

## **Written statement by the Minister of Health, Mr Constantinos Ioannou**

Today, I informed the Council of Ministers about the epidemiological picture that is currently being formulated on the basis of the information I have received from the Scientific Advisory Committee. According to the updated data that have been evaluated, the increased number of infections, hospital admissions and hospitalizations in the Intensive Care Units, reflect the burdened epidemiological picture that prevails in Cyprus, as well as in the rest of Europe, with most countries being in a status of increased restrictions.

The extensive spread of the virus in Cyprus is confirmed by the large number of positive cases recorded daily, despite their immediate detection and isolation, through the tracing process.

Despite the signs of stabilization observed in some cases, it is deemed that a clearer picture of the epidemiological situation will be reflected in the coming days, when the recent relaxations in the restrictive measures are assessed. Based on these data, the position was reaffirmed that the strategy of de-escalating restrictions will be implemented in consideration of the aim of avoiding setbacks in all sectors.

-----

23.03.2021