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Factsheet for case CY-2020-12/449

Protection of workers and the public

Factsheet generated on 01 May 2020, 19:00

Country	Cyprus, applies nationwide
Time period	Temporary, 16 March 2020 - 30 April 2020
Type	Recommendation
Category	Protection of workers at the workplace – Occupational health and safety
Case created	10 April 2020 (updated 26 April 2020)

Background information

The measure is regulated through the directions for the protection of workplaces of the Medical and Public Health Services of the Minister of Health.

It is issued within a bundle of other measures for the protection of workers in the economic activities that they still operating such as offices, pharmacies, supermarkets, bakeries, fruit markets and generally with activities in the retail market. The overcrowding of supermarkets, especially, and the fear of the spread of the virus among workers and the public were among the reason that the government has taken the measure.

* On Wednesday 8 April, the President of the Republic announced the decision of the Cabinet to extent all the measures taken by the Degrees of the Minister of Health up until 30 April 2020. The Minister of Health undertakes, currently, a legal and technical processing of these measures.

Content of measure

The directions include specific measures for the protection of workplaces, workers and the public that make use of the services of workplace and include:

- necessary signs to ensure that there is a two-meter distance between citizens and workers both inside and outside the business (i.e. within shops/businesses and in the queues outside).
- the presence of more than one person per 8 square meters of space is not allowed.
- adequate ventilation of all workplace

- access to water and soap and antiseptic hand gels
- cleaning and disinfection of all surfaces
- covering of the mouth with tissues during sneezing and coughing
- access to essential consumables including thermometers, single use gloves, cleaning surface liquids, masks.

The directions also include the process for confronting suspected cases in the workplace. The process include the isolation of the worker from the others, provision of mask and gloves to the suspected case worker, immediate communication with the crisis center, avoidance of work space of the affected person and disinfection of the workplace.

Use of measure

No information is available currently.

Actors, target groups and funding

Actors	Target groups	Funding
National government	Employees Other workers & citizens	No special funding required

Social partners

Role of social partners	Informed
Form of involvement	Unknown

The Ministry of Health and the relevant medical services issued the directions without the prior consultation with social partners.

Sectors and occupations

This case is not sector-specific.

This case is not occupation-specific.

Sources

- 08 April 2020: Οδηγίες για αντιμετώπιση για τα θέματα του κορωνοϊού σε χώρους εργασίας (www.pio.gov.cy)