – Last updated 21 March, 09:06 (London time)

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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.

22.03.2021