



MALTA A MODEL FOR OTHER COUNTRIES

The **World Health Organization** has singled out **Malta as a model country** that is showing the way in how efforts against the spread of Covid-19 should be conducted. During a virtual meeting held yesterday in the presence of Ministers for Health from all around the world, the **WHO Director General mentioned Malta as the model that other countries should look up to, and emulate**. This serves as a testament that should fill health authorities with courage. Appreciation to the **Maltese and Gozitan publics is also due for the way in which co-operation with the directives** being given is forthcoming, and where tolerance for these new measures that are being decided day by day, with the **aim of safeguarding the public health of all citizens, is evident**.



SCHOOLS AND EXAMINATIONS

Schools and educational institutions **will remain closed till the end of coming June**. Year 6 students will be **marked on their assessment mark, instead of the benchmark**. SEC (O Level) examinations **will not be held, and a predictive assessment for the students will be carried out by MATSEC instead**. MATSEC will still issue a **certificate to those students who pass, so that they may be able to attend post-secondary schools**. Every SEC student will nonetheless **retain the right to sit for exams in the coming September**. **Intermediate and A Levels will be postponed for the coming September**, with resits to be available **in December** so that students will also have the opportunity to continue with their tertiary education without penalizing students who sit for resits. Arrangements will be made so that **University and MCAST students will be able to continue with their studies, whilst online learning at all levels will continue**.



NEW CASES

There were **ten new cases** of persons who tested positive for Covid-19, after **487** further tests were carried out in the last 24 hours. Amongst these cases there is a **72 year-old elderly person who is in critical condition**, so much so that he is in **ITU on ventilator**. 6 of the new cases are the result of travel, whilst 4 are the result of local transmission. **The appeal for elderly, and vulnerable, persons to stay inside holds all the more, for good of their own health**. Covid-19 cases have now increased to **149**.



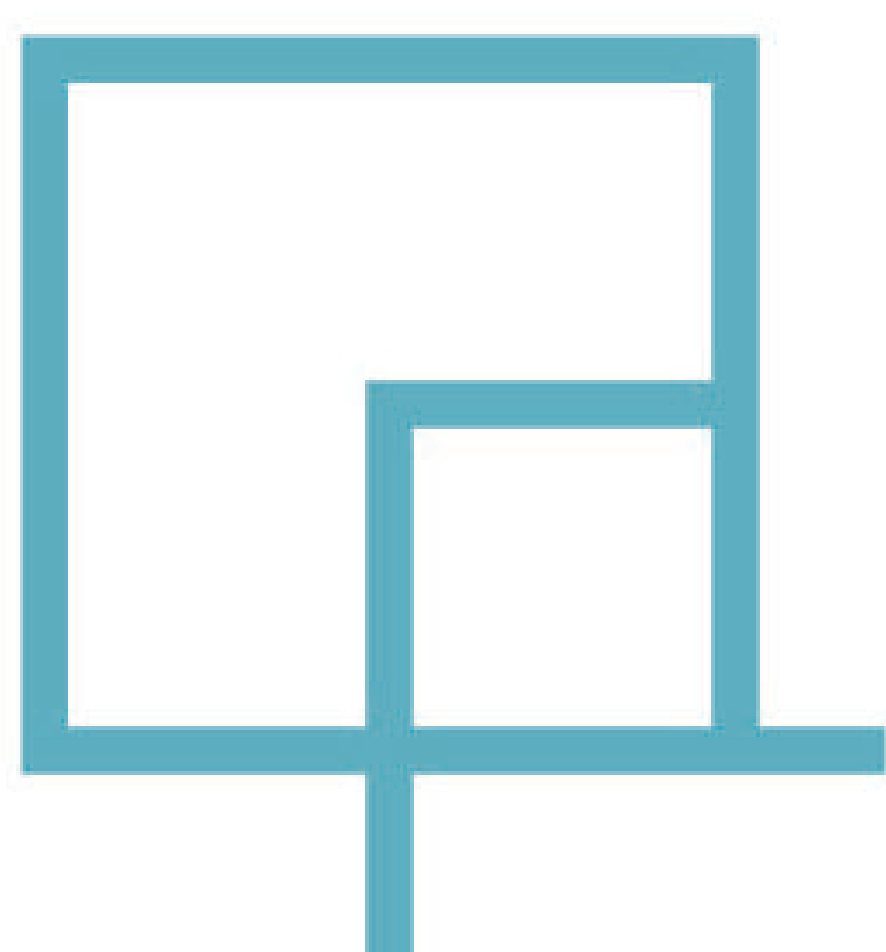
GOZO AND COVID-19

Preparations against the spread of Covid-19 in Gozo are in **full swing**. Joint efforts by Government and Steward Global Healthcare will mean that **120 beds reserved for Covid-19 patients** will be set aside in two weeks' time for any eventuality involving Covid-19 patients. In 3 weeks' time, **beds in ITU will increase to 20, 13 of which will be allocated to Covid-19 patients**. For the first time, Gozo will have a **bulk oxygen cylinder which will serve ventilators, amongst others**. Barts has also offered the medical school to be used solely by **immuno-compromised patients**, whilst Steward Healthcare has **2 helicopters that can carry patients to Malta on orders from the authorities**. Elderly persons in Sant'Anna will be relocated to another place, so that the Gozo hospital will have an additional **80 beds for Covid-19 patients**.



INSPECTIONS TO SAFEGUARD REGULATIONS

5 persons have been caught breaking obligatory quarantine during the **421** inspections that have been carried out in the Maltese islands. They were each fined €3000. Till now, **40 persons were caught breaking quarantine and were fined**. In the meantime, **no food or drinks establishment was found to have broken regulations to remain closed in the Maltese islands**. In all, **600 inspections in Malta and 170 inspections in Gozo** have been carried out, so that the total has now surpassed **6,700**. Abuses are to be reported on **21692447**.



PLANNING AUTHORITY

MEASURES BY THE PLANNING AUTHORITY

The Planning Authority has rolled out measures that keep the present circumstances in context. Development permissions that have already been issued and are still valid, but which are to expire, **will be extended by 3 years**. This measure will facilitate the completion of a number of projects, and will avoid the situation where contractors and developers rush against the expiry of these permissions. It will also **help so that communities are not inundated with construction sites at one go, and thus the negative impact on environment be kept in check**. The Planning Authority Board and Planning Commission **will also start conducting meetings by electronic communication means, such as video conferencing**.



HELPLINES

- 111** – For those who feel **symptoms of COVID-19** or who wish **further information**
- 21411 411** – For those in **mandatory quarantine** who require provisions of food and medicine
- 1772** – For those who are **feeling lonely**.
- 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**.
- 2204 2200** – For Maltese residents **who were caught in one of the high-risk countries and wish to return to Malta**
- 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**.