



SUSPENSION OF LOAN REPAYMENTS

By means of a new legal notice by the Ministry for Health, in collaboration with the Ministry for Finance, **banks have been ordered to suspend loan repayments by persons who have been rendered economically vulnerable due to the negative effects of Covid-19.** This 6-month moratorium **serves as respite to families and businesses on capital and interest.** Those who have a loan may **apply to defer capital and interest payments, or they may opt to continue paying the interest only.** After the moratorium expires, payments which have not been made will not be required immediately, since the loan term can be extended by a maximum of six months more than originally agreed by with the bank. Applications for this moratorium, which are to be made by the **end of next June, are to be made through the bank which has lent, or will lend, the money.**



COMPUTER LOANS AND FREE INTERNET

250 computers will be loaned to students who do not have access to one, and they will also be provided with free internet access so that they may continue their studies in these particular circumstances created by the spread of coronavirus. Access to free internet, which **will cost some €40,000, will also apply to church school students who find themselves in need.** This scheme is tied to those who are on **Scheme 9 – of whom there are some 500 - and who have continued to receive food in their homes provided by government daily.**



NEW CASES

There were **9 new cases of persons who tested positive for Covid-19**; a lesser number than other weeks, **but one which does not mean anything as in a small population like Malta's**, it is natural that there is variation in numbers, and **there is no indication so far that the spread of the virus was a controlled one**. Amongst today's cases, there is a carer who tested positive during the test that is carried out before she started work in an elderly persons' home. There were a further 3 cases at the Hal Far open centre, which is under quarantine, with residents being tested and immediately isolated if they test positive for the virus. These last cases were all the result of **local transmission in the community**. In all, there are **393 cases of patients who tested positive for Covid-19**. There are 2 patients recovered at the Mater Dei ITU, one on ventilator in stable condition, and the other currently under observation.



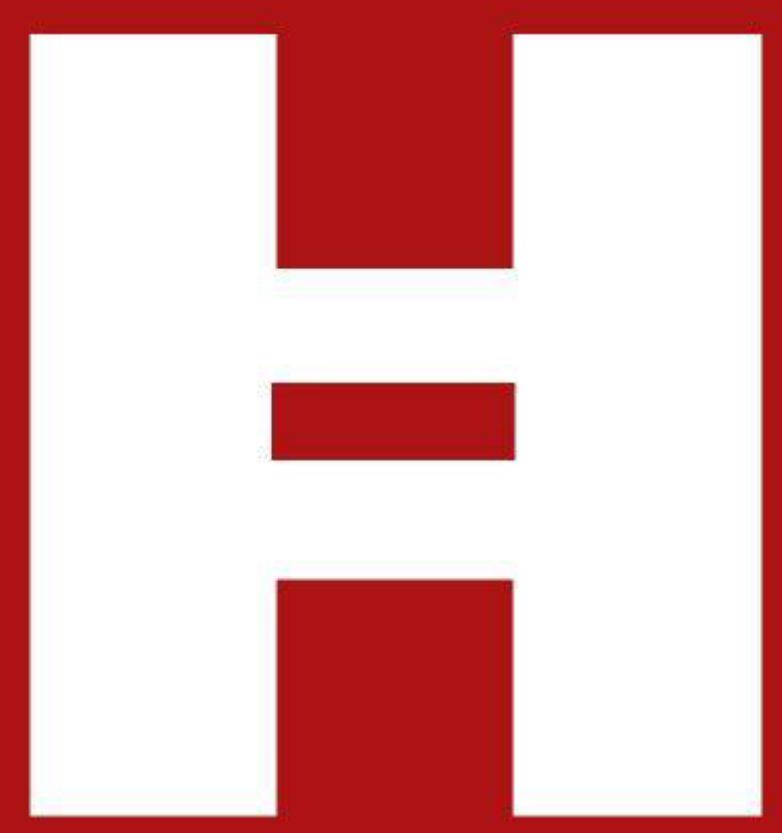
INSPECTIONS ON GATHERINGS AND THOSE QUARANTINED

27 persons were each fined €100 during the continuous rounds Police are conducting to ensure that no gatherings involving more than 3 persons take place in public places, as per the legal notice issued by Government. In the meantime, **no one was caught breaching obligatory quarantine during any of the 738 inspections that were carried out in the last 24 hours**. The appeal remains for each and every one of us **to be responsible and co-operate with the directives that are being issued by the authorities**.



