



THE CHOICE IS IN OUR HANDS

We are entering **two very crucial weeks**. During these Easter holidays and the days that follow, we have **a simple choice ahead of us**. Either we are **very disciplined, responsible, and follow the directives given by the health authorities, or more restrictive measures have to be imposed. This is a make or break period**. If we obey, we will be able to **move on from this period rapidly**. If we relax our attitude, we will remain in this situation longer and the **authorities have made it clear that from next week more restrictive measures would have to be announced**. The heroes in the health sector **are doing sterling work and we cannot be the ones to undermine them by leaving our homes and running about. Together we can do this—it is in our hands**.



ANOTHER VICTIM

An elderly 84-year-old person became the third victim of Covid-19 in our country. He was taken to Mater Dei yesterday **suffering from shortness of breath and was discovered to be positive following tests**. As with the previous two victims, **he suffered from underlying health conditions**. Despite various attempts, the elderly person's condition **continued to worsen until he died this morning**. The government **passed on its condolences to his relatives**. The appeal remains that **the elderly and vulnerable persons do not leave their homes**. Their relatives **should also not visit them in order to prevent the risk of infecting them with Covid-19**.



NEW CASES

There were **20 new cases testing positive for Covid-19** so that now the total of those who have resulted positive for the virus is **370**. Among those who tested positive **were some who did not even have a single symptom**. Among today's cases is that of a woman who went to buy from a shop where there was a Covid-19 case and who, when she already had symptoms, went to visit a relative at his home. There was also another case of a man who went to the same shop. Other cases include a cleaner and a carer at the Gozo General Hospital, a carer at Karen Grech, as well as a care worker in the community. **The number of tests taken has also continued to accelerate and 1,288 swabs were taken in the last 24 hours.**



QUARANTINE AT HAL FAR

10 of today's 20 new cases are residents of the Hal Far open centre which has been under quarantine for almost a week after 8 cases were found there. Most of those who are positive with the virus are of a **young age and are not expected to have difficulties recovering**. The quarantine took place in accordance with a plan to **safeguard the residents and to ensure that there is no contact with the community**. In Hal Far there are **already Red Cross facilities and the health authorities are continuing to improve the facilities**. It was also verified that **none of the immigrants who were saved yesterday were positive with the virus, although these will still be kept 14 days in quarantine detention.**



INSPECTIONS ON GROUPS AND ESTABLISHMENTS

One person was found breaking obligatory quarantine during the 272 inspections carried out in the last 24 hours. 34 persons were fined €100 each during the continuous patrols that the Police are doing to ensure that there are no groups of more than 3 persons gathered in public places, as per the legal notice issued by the government. Despite this being a festive period, the **appeal remains that everyone should be responsible and cooperate with the directives being issued by the authorities.**



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S KITCHEN

Meals are being delivered from the kitchen of the Presidential Palace to Mater Dei employees as an act of **solidarity** during this period when they are working long hours away from their families in order to treat Covid-19 patients as well as other patients. For the occasion of the Easter festivities, **the Presidential kitchen will be baking foods related to Easter as a token of appreciation for the acts of heroism being exhibited by healthcare workers.** Indeed, **President George Vella has also forfeited a month's wage and offered this money instead to be used by the government as it sees fit during these unique circumstances that we find ourselves in.**



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** – Helpline for **emotional support and mental wellbeing**
- 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.