

**GOVERNMENT GAZETTE OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS**

**ANNEX III**

**PART I**

**REGULATORY ADMINISTRATIVE ACTS**

Number 5735	Wednesday, 31 August 2022	2057
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**Number 344**

THE QUARANTINE LAW, CAP. 260

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Decree by virtue of article 6(a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (g)

Cap. 260.  
ANAK. 307  
32(I) of 2003  
31(I) of 2020  
72(I) of 2020.

The Minister of Health, in exercising the powers conferred upon him by article 6(a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (g) of the Quarantine Law, Cap. 260 and by the Decision of the Council of Ministers dated 31 August 2022, hereby issues the following Decree:

Whereas protecting the public health and the health care system is the responsibility of the Republic and for imperative urgency arising from the epidemiological data with the aim of preventing the spread of COVID-19, protecting public health and preventing a possible collapse of the health system due to the spread of the virus, taking into consideration the requirements in human resources and logistical infrastructures necessary to cope with the rapid spread of the virus and whereas the taking of requisite measures has become imperative; and

Official Gazette,  
Annex III (I):  
23.3.2020.

Whereas by Notice published in the Official Gazette of the Republic, upon authorization by the Council of Ministers, the Minister of Health has declared the local districts of Nicosia, Limassol, Larnaca, Famagusta and Paphos as being infected with COVID-19, pursuant to article 4 of the Quarantine Law, Cap. 260; and

Whereas a decrease is being recorded in all epidemiological indicators and in the number of COVID-19 patients in hospitals, the following Regulations shall apply for the Districts of Nicosia, Limassol, Larnaca, Famagusta and Paphos:

Short title.

1. This Decree shall be cited as the Quarantine (Determination of Measures to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 Coronavirus) Decree (No. 28) of 2022.

2. The Regulations of this Decree shall be valid as of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022 upon the publication of this Decree, and shall be terminated on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 04.59 a.m.

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3. (1) Subject to the guidelines of the Ministry of Health, visits to patients in public and private hospitals shall be allowed upon presentation, for persons over 6 years of age, of a negative laboratory test (PCR) for COVID-19, with sampling having been performed within 48 hours, or a negative rapid antigen detection test for COVID-19, with sampling having been performed within 24 hours:

Provided that one person per visit is allowed, with a maximum of two persons per day per patient:

Provided further that, in exceptional and urgent cases, more than two persons per day may be allowed to visit upon the approval of the Director of the hospital.

(2) For visits of patients and their escorts to outpatient clinics, medical and diagnostic centres, it shall be required, for persons aged 6 years and over, to show a valid certificate of completed vaccination or a valid certificate of recovery from COVID-19 or a negative laboratory test (PCR), with sampling having been performed within 72 hours, or a rapid antigen detection test for COVID-19, with sampling having been performed within 48 hours.

4. (1) Subject to the guidelines of the Ministry of Health and the Deputy Ministry of Social Welfare, visits to nursing homes and other closed care and accommodation facilities for the elderly and vulnerable groups, shall be permitted, upon presentation, for persons over 6 years of age, of a negative laboratory test (PCR) for COVID-19, with sampling having been performed within 48 hours, or a negative rapid antigen detection test for COVID-19, with sampling having been performed within 24 hours:

Provided, that one person per visit shall be allowed, with a maximum of two persons per day per resident:

Provided further that, residents are permitted to leave and/or stay overnight outside of the nursing home and/or confined structure:

Provided further that, in exceptional and urgent cases, more than two persons per day may be allowed to visit upon the approval of the Director of the hospital.

(2) For visits to transitional shelters for the homeless, day centres and child protection facilities, the guidelines of the Ministry of Health and the Deputy Ministry of Social Welfare, shall be observed.

5. Apolloneio Hospital, Aretaio Hospital, Mediterranean Hospital of Cyprus, American Medical Center / American Heart Institute and YGEIA Polyclinic, have at least two beds exclusively for patients who are infected with COVID-19, but who require hospitalization for reasons other than COVID-19.

6. (1) In public transportation means and for the transport of persons by regular passenger buses with a fare per passenger, as well as by means of public transport and/or private transport, the guidelines of the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works shall be observed.

