

Greek gov't issues stricter measures to prevent exposure to the Covid-19 pandemic



The Greek government on Thursday stiffened measures against spread of the coronavirus outbreak, on a day that saw a record single-day number of confirmed instances, at 882, and with the biggest group of newly infected people being young adults.

In a nationally television address, Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis announced a curfew a half hour after midnight until 5 a.m. in areas designated as being at emergency levels three and four – the latter being the highest contingency level. Such area now include the greater Athens and Thessaloniki regions, where more than half the population of the country resides.

People going to and from their employment are excluded from the curfew, as are emergencies. Mitsotakis also said masks are also mandatory, both outdoors and

indoors, in level 3 and 4 areas.

The stricter measures come into effect on Saturday.

As far as places of worship are concerned, for regions in the “red”, such as Kozani and Kastoria prefectures, a ceiling of nine worshippers per church has been mandated, as well as a meter-and-a-half distance between them, according to an encyclical issued by the Holy Synod of the Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Greece.

Meanwhile, no official statement had been issued by Friday morning on whether the annual three-day celebrations in Thessaloniki would take place this year.

The feast day of St. Demetrius, the patron saint of Thessaloniki, is on October 26, which falls on Monday, followed by the annual October 28 military parade in the city to mark Greece’s entry into WWII in 1940.