

## **Cypriot govt imposes stricter restrictions due to pandemic; Church services without worshipers**



**The Council of Ministers of the Cypriot government on Wednesday announced additional measures to stem the spread of the coronavirus. According to reports, the island republic's health minister presented the decisions and measures, which will be imposed immediately, given a recent and worrying spike in the number of coronavirus cases and related fatalities.**

As a result, shopping malls, eateries and churches will close their doors.

In terms of houses of worship, the government said church services and other forms of religious worship will be performed without the presence of worshipers. Other sacraments – such as weddings, baptisms and funerals – will be allowed, but with a maximum of 10 people present.

**Still in the wider region, the Patriarchate of Alexandria this week announced that face masks will, henceforth, be required for entry into churches and chapels.**

According to information released by the Patriarchal Committee of Alexandria, no more than 25 percent of the seating in cathedrals will be available to the faithful.