(2) The use of a protective face mask shall be compulsory for employees and passengers on all means of transport referred to in this Regulation, subject to the guidelines of the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works.

7.(1) Entry into the Republic from unauthorized entry points shall be prohibited, and for this purpose the competent monitoring authorities shall apply the necessary measures.

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(2) A person who arrives and/or enters the territory of the Republic illegally shall remain for 14 days from his/her arrival in mandatory isolation places indicated by the Republic:

Provided that, asylum seekers who enter, are placed and/or are obliged to reside in the reception, accommodation and/or detention centres for asylum seekers, shall be placed in places of mandatory isolation for 14 days before any contact with existing residents, and the relevant medical and health protocol shall be followed in each case.

8. If a positive case of COVID-19 is detected in any private office and/or business and/or in any service in the public and/or wider public sector and/or in Independent Services and/or in local authorities, a disinfection shall be carried out in their premises with an approved disinfectant, in accordance with the guidelines of the European Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, which are posted on the website [https://www.pio.gov.cy/coronavirus/press/3042020\\_2.pdf](https://www.pio.gov.cy/coronavirus/press/3042020_2.pdf), depending on the instructions of the disinfectant used.

9. (1) Without prejudice to the obligation and individual responsibility of each person to comply with the Regulations provided for in this Decree and the sanitary protocols and/or guidelines issued by the competent authorities, the owner and/or director and/or manager and/or administrator who has under his/her responsibility the business and/or premises and/or any other premises where economic activity is carried out in relation to goods or services in accordance with the Quarantine Law (Cap. 260), shall be responsible for compliance with the Regulations provided for in this Decree, as well as for the respective health protocols and/or guidelines issued by the competent authorities each time.

(2) The owner and/or director and/or manager and/or administrator who has under his control the business and/or premises and/or any other premises where economic activity is carried out in connection with goods or services, who under paragraph (1) is responsible for compliance with the Regulations provided for in this Decree, and shall carry out the necessary checks to ensure compliance with the measures in this Decree and the health protocols and/or guidelines issued by the competent authorities each time, and for this purpose, he/she may delegate in writing the check to an employee/officer authorised by him/her or to a private security service provider or a private security guard as provided in paragraph (3)(xvi):

Provided that, in the event of a person refusing to produce relevant evidence where required to do so under the provisions of this Decree, in the event of an inspection by the Police and/or any other Competent Authority and/or authorised officer under paragraph (3), only the person who has refused to comply shall be liable and not the owner and/or director and/or manager, provided that he/she has not been served by the business/establishment.

(3) For the purpose of controlling and supervising the implementation of the measures of the Quarantine Law (Cap. 260), as well as this Decree, in cooperation with the Cyprus Police, officials of the following Ministries and/or Services shall be authorized by the relevant Competent Authority:

- (i) Ministry of Finance,
- (ii) Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth,
- (iii) Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance,
- (iv) Ministry of Interior,
- (v) Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works,

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- (vi) Deputy Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy,
  - (vii) Deputy Ministry of Shipping,
  - (viii) Deputy Ministry of Tourism,
  - (ix) Health Services of the Department of Medical and Public Health Services of the Ministry of Health,
  - (x) Department of Agriculture, Department of Forestry, Department of Fisheries and Marine Research, Mining Service and Veterinary Services of the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment,
  - (xi) Consumer Protection Service of the Ministry of Energy, Trade and Industry,
  - (xii) the traffic police of each municipality,
  - (xiii) the members of the National Guard,
  - (xiv) the Cyprus Sports Organisation,
  - (xv) the Safety and Health Officers of Ministries/ Deputy Ministries/ Services/Departments, Public Law Organisations, Independent Authorities, Local Government Authorities and Private Enterprises,
  - (xvi) Private Security Agencies and Private Security Guards holding a licence issued under the Private Security Agencies Acts, 2007 to 2014,
  - (xvii) Supervisors registered in the Register of Supervisors prepared by the Supervisors Committee under the Prevention and Suppression of Violence in Sports Venues (Supervisors) Regulations of 2012, under the Prevention and Suppression of Violence in Sports Venues Acts 2008 to 2014; and
  - (xviii) the managements of public and private schools.

