



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

21<sup>st</sup> April 2021

Dear partners,

**Clarifications regarding COVID-19 cases in Cyprus**

You have recently been informed that Cyprus has re-opened its borders for travel and tourism, by implementing a new travel protocol which aims at stabilizing our skies and maintaining a constant flow of air connectivity to the island, whilst at the same time safeguarding public health. This protocol is based on a traffic-light system of country categorization, with entry requirements varying according to each country's categorization.

Following on from that, we would now like to update you on our progress so far with regards to vaccination rates and general containment of the virus. Cyprus has managed one of the fastest vaccination drives in the EU, and aspires to vaccinate 60% of its population by the end of June. Such is our progress, that persons as young as 40 years old will be given the option of vaccination in the first few weeks of May.

In addition to our successful vaccination campaign, Cyprus is also one of the most successful countries in Europe at controlling the spread of the disease, through consistent, widespread testing of the population. For example, during the previous week (12/4 – 18/4), a total of 405'916 people were tested (approximately 46% of the entire population), which ranks Cyprus as second in the world.

This increased testing allows the authorities to identify the vast majority of Covid-19 carriers and their close contacts (symptomatic or asymptomatic) and isolate them, to prevent further contamination. Although the number of confirmed cases may seem relatively high, the positivity rate is actually amongst the lowest in Europe; out of all the people tested, only 1% were found to be carriers of the disease. By comparison, most countries in the EU show a positivity rate ranging from 3% to 15%, and in some cases even higher than that.

In light of the above information, we would like to request that it is taken into consideration when setting your policies for travel to Cyprus. Thank you once again for your ongoing support, and rest assured that Cyprus has gone to great lengths in order to ensure the safety of everyone arriving to the island.

Nikos Christodoulides  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Republic of Cyprus

Sincerely yours,

Yiannis Karousos  
Minister of Transport,  
Communications and Works  
Republic of Cyprus

Savvas Perdios  
Deputy Minister of Tourism  
Republic of Cyprus