

Announcement by the Ministry of Health on the epidemiological situation in relation with COVID-19

Due to the increase in the number of COVID-19 positive cases in the Republic of Cyprus and in European countries, the Ministry of Health reiterates that all citizens should continue to **comply with the personal protection measures (distance, hand hygiene). At the same time the use of a protective mask is recommended in places where a large number of people congregates (weddings, christenings, concerts, parties, etc.), for persons who belong to vulnerable groups of the population, as well as for those who interact with high-risk people.**

It is reminded that:

- Confirmed coronavirus cases should remain self-isolated for at least 7 days (with sampling day set as day zero). Earlier release is possible with a negative molecular PCR test result on the 5th day. For the instructions and the release protocol, follow the links: in the Greek language: <https://bit.ly/3wq17yj>, <https://bit.ly/3FJS2V3> and in the English language: <https://bit.ly/37H3V1G>, <https://bit.ly/3sxbwqT>.
- Close contacts of confirmed coronavirus cases should be reported by the positive case or their employer and follow the instructions of the Ministry of Health for self-monitoring of their symptoms and free testing. For instructions for close contacts, follow the links: in the Greek language: <https://bit.ly/3PqKDB5> and in the English language: <https://bit.ly/3swksfV>.
- In case a person has COVID-19 compatible symptoms, he/she should limit social contacts and contact his/her Personal Doctor to undergo a free PCR test.
- The use of a protective face mask is mandatory for all employees as well as for visitors, of 12 years of age and over, in the interiors of state and private hospitals, outpatient clinics, medical and diagnostic centres, senior people's homes and other care and accommodation facilities for elderly and vulnerable groups and rehabilitation centres, as well as in public transport.

Obligation to present a Safe Pass

For visits to Senior People's homes, closed structures, outpatient clinics, hospitals, medical and diagnostic centres, clinics, rehabilitation centres and accommodation centres:

- For persons who do not hold a valid vaccination or recovery certificate: A 48-hour rapid test or a 72-hour PCR.
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- For persons who hold a valid vaccination or recovery certificate: No obligation

For visits to patients in public and private hospitals

A 48-hour Rapid test or PCR for people over 6 years of age is required (2 persons per day, 1 person per visit).

- It is understood that in extremely urgent cases the number of people and visits may be increased, upon approval by the management of the hospital.

The Ministry of Health monitors the situation on a daily basis and evaluates the data, while it is ready to review the measures if necessary.

Contact telephone numbers for COVID-19 issues: 1474 and 22421600 (08:00-20:00)

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