10. The use of protective face masks is compulsory for all employees and visitors 12 years of age and over, in indoor areas of public and private hospitals, medical practices, clinical laboratories, pharmacies, physiotherapy centres, medical and diagnostic centres, nursing homes and other care and hospitality facilities for the elderly and vulnerable groups and rehabilitation centres, as well as in public transport, except in cases specified in guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health.

11. (1) Asylum seekers who are first admitted and/or placed and/or required to reside in reception, accommodation and/or detention centres for asylum seekers, shall undergo a laboratory test (PCR) or rapid antigen detection test for COVID-19 before entering such centres.

(2) The test for COVID-19 shall be carried out and/or repeated on any asylum seeker who is within the accommodation and/or detention centre, whenever deemed necessary by the person in charge of that centre.

12.(1) All newly admitted detainees shall, prior to admission to any detention centre and/or prison, undergo a laboratory test (PCR) or rapid antigen detection test for COVID-19, except for detainees who hold either a valid certificate of completed vaccination for COVID-19 or a valid certificate of recovery from COVID-19.

(2) Testing for COVID-19 shall be carried out and/or repeated on any detainee whenever deemed necessary by the Director of the Department of Corrections and/or Detention Officer and/or Chief of Police and/or other detention officer.

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13.(1) Persons who have been declared as positive cases of COVID-19 or close contacts of COVID-19 positive cases, shall comply with the guidelines and health protocols of the Ministry of Health.

(2) Subject to the Ministry of Health's guidelines, health care professionals in public and private hospitals who are close contacts of confirmed positive cases, shall comply with the Ministry of Health's health protocol for health care professionals.

14. (1) Notwithstanding the laws of the Republic, in force each time, that provide otherwise, persons who are under compulsory self-confinement may, through a telephone interview with any medical practitioner, request a repeat prescription for pharmaceutical products for the treatment of chronic diseases from which they suffer, provided that:

(a) They are receiving pharmaceutical products for the treatment of a chronic disease that is not associated with the onset of symptoms of COVID-19 infection,

(b) the stock of pharmaceutical products in their possession has been exhausted or is insufficient for their treatment for the duration of time they will be in mandatory isolation and/or self-confinement; and

(c) are unable for any reason to contact their personal physician or specialist by telephone for a repeat prescription and/or are not registered with a personal physician contracted with the Health Insurance Agency (OAY) and/or are not eligible to receive services through the National Health System (GESY).

(2) The doctors who are contacted by telephone by such persons, shall be obliged to:

(a) Obtain the most complete, under the circumstances, medical history of the person contacting them,

(b) Issue the prescription with the required pharmaceutical products, the relevant instructions for taking them and the necessary quantities of medicine throughout the period of time for which the person contacting them is in mandatory isolation and/or self-confinement, provided that they consider the history they have received to be sufficient and satisfactory,

(c) if they are contracted with the OAY and the persons in mandatory isolation and/or self-confinement are eligible to receive services through the GESY, they must submit the prescription into the relevant software system so that it can be retrieved by the pharmacy filling the prescription and supplying such pharmaceutical products to a person acting on behalf of the person in mandatory isolation and/or self-confinement,

(d) if they are not contracted with the OAY or if the persons in mandatory isolation and/or self-confinement are not eligible to receive services through the GESY, they must issue a handwritten prescription and make appropriate arrangements for the prescription to be picked up by a person acting on behalf of the person in quarantine for the purpose of having it filled by a pharmacy; and

(e) within a reasonable time inform the attending physician who issued the original prescription:

Provided that, the pharmaceutical products prescribed may include pharmaceutical products containing controlled drugs within the meaning of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law or specified in the Second Schedule, Third Schedule or Fourth Schedule of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Regulations provided that the provisions of Regulation 11 of the said Regulations are complied with.

15. The Ministry of Health may designate public or private places, where increased congregation is observed, to carry out sampling for COVID-19.

