With the sixth process of social benefits payments to those persons whose employment was affected due to COVID-19 underway, the total expenditure reached €7.35 million to date. 9,670 applications have been received in all so far and of these, nearly 99% have already been processed. Amongst those who have been paid, there are 5,863 persons who received parents’ benefits, medical, or disabled benefits, all whilst keeping their employment intact, whilst a further 399 persons have terminated their benefits and have returned to work. This means that a further 6,262 places of work have been saved. Per capita, these persons have already received an average of €1,039 in aid. Along with the nearly 88,000 places of work saved through Malta Enterprise schemes, 94,000 places of work have been saved in all till now.

6 persons were declared to have recovered from Covid-19, so that the total number of those who recovered from the virus stands at 413. Out of the 1,022 tests that were carried out in the last 24 hours, 2 persons tested positive, thus continuing the trend for more people to recover rather than contract the virus. The two positive cases exhibited no symptoms. The first was a 77-year-old person who had a hospital appointment, and the other was of a 24-year-old mother who underwent the test after her daughter exhibited symptoms. The daughter tested negative for the virus. Health authorities have reiterated that, once prevention measures are taken, such as the wearing of masks and social distancing, it is safe for people to make purchases from those establishments which are authorized to re-open. The appeal remains for us all to continue following their advice so that we can continue registering progress against the virus spread, and thus leading to further measures being lifted.

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5 persons were each fined €100 during the continuous rounds Police and Environmental Health Officers are conducting to ensure that no gatherings in public places involving more than 4 persons take place, as per the legal notice issued by Government. In the meantime, 2 persons were found to have breached obligatory quarantine during the 375 inspections carried out in the last 24 hours. The appeal remains for one and all to be responsible and co-operate with the directives issued by the authorities.

Limited permits for fireworks related to village feasts, in the days when such feasts are routinely celebrated, will be granted. Therefore, police will be granting permits for fireworks: 1) on the eve, and on the feastday in the morning and afternoon. 2) on the eve of the feast during the time known as tranżulazzjoni (at about 6 pm), and 3) on the feast day itself, where limited permission for fireworks to be let off for an hour in the evening will be granted. However, no permit for displays and fireworks known as nar tal-art will be forthcoming. The Legal Notices enacted to combat the Covid-19 spread still need to be followed, and no infraction of the law will be tolerated.
**SPORTSFEST**

Online Sportsfest is a daily challenge that students from primary, middle, and secondary schools are taking up to participate in an online sports event. This challenge, which will hone in on various abilities related to individual sports, will be held online at 8am, and students will be given the chance, until 6pm, to send a short videoclip of them performing the challenge set for the day. As with any competition, the best 3 students will be awarded gold, silver, and bronze medals. Participate, and follow the [facebook page of the Ministry for Education and Employment](https://www.facebook.com/educationmalta)!  

**TAKEOFF**

Takeoff Seed Fund is a fund aimed at entrepreneurs and researchers who want to develop their ideas. This initiative, along with the University of Malta, means that Government is providing €100,000 to this fund, intended to stimulate innovation and revolutionary entrepreneurial ideas in these difficult times of the pandemic. Researchers and entrepreneurs can benefit from a maximum of €35,000 so develop their ideas. More information can be obtained from [takeoff.org.mt](http://takeoff.org.mt).
HELPLINES

111 - For those who experience symptoms of COVID-19 or those who require further information

2141 411 - For those in mandatory quarantine who require food and medical provisions

2294 4511/2294 4504 - To report breaches of regulations regarding public health and Covid-19 to the Police

1770 - Helpline for emotional support and mental wellbeing

1772 - For those who are feeling lonely

2545 1111 - For Mater Dei, Boffa Hospital, and Sir Anthony Mamo healthcare workers

2364 5002 - For Primary Health Care, Gozo General Hospital, and Mount Carmel employees

1575 - For employees to ask about wages and employment conditions

1576 - For employers to ask about wages and employment conditions

153 - For those who require information about the measures of the financial package which are administered by the Department of Social Security

144 - For those who require information about the measures of the financial package which are administered by Malta Enterprise

7974 7974 - For legal assistance in cases of domestic violence

2204 2200 - For Maltese residents who are stranded in another country and wish to return to Malta

2204 2800 - For foreign citizens who wish to be repatriated

80074313/79307307 - For those who have difficulties regarding blood donation

2598 1000 - For those who have queries about the educational sector

2169 2447 - For hoteliers and tourists who have queries about the announced measures

2590 3030 - For elderly people without means of assistance who require medicine, ready meals, or food products (fruit and vegetables)

2546 9111 - For those who work in the gaming industry.

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