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COVID-19 Outbreak in Cyprus

Current situation in Cyprus:

Revised statistics were released by the Ministry of Health, which shows the course of the corona virus in Cyprus until April 14, the day on which there were 697 recorded cases and 17 deaths, 11 of which were due to the virus.

Among all COVID-19 cases, 51% were men and 49% women. The median age of COVID-19 is 47 years, as follows:

- 37 infants, children and adolescents aged 0-17 years (5.4%),
- 474 adults aged 18-59 years (68.6%) and
- 180 people aged 60 and over (26.0%).

Among the 697 cases, 22.9% are health workers, of whom 5.3% are doctors, 11.9% nurses, 1, 3% from other health professions and 4.4% support staff.

As of April 14, 17 deaths were reported (Mortality: 2.4%). The COVID-19 mortality per 100,000 population is 1.9. Thirteen deaths (76.5%) occurred in men and four (23.5%) in women. The median age of people with COVID-19 who died is 76 years. Of the 17 recorded cases of death, 10 had entered the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) with an average duration of stay at the ICU in 7 days (Intra-quarterly range 0-9 days).

In total, 21.5% (n = 150) of COVID-19 cases received hospital treatment, of which 87 (58.5%) were discharged. Hospital care was mainly for men (n = 100, 66.7%). In total, 27 patients (18% of the total number of patients) were admitted to Intensive Care Units (ICUs), of which 14 (9.3% of the total number of patients) were still in ICUs (until April 14). The average age of people admitted to the ICU is 69 years. The number of critically ill patients (in ICU) per 100,000 inhabitants is 1.6.

Union's activities to support Health Care Professionals (HCP):

- Purchase of PPE (face shields, goggles) for HCP and police officers
- Purchase of nursing uniforms
- Financial contribution to supply all hospitals with Tablets for easy data entry regarding Covid-19 suspected patients and patients
- Securing funds and goods (PPE and meals) from private companies
- Securing rooms for HCP that cannot or do not want for health security reasons to return at their families after their shifts.

In addition to the above, the Nursing and Midwifery Council of Cyprus donate €100,000 to support the efforts of all HCP.



In the past 6 weeks that the first case was confirmed in Cyprus, our Union is on a daily communication with the Ministry Of Health (MOH), and the State Health Services Organization (SHSO). Through our intervention, we are mainly trying to:

- Ensure PPE for all HCP (was a very big problem at the beginning)
- Ensure proper and safe protocols and proper application by all
- Support and ensure the safety of HCP that belong to vulnerable groups
- Support and protect the rights of parents that have to take care of their kids
- Ensure satisfactory levels of HCP working
- Ensure testing for all HCP of the public sector

Main Issues pending:

- Employment of additional nurses to support public hospitals
- Follow WHO's protocols and guidelines. Currently, although WHO suggests a 14 days quarantine for high risk exposure, Cypriot protocols force a 7 day quarantine period (following the Spanish and Greek protocols) putting HCP in risk.
- Financial support (e.g. bonus) for HCP
- Psychological support

Plans and ideas for the aftermath:

The outbreak is effecting all European countries and the whole world. It will not be possible to get out of this situation unless there is cooperation among all countries and coordination of the measures taken and the process of lifting these measures. It is important for our countries to plan and create the infrastructure (buildings, equipment) for similar future outbreaks. Also, the current situation proved the absence of planning, protocols and coordination centers that need to be in place during "peace period" in order to operate during the "war".

A big concern of ours for the remaining of the emergency period but also for the day after is having the appropriate number of HCP at duty in good health and mental condition.