



ECONOMIC PACKAGE AGREED WITH MCESD

Government has announced a fiscal measures package to aid families and businesses in the face of the **Covid-19 challenge**. This package, which builds on the previous one, found the **unanimous agreement of all MCESD social partners**. Government will be granting **€800 a month** to those **parents who both work in the private sector** and where one of them needs to **remain home to take care of the children**. Persons with a disability who work in the private sector and opt to stay at home due to their being vulnerable to Covid-19 **will also receive €800 per month**. Those persons who were made unemployed effective from 9th March 2020 onwards will receive **unemployment benefits** and a special benefit **which amounts to €800 monthly**. With this revised package, Government will moreover **pay up to 5 days' work to each employee who works in the sectors most impacted by Covid-19**, and will be granting **€800 per month**. Expenditure for all direct measures will be around **€65-70 million per month**.



MORE TESTING HUBS

A new swabbing centre will soon open in **Pembroke**, and another one in **Gozo**, which will complement the centre already in operation in Hal Farruġ. Apart from this, **even private hospitals are offering this service, and are keeping the health authorities informed of each and every positive transmission case they encounter**. The strategy to contain the spread of coronavirus includes provisions for tests for this virus to be carried out. The more tests are carried out the more persons who have contracted the virus can be found out so that these may be put in isolation, thus **preventing further contagion in the community**. **Malta ranks third place in the European Union where, proportionately speaking, tests for Covid-19 are being carried out.**



NEW CASES

There were **3 new Covid-19 cases announced today** - all imported ones, and were found **after 292 tests** were carried out. Health authorities have advised that the fact that a smaller number of cases was reported today when compared to previous days **does not mean that the virus's spread is on the wane**. We must remain vigilant, since we are in the **initial stages of transmission**. The 110 persons who have tested positive for the virus in our country **are all in good condition of health**. The elderly person who was put in ITU due to complications he developed, is currently **being given combination therapy**.



CALL FOR A PREFAB HOSPITAL

As part of the overall plan for the health sector to be prepared for any eventuality, a process has been initiated **so that a prefabricated hospital is assembled** so that, in case of need, the country can avail itself of the maximum number of beds for Covid-19 patients. This prefabricated hospital is **intended to provide some 60 beds, and is to be equipped even with intensive care facilities**. The call for offers has already been issued. **This hospital is to be built in 8 weeks**. Covid-19 is an additional burden on the Maltese health system, which **still has to cater for all other medical exigencies of the population**.



ESTABLISHMENTS HAVE FOLLOWED CLOSURE ORDER

No food or drinks establishment, cinemas, or other establishment was caught breaking the measure decreeing for their closure. In all, **360 inspections in Malta** and **170 inspections in Gozo** took place. Takeaways and deliveries are exempted from this measure. Abuses are to be reported on 21692447, or by email on tourismcovid-19helpline@visitmalta.com.



QUARANTINE INSPECTIONS

3 other persons have been each fined €3000 after they were caught breaking obligatory quarantine. In the last 24 hours, **282 inspections in Malta** and **15 inspections in Gozo** have been carried out, with authorities re-iterating for everyone to be responsible and follow the directives that are being issued by the authorities. In the 10 days since inspections have started, **more than 2,500** such inspections have been carried out.



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
- 144** – For those who require **information** about the **financial package for industries, businesses, and the self-employed**
- 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**.