

Covid-19: Lockdown in Cyprus as of 6 pm, Tuesday 24 March until 13 April 2020

The President of the Republic of Cyprus, Mr. Nicos Anastasiades, announced on Monday 23 March, additional stricter measures in the effort to effectively address the spread of the coronavirus and covid-19 in Cyprus.

The additional measures were decided following the scientific advice offered to the Government. The President underscored that if there is not full compliance with the measures, the consequences will be asymmetrical for all in Cyprus.

“An out of control scattering of cases will lead to the collapse of the health system, which, however good structured, will not be able to respond to the growing demands,” he said citing the tragic examples of Italy or Spain, where doctors are being forced to choose who will live and who will be left to die.

The measures, which will be effective as of 6pm Tuesday 24 March until 13 April 2020, are as follows:

1. Ban on unnecessary movement from 06.00 PM of March 24, 2020 until April 13, 2020, except:
 - i. Transfer to and from the workplace.
 - ii. Transfer for the purposes of supplies of basic necessities from businesses or shops whose operation is allowed if their delivery is not possible
 - iii. Visit to the doctor or pharmacy.
 - iv. Visit to a bank if electronic transactions are not possible.
 - v. Transit with the purpose to aid fellow citizens who cannot look after themselves or to groups of people who must be protected, or who are in self-isolation and/or in premises of compulsory isolation (quarantine).
 - vi. First and second degree relatives going to ceremonies, such as funerals, weddings and christenings, not exceeding ten people.
 - vii. Transit for physical exercise or for the needs of a pet, provided they are not more than two people and they remain limited in areas adjacent to their residence.

Under all circumstances, all persons moving about must carry identification and additional proof as to the purpose of their movement.

Further details and the way of control will be announced shortly.

2. Furthermore, as of 6 p.m. of the 24th of March 2020 until the 13th of April 2020, the following places will also be closed:

- i. Parks.
- ii. Playgrounds.
- iii. Open-air sport spaces.
- iv. Public gathering areas, among others, squares, dams, excursion sites, beaches, marinas.

3. All retailers shall suspend their operations, except from the businesses that will be included in a relevant Decree that will be issued by the Minister of Health shortly.

4. Open markets, bazaars and itinerant sales are prohibited.
5. Work on construction sites shall be terminated, except construction works relating to public utility projects and subject to the relevant permission from the Minister of Transport, Communications and Works.
6. It is prohibited to attend places of religious worship, such as churches, mosques and other places for prayer.
7. Prohibition of the [Christian Orthodox Easter] custom of "lighting a bonfire" [...]

The President warned that all who will violate the above-mentioned instructions or have violated the state decrees that have been issued to date, will be prosecuted. In addition to any other criminal liability to offenders, a penalty of EUR 150 will be imposed.

In addition, in order to support the effort for the prevention and strengthening of the health system, the following have been decided:

1. Molecular testing for the detection of coronavirus is extended in Clinical, Biomedical or University Laboratories. Details will be provided in an announcement by the Ministry of Health.
2. It has been decided to utilize fourth or sixth year medical school graduates from Cyprus universities as well nursing school graduates, as part of their practical training.
3. Towards a more effective prevention and treatment, the number of public health clinics in all cities will be increased.

In his closing remarks, the President advised all to stay at home, in their shelters, in a collective effort to get through these difficult times.

#BeSafe #Be Smart #BeKind