



COVID-19 AND IRREGULAR IMMIGRATION

No irregular immigrant disembarkations in our country will be allowed, both by non-governmental organisations, as well as through any sea-craft or other sea-vessel. Cabinet of Ministers has taken this decision in light of the pressures that the spread of Covid-19 is making, and **at a time where the country has declared a Public Health Emergency**. Government's communiqué states that **Malta is not in a position to guarantee resources for saving operations of irregular immigrants**, and therefore it is in the interest and responsibility of these same immigrants **not to risk their lives by undertaking a risky voyage to approach a country that is not in a position to offer them safe sanctuary**. More disembarkations of irregular immigrants, who may also have the virus, will seriously prejudice the work taken to limit the spread of Covid-19 in the country. Government reminds one and **all that travel to our country has even been suspended by closing down the airport and ports, and all local resources, including the Army, will be focused against the spread of Covid-19**.



VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION

An **assistance scheme to foreigners who are resident, or on a temporary basis, to Malta and wish to return to their country, has been announced**. This voluntary repatriation scheme **also applies to foreigners who have a residence permit, as well as for foreigners who are in Malta for reasons of work, education, or familial reasons**. EU citizens, and those who are not, and who are interested in these repatriation flights, **are to register on foreignandeu.gov.mt/apply till Sunday 19th April**. Details of these flights will be announced in the coming weeks. **Government is subsidizing these flights, even those outside the Europe, on a humanitarian basis, and thus payment for these flights will be nominal**.



NEW CASES

There were **13 cases of persons who tested positive for Covid-19, so that the total is now 350**. Amongst these positive cases there is an elderly 83-year-old woman at the Gozo hospital, and another 88-year-old elderly person at St Vincent de Paul. **Both persons have other medical conditions**. Amongst the cases there are also 2 carers who work at the Gozo hospital and 2 healthcare workers at Zammit Clapp hospital. An 8-year-old Syrian boy and his relative were also amongst those who tested positive yesterday. **The month-old infant who was positive yesterday is in good condition**. The number of cases is progressing **according to the model employed by the Health authorities**. The measures that were taken to limit the virus spread **are working, and the situation is under control**. All, however, **depends on the extent to which we follow the measures in the interest of the health of each and every one of us**.



INSPECTIONS ON GATHERINGS AND THOSE QUARANTINED

59 persons were each fined €100 during the continuous rounds Police are conducting to ensure no gatherings of more than 3 persons take place in public areas, as per the legal notice issued by Government. In the meantime, **no one was found breaching obligatory quarantine during the 232 inspections that were conducted in the last 24 hours**. Although these are festive days, **the appeal remains for one and all to be responsible and co-operate with the directives that are being issued by the authorities**. In the meantime **food and drinks establishments have followed the regulations to continue having their doors closed**. No establishment was found to be open during any of the **850 inspections that were conducted in the Maltese islands**. Abuses are to be reported on **21692447**.



THANKING PUBLIC CLEANSING WORKERS

Cleaning and disinfecting are as important as social distancing and the washing of hands to limit the spread of Covid-19. Some 100 employees of the Cleansing and Maintenance Division Directorate are working 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to clean and disinfect the places frequented by the public most. Up till now, they have regularly disinfected some 500 bus shelters, street furniture, areas in front of pharmacies and supermarkets, and 12,000 kilometres of pavements. This impeccable work was appreciated by the Prime Minister during a visit to the Directorate employees in Kordin, where he personally thanked them for the dedication and service they are giving to the nation.



HELPLINE FOR MENTAL HEALTH

1770 is the new helpline that is available 24 hours a day to provide help and support to persons who are experiencing mental health problems during the period of Covid-19 spread. Supporting the 1770 service are more than 30 professionals ready to provide help and support, and if needs be, to refer that person to psychological help. This helpline was set up by the Ministry for Health, in collaboration with the Richmond Foundation. The appeal, even for those who have never had mental health problems, is to use the 1770 service rather than staying quiet.



HELPLINES

- 111** – For those who **experience symptoms of COVID-19** or those who require further **information**
- 21411 411** – For those in **mandatory quarantine** who require food and medical provisions
- 2294 4511/2294 4504** – To report **breaches of regulations** regarding public health and Covid-19 to the Police
- 1770** – For those who need **mental help**
- 1772** – For those who are **feeling lonely**
- 2545 1111** – For **Mater Dei, Boffa Hospital, and Sir Anthony Mamo** healthcare workers
- 2364 5002** – For **Primary Health Care, Gozo General Hospital, and Mount Carmel** employees
- 1575** – For employees to ask about wages and employment conditions
- 1576** – For employers to ask about wages and employment conditions
- 153** – For those who require **information** about the measures of the **financial package** which are administered by the **Department of Social Security**
- 144** – For those who require **information** about the measures of the **financial package** which are administered by **Malta Enterprise**
- 2204 2200** – For Maltese residents who are **stranded in another country and wish to return to Malta**
- 2598 1000** – For those who have **queries about the educational sector**
- 2169 2447** – For **hoteliers and tourists** who have queries about the announced measures
- 2590 3030** – For elderly **people without means of assistance** who require medicine, ready meals, or food products (fruit and vegetables)
- 2546 9111** – For those who work in the gaming industry.