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16. A Special Leave of Absence for Public Health Reasons shall be granted to employees of the public and wider public sector who must be absent from work in order to remain on mandatory self-confinement, provided that the affected employees present a Certificate of Absence from Work for Public Health Reasons issued by the Ministry of Health in the following cases and subject to the following conditions:

(a) following a decision to take a forced absence from work due to the detection of a confirmed positive case of COVID-19 in an office in the employee's department which was mandatorily closed for a number of hours

(b) for the purpose of caring for children up to 15 years of age, where the child is positive for COVID-19 and is placed on compulsory self-isolation,

(c) Special Leave for Public Health Reasons shall be granted in the cases of (a) and (b) only if the nature of the work does not permit remote working and with the approval of the Head of the Ministry/Department/ Service/ Public Body/Local Authority:

Provided that, employees who do not wish to work remotely shall apply for special leave on public health grounds, for the period of which such beneficiaries shall be compensated at the rate of 60% of their remuneration by their respective employer:

Provided further that where an employee is required to be absent from work to remain on self-imposed leave for any reason other than those provided in paragraphs (a) and (b), then the days of absence from work shall be counted as sick leave if and when the nature of his work does not permit them to work from home.

17. Residents and trainee doctors who are absent from their duties:

(a) because they have contracted COVID-19 in the course of their duties, shall be granted Special Leave on Public Health grounds,

(b) because they have contracted the COVID-19 or are placed on compulsory self-isolation outside the scope of their duties, shall use ordinary sick leave and be given the option of using all the sick leave to which they are entitled for the year (and in the case of trainee doctors, for the six months) rather than just the accrued time, provided that this becomes accrued leave by the end of 2022:

Provided that, in the event that their specialized training is terminated for any reason, they shall be required to repay to the State the amount attributable to the accrued leave to which they were entitled at that time.

18. For public and public sector employees who, due to the nature of their duties, either were unable to take the annual rest leave they had in good standing, or it was revoked by their department due to the extraordinary circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic and in the years 2020 and 2021, had accrued and carried over to the following year up to 20 days of rest leave, regardless of the total number of days of rest leave they may have accrued, such additional days of rest leave should be used by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022.

19. The owner and/or director and/or manager of nursing homes, closed 24-hour care facilities for persons with disabilities, shelters and hostels for vulnerable groups, transitional shelters for homeless persons, day centres and child protection facilities, shall comply with the guidelines of the Ministry of Health for the carrying out of laboratory testing (PCR) and/or rapid antigen detection testing for COVID-19 for staff and residents and/or occupants of the facilities referred to in this Regulation.

20. (1) The maximum charge for the carrying out of a laboratory test (PCR) for COVID-19 is set at EUR 30 (excluding VAT) per test, excluding existing contracts concluded by the State.

(2) The maximum charge for the carrying out of a rapid antigen detection test for COVID-19 is set at EUR 10 (excluding VAT) per test.

(3) The maximum charge for self-diagnostic tests for COVID-19 is set at EUR 6 (excluding VAT) per pack of 5 tests.

(4) The maximum charge for self-diagnostic tests for COVID-19 is set at EUR 1,70 (excluding VAT) per item.

21. A person who stays in a hotel and/or tourist accommodation and is diagnosed positive for COVID-19, shall be transferred to a place of compulsory confinement designated by the Ministry of Health, or alternatively, if he/she so wishes, that person shall remain under compulsory self-confinement in a private, non-shared accommodation at a cost borne by the person themselves and provided that, if other persons stay in that accommodation, they shall not use joint areas.

22 (1) All employees in the private, public, wider public sector and local government authorities, may be absent from work for the entire day on which they are vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine, without such day being deducted from the employee's rest leave and earnings, and provided that a certificate of vaccination is presented:

Provided that if it is a two-dose vaccine, this paragraph shall apply to both days of vaccination:

Provided further that this paragraph shall also apply to the day of vaccination of the third booster dose, in the case of two-dose vaccines, and to the day of vaccination of the second booster dose, in the case of one-dose vaccines:

It is further provided that this paragraph shall also apply in the case of a parent/legal guardian of a child under 18 years of age, provided that the parent/legal guardian accompanies their child for vaccination and provided that a certificate of vaccination of the child is presented.

(2) All students between the ages of 6 and 17 may be absent from school for the entire day of their vaccination with a COVID-19 vaccine, with the granting of an excused absence, without the days being cut off from the prescribed number of excused absences and provided a certificate of vaccination is presented:

Provided that if it is a two-dose vaccine, this paragraph applies to both days of vaccination.

