



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF MALTA

In a message to the nation, **President George Vella** appealed for **prudence** and **hope**, and noted that through unity the people have **always overcome periods of difficulty**. With determination, discipline, and solidarity, the Maltese will regain their footing and continue where they left off. He called for **everyone to be responsible** and to, without exception, **observe the political and health authorities' directives for the people's benefit**.



## FOR THOSE STILL ABROAD

The Government is trying to **assist Maltese people** or **people** residing in Malta stranded abroad in light of the fact that all flights to Malta will stop at midnight between Friday 20 and Saturday 21 March. Those who do not manage to return to Malta by midnight tomorrow **should immediately call 2204 2200** or send an email on **sitcen.mfea@gov.mt**. Those who are returning from countries not within the European Union should, for now, **transit through London or Frankfurt**.





## NEW CASES

There were **5 new cases** of Covid-19 from the **304 tests carried out** in the last few hours. So far, **53 people have tested positive for Covid-19**. They are all in a good state of health. The health authorities **called for caution and said that the worst of the virus is yet to come**. They are calling for **everyone to follow their advice and instructions in order to reduce the spread of the virus**. The more swabs are carried out, the more individuals carrying the virus are identified. So far, **1,200 swabs have been taken**. **At the Mater Dei entrance, 785 swabs were taken, and all resulted negative**.



## THE STRATEGY AGAINST COVID-19

There are **four pillars in the strategy against Covid-19**. 1.) That **more tests are carried out** on people in order to reduce the spread of the virus; 2.) The **strengthening of facilities at Mater Dei** where now a **new laboratory** has been opened to keep up with the increase in testing; 3.) **More ITU beds and wards** in the eventuality of an increase in coronavirus cases; 4.) The **equipping of healthcare workers with protective equipment and further training**. The bedrock of the strategy remains **within our hands**: avoiding crowds, avoiding needless trips from our homes, and washing our hands frequently. **Those who feel ill should call 111.**

**Together, we will succeed.**





## INSPECTIONS ON THOSE UNDER QUARANTINE

Inspections on those under mandatory quarantine continued. In the last day, **240 inspections were carried out, with two persons found to have broken quarantine**. Since inspections started on 13 March, **1,205 inspections** have been carried out. So far, the **authorities have issued 11 fines**, with another person being found in violation of quarantine regulations on more than one occasion. Among those who were caught breaking quarantine, there is a **foreigner who was caught breaking quarantine 5 times and who has so far been fined €9,000**. Everyone who fails to observe quarantine is fined €3,000 each time they are not found at home. The quarantine is obligatory for all those who entered our country or who will enter our country from whichever country in the world from 13 March 2020 onwards. It also applies to those persons who live in the residence of the person coming from abroad. **The appeal always remains that everyone should be responsible and cooperate with the directives being issued by the authorities.**



## ESTABLISHMENTS ARE REMAINING CLOSED

No food or drinking establishment **was found to have broken the regulations imposed on them to remain closed in order to reduce the spread of the coronavirus**. In the last 24 hours, **more than 500 inspections were carried out by the MTA in a number of locations in Malta and Gozo**. Food and drinking establishments who are caught defying the regulations and opening their doors to clients **will be fined €3,000 each time they are caught**. The appeal is one for **cooperation**, not only from the owners to keep their establishments closed, but also from the general public which should not congregate outside establishments which sell take-aways or deliveries, and instead keep its distance between one person and the next. **You can report those who abuse in this regard on the telephone number 21692447.**





## 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**.