10/04/2020

State, Church of Greece remind public of measures for Easter week



The state has made difficult decisions in order to allow no exceptions to the gathering of people and the transmission of the coronavirus, Civil Protection Deputy Minister for Crisis Management Nikos Hardalias said during a daily briefing on Thursday.In this context, Hardalias said, speaking after the Health Ministry's spokesman on novel coronavirus Sotiris Tsiodras, the Church of Greece has contributed decisively to the fight against the spread of infection, "acting with a great sense of responsibility and courage" and following state decisions and ahead of Greek Orthodox Easter Week.

He also referred to the Church of Greece's press spokesperson, the Metropolitan of Nafpaktos, who said that all churches will be open during Easter week only at specific times and only for the priests and the absolute staff of two. Both emphasized the fact that churches will be shut to the public.Earlier decisions have clarified, for all religions practised in Greece, that services will be held only behind closed doors by a maximum of four people including the religious official. Several are expected to be livestreamed on TV and the internet or broadcast by radio.

Hardalias also spoke of the regular flights still operating and the people arriving in Greece on them. He said all passengers coming into Greece are being tested at

hotels near the airports and if found positive are required to stay at the hotels for 14 days.

Use of masks

The compulsive use of face masks for daily outings is not recommended while using disposable plastic gloves is futile, said on Thursday the Health Ministry's coronavirus spokesman and infectious diseases professor Sotiris Tsiodras at the daily televised coronavirus briefing.

He did however elaborate that the use of masks will be re-evaluated as they might prevent the virus' spread by infected people who are asymptomatic or exhibit minimal symptoms. Masks are best used by doctors and anesthesiologists in ICUs, he noted.

Concerning gloves, " they can do more harm than good" he underlined and added that they can get as infected as naked hands and transfer the virus to other surfaces just as easily, while they also provide a false sense of security to the wearer.

The professor said that currently available antibody test kits have not yet been validated as accurate, but more reliable antibody tests will be available in about a month's time.

Thursday stats

On the daily statistics, Tsiodras also announced 71 new confirmed cases of Covid-19 in Greece in the last 24 hours, and 3 new deaths.

The Covid-19 infections total in Greece stands at 1,955. Of these, 518 were infected abroad and 734 in Greece.

Deaths total 86 since the start of the outbreak, of whom 86 pct had underlying health issues or their average age was 70 or over.

Some 79 patients are being treated in Intensive Care Units. The average age of these patients is 67 years, 16 of these are men, while a 77 pct of all ICU patients have underlying health issues or are at least 70 years of age.

A total of 16 people have so far been discharged from ICUs.

So far 33,634 diagnostic lab tests for Covid-19 have been carried out nationwide.

— Source: amna.gr