



PREPARATIONS AT MATER DEI AND BEYOND

There will be **more than 600 beds at Mater Dei Hospital and other facilities ready** to be used in case Covid-19 spreads amongst us. Currently, besides Mater Dei, there are already 28 isolation beds in another hospital and another 12 in Boffa Hospital (which are set to increase to 65). **Preparations are ongoing in another facility so that by the end of the month there will be another 120 beds.** In Mater Dei there are 136 new beds (which will increase to 274) after zones which were not previously clinical in nature, such as lecture theatres, were converted into wards equipped with all the necessary equipment. Through the rescheduling of non-urgent operations and the relocation of patients, there will be a further 60 available beds. In the Gozo General Hospital there will be 80 allocated beds. From 20 beds at the ITU, **Mater Dei Hospital has the capacity to climb up to 100 beds at the ITU**, and there will be an emergency department only used for Covid-19 patients.



OTHER MEASURES

Childcare services will continue to be provided to workers within the health sector. In this manner, everyone who needs to work with patients will be able to leave their children in the hands of the provided childcare services. Besides this, professionals who work among Covid-19 patients will be provided with a **specific quarantine place so that, after work, should they wish, they can go there instead of home.** All professionals will be wearing protective clothing.



THE SECOND CASE OF RECOVERY FROM CORONAVIRUS IN MALTA

Another person who had tested positive for coronavirus has recovered. The man, a father who had tested positive for Covid-19 on Saturday 7th March, was **the second patient to have recovered from coronavirus over the last week**. As with the other case, after exiting hospital the individual in question will also be kept in quarantine at their home for a number of days as a measure of precaution.



NEW CASES OF COVID-19

Three new cases of Covid-19 were confirmed so that now the total in our country is that of 21 cases. All were imported to Malta from abroad. The new cases are a 23-year-old healthworker and a 20-year-old Maltese individual, both of whom came from Dublin, as well as a 21-year-old Portuguese individual who came from Madrid for work purposes. **So far, 700 tests for coronavirus have been conducted and another 600 on those who were entering Mater Dei.** The test rate is among the highest in Europe.



THE FIRST FINES

In the last 24 hours, 2 individuals were caught by the police not observing their mandatory quarantine—the police are doing spot checks to confirm that those who are obliged to stay at home after coming to Malta from abroad are indeed observing these regulations. **So far, since the start of the spot checks, 4 persons have been caught breaking the mandatory quarantine.** The police have so far made **224 spot checks, 134 of them in the last 24 hours.** All those who were caught not observing the mandatory quarantine were fined a thousand euros each. This fine is applicable each time a person is caught not observing the mandatory quarantine.



A CONTROLLED AND CALM SITUATION

Our country is prepared to meet the challenge posed by Covid-19 and as such the situation is a calm and controlled one. The health authorities are working based on the principle of there not being a deluge of cases but rather cases spread over a lengthier period of time, this while all the country's resources are being used to prepare for the highest number of cases possible. **Medical experts insist that for now there is no need for a total lockdown,** which would mean that the Maltese would be locked inside their homes for a number of weeks and months.



HELPLINES

111 – For those who feel **symptoms of COVID-19** or who wish **further information**

+356 2204 2200 – For Maltese residents **who were caught in one of the high-risk countries and wish to return to Malta**

+356 21411 411 – For those in **mandatory quarantine** who require provisions of food and medicine

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.