23. Employees of hospitals, medical and rehabilitation centres, nursing homes and other closed care and accommodation facilities for vulnerable groups, must hold either a valid certificate of completed vaccination for COVID-19 or a valid certificate of recovery from COVID-19, or a negative laboratory test (PCR) for COVID-19 with sampling performed within 72 hours, or a negative rapid antigen detection test for COVID-19 with sampling performed within 48 hours.

24. For persons entering reception and accommodation centres for asylum seekers, the following shall be required:

- (a) The presentation of a valid certificate of completed vaccination for COVID-19, or a valid certificate of recovery from COVID-19; or
- (b) the presentation of a negative laboratory test certificate (PCR) for COVID-19 with sampling performed within 72 hours or a rapid antigen detection test certificate for COVID-19 with sampling performed within 48 hours.

25. All persons who enter and/or move into premises for which the presentation of either a negative laboratory test (PCR) or rapid antigen detection test for COVID-19, or a certificate of vaccination for COVID-19 disease, or a certificate of recovery from COVID-19 disease, or a medical certificate issued by the Ministry of Health, are required, must carry an identity card or passport or, in the case of persons under the age of 12 years (who do not hold an identity card or passport), a birth certificate as additional evidence, and they must present it to the competent authorities and/or the owners and/or directors and/or managers in charge of the premises and/or organisation and/or undertaking and/or establishment and/or persons authorized by them in accordance with Regulation 9.

26. (1) In premises/establishments where access under this Decree is subject to the presentation of a valid certificate of complete vaccination, it shall mean a certificate of vaccination with the vaccines accepted by the Republic for COVID-19, i.e. vaccines approved by the European Medicines Agency, as well as the vaccines Johnson & Johnson/Janssen, AstraZeneca, (Vaxzervia, COVISHIELD, SKBio), Pfizer/BioNTech, Moderna, Sputnik V (Gam-COVID-Vac), Sinopharm (BBIBPCOVID-19), COVOVAX, Sinovac (CoronaVac), Covaxin, Sputnik Light (only as booster dose in a basic vaccination regimen) and Novavax Nuvaxovid COVID-19. and the period of validity of the certificate for persons aged 18 years and over is 7 months from the date of the second dose of the vaccine, if it is a two-dose vaccine or of the single dose of the vaccine, if it is a single-dose vaccine. The validity of the certificate shall be renewed if a booster dose of the vaccine is received:

Provided that the validity of the vaccination certificate for persons under the age of 18 years shall not have an expiry date:

Provided further that the validity of the vaccination certificate for a single-dose vaccine shall commence 14 days after the date of vaccination.

(2) The validity period of the certificate of recovery from COVID-19 shall be 90 days from the date of sampling of the initial positive diagnosis.

27. For the purposes of carrying out checks in the premises to which access under this Decree requires the presentation of either a negative laboratory test (PCR) or rapid antigen detection test for COVID-19, or a vaccination certificate, or a certificate of recovery from COVID-19, such documents and/or certificates are checked by scanning the QR code of the European Digital Certificate COVID, and the check is carried out through the electronic application "CovScanCyprus":

Provided that persons 65 years of age and above, minors up to 13 years of age, persons who cannot be vaccinated due to a medical problem who hold and present the medical certificate issued by the Ministry of Health, Turkish Cypriots who have been vaccinated in areas of the Republic of Cyprus in which the Government does not exercise effective control, as well as persons who have been vaccinated in countries outside the European Union, the European Economic Area and Switzerland, may present these documents and/or certificates in their printed format instead of the format of the European Digital Certificate COVID.

28. The meetings/elections of Trade Unions registered under the Trade Unions Laws

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of 1965 to 1996 may be held by electronic means, subject to the approval of the Registrar of Trade Unions,

71 of 1965  
22 of 1970  
48 of 1991  
97(I) of 1996

Official Gazette,  
Annex III (I):

13.5.2022  
20.5.2022  
31.5.2022  
6.6.2022  
29.6.2022  
7.7.2022  
15.7.2022  
29.7.2022

29. The Quarantine (Determination of Measures to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 Coronavirus) Decrees (No. 20) up to (No. 27) of 2022 are hereby abolished.

30. This Decree shall enter into force immediately upon its publication in the Government Gazette of the Republic.

MICHALIS HADJIPANTELA,  
Minister of Health