REPATRIATION

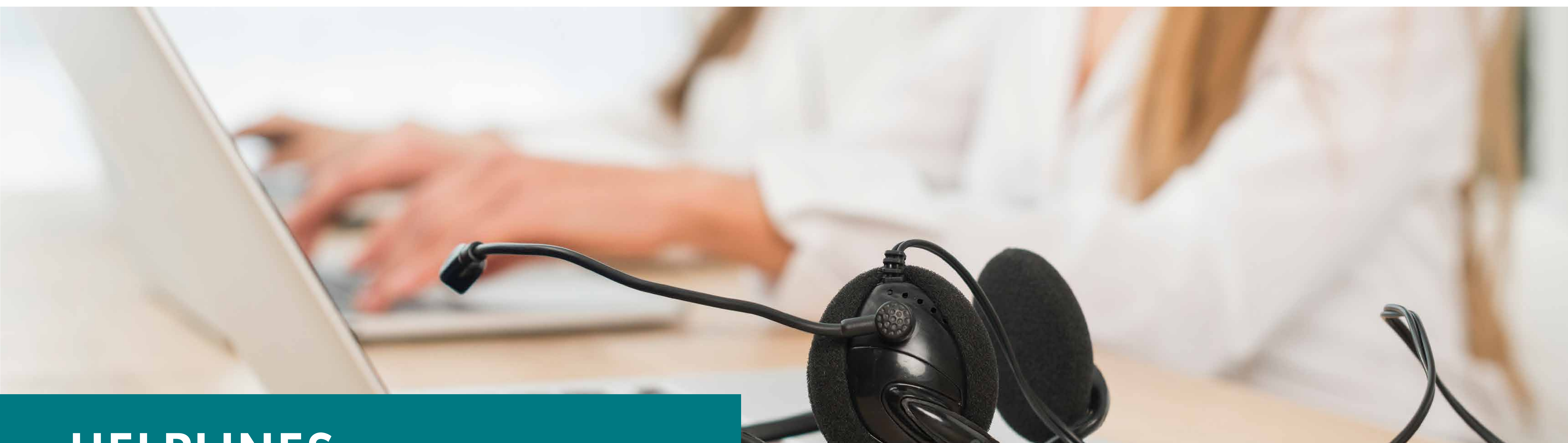
The 2204 2800 helpline and repatriation.mfea@gov.mt email have been set up **to continue providing every form of assistance to foreign citizens, both those from the European Union and from outside, who wish to be repatriated to their countries.** Foreign citizens can apply on a voluntary basis to return to their country on flights that **will be heavily-subsidized by government.** Foreign citizens who are in Malta for reasons of work, education, or familial reasons have **until Sunday 19th April to submit their application on foreignandeu.gov.mt/apply.**



Heritage Malta

BE THE ARTIST

Children under 16 years of age can take part in a Heritage Malta arts competition that will focus on 5 particular themes. The first theme will be a **prehistoric theme, where children – accompanied by their parents – will be given guidelines, indications, and resources to inspire them to be creative.** These artistic works (drawings, craft work, etc) can then be **posted on the Heritage Malta Facebook page.** The competition will run **until mid-June.** The best 10 submissions from each theme **will be uploaded on the Heritage Malta website, and later on this year, these works will be exhibited in MUŻA.** Heritage Malta is also offering the facility for one to virtually visit 35 museums and other sites through heritagemalta.org/.



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**

2204 2800 – For **foreign** citizens **who wish to be repatriated**

80074313/79307307 – For those who have **difficulties regarding blood donation**

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.