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Ecumenical Patriarch tests positive for Covid-19; only mild symptoms present, as His All Holiness is fully vaccinated



The Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His All Holiness Bartholomew I, on Thursday sent a message of optimism and unity, speaking from Phanar-district see in the Bosporus metropolis. The message came just a day before His All Holiness tested positive for the Covid-19 virus.

The Ecumenical Patriarch is fully vaccinated, and according to the latest press reports, is only exhibiting mild symptoms, while his overall condition is very good. As a precaution, His All Holiness visited a local hospital for a series of diagnostic health tests.

Bartholomew also thanked all those who expressed concern over his health.

In his Christmas message, which was issued earlier in the week, the spiritual leader of the world's Orthodox faithful touched on the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, which he said continues to afflict humanity.

The Ecumenical Patriarch also paternally urged all believers to get vaccinated, adding "… science, to the extent that operates as a minister of man, is a priceless gift by God."

On Thursday Ecumenical Patriarch attended festive events at the Holy Trinity Church in Taksim Square, which belongs to the parish of Stavrodromio, together with children of the ethnic Greek community.
Among others, His All Holiness stated: "I am very happy and excited to see that the Greek community has a future, despite what is being said and spread from time to time. We are always optimistic in this city for this … we give this message of endurance, optimism and hope for the future. Merry Christmas everybody."

Afterwards, the Ecumenical Patriarch heard Christmas carols from children and gave them gifts.