



WAQQAF TI-TIXRID TA'

COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS



HOW THE NEW MEASURES WILL WORK

More details were announced about the new measures which came into force with the aim of having our country **reduce the risk to those most vulnerable of getting infected by the coronavirus**. With effect from **tomorrow, Saturday 28 March 2020**, persons above **65 years of age as well as persons with chronic diseases (the details of which have already been announced)** are to **stay at their homes**. Exemptions apply for instances when it is necessary for these persons to go out for **medical appointments**, to **buy food and medicines**, and to **attend to personal needs which are absolutely necessary**. During the time in which these persons are outdoors for the abovementioned reasons, these vulnerable persons are to ensure that **they do not linger outdoors for more than is necessary** and to **obey all social distancing directives**. Vulnerable persons who work in the **health sector and those in positions of leadership in essential sectors are completely exempted from this measure**. Persons who live in the same households as vulnerable persons are **only permitted to go to work**, do the **necessary shopping**, attend **medical appointments**, and exercise their **children visitation rights in accordance with the orders of the competent court**.



PREPARATIONS ARE GOING STRONG

Despite the number of positive cases for coronavirus in the last two days being less than that of previous days, **this epidemic is still in its early stages and the health authorities are continuing to take gradual measures**. Decisions are being taken on the basis of the evidence of what is happening abroad as well as on epidemic studies which are statistically significant. The aim is that of **having the health services always keeping up with the concomitant demand**. For this reason, the government is **increasing the health sector's capacity, including on the island of Gozo**, where together with Steward Healthcare it is making all the necessary preparations so that **Gozo will be ready for any eventuality**. ITU beds have increased **from 2 to 20**, while there will be **120 beds dedicated to Covid-19 patients**.



NEW CASES

5 new cases of Covid-19 were registered with one of the cases related to travel abroad and the other 4 to local transmission which, as time goes by, is becoming the main cause of the local spread. The new cases were traced as the number of swabs taken continued to increase across the 3 centres in Malta and the other in Gozo, so much so that in the last 24 hours **432 swabs were taken, bringing the total to 4,662**. Per capita, **Malta is among those countries in Europe which is taking the most swabs**. So far, there are **32 patients with Covid-19 in Mater Dei and in a private hospital, with the rest in mandatory quarantine in their homes**. The 61-year-old elderly person who was in the ITU is **expected to be released from the unit because he is stable**. The total number of people infected with Covid-19 is **139**.

servizz.gov

Freephone 153

servizz@gov.mt
www.servizz.gov.mt

CLOSED AS FROM NEXT MONDAY

Servizz.gov's 8 centres, the Department of Social Security's 19 district centres in Malta and Gozo, and the Tax Customer Care Office in Gozo will be closed to the public as from next Monday as a precaution against Covid-19. One can still call on Freephone **153** for assistance from **servizz.gov** or by accessing **www.servizz.gov.mt** or by sending an email on **servizz@gov.mt**. Those who require services from the Department of Social Security can use the helpline **25903000** or by accessing the website **www.socialsecurity.gov.mt** and using **MyServices**. For virtual appointments with tax and social security experts, one should call **153** so that the appointment may be made via a video call.



FEELING LONELY? CALL 1772

The helpline **1772** was launched for those who are feeling **lonely, isolated**, or **who feel the need to speak to someone**. 1772 will be operational **24 hours a day** and a number of professionals will be speaking to those who are **feeling lonelier than usual during these times**. The purpose of 1772 is to, as much as possible, prevent suffering caused by solitude, and instead, through solidarity and empathy, **reduce as much as possible any strong psychological effects**.



OBSERVING THE REGULATIONS

Two individuals were fined after they were caught breaking mandatory quarantine. In the last 24 hours, **500 inspections were carried out**. So far, **35 fines were issued during more than 4,700 inspections**—the appeal however remains that **everyone should be responsible and cooperate with the directives that are being given**. From their end, food and drinking establishments **continued observing the regulations and remained closed**. In the last 24 hours, **more than 1,080 such inspections were carried out in Malta and Gozo**, and no breaches were discovered. You can report those who carry out abuses on **21692447** or via email on **tourismcovid-19helpline@visitmalta.com**



HELPLINES

- 111** – For those who feel **symptoms of COVID-19** or who wish **further information**
- 2204 2200** – For Maltese residents **who were caught in one of the high-risk countries and wish to return to Malta**
- 21411 411** – For those in **mandatory quarantine** who require provisions of food and medicine
- 153** – For those who require **information** about the **financial measures** administered by the **Department for Social Security**.
- 144** – For those who require **information** about the **financial measures** administered by **Malta Enterprise**.
- 25981000** – For those who have **questions about the educational sector and the impact of the coronavirus**
- 21692447** – For **hoteliers and tourists** who have questions about the announced measures.
- 25903030** – For **elderly persons bereft of support** who need medicines, ready-made meals or food products (fruit and vegetables).
- 25469111** – For those who work in the **gaming industry**.