



**Fédération Européenne
des Médecins Salariés**
European Federation
of Salaried Doctors

Date:	24-09-2020	Document:	F20-038 EN
Title:	National Report Cyprus		
Author:	CTMA		

KIBRIS TÜRK
TABIPLERİ BİRLİĞİ

Adres : 21 Doğu Sokak Yenikent
Gönyeli - Lefkoşa KKTC
Tel : (+90 392) 223 3990
Fax: (+90 392) 223 3989
E-Mail :info@kttb.org
Web : www.kttb.org



CYPRUS TURKISH
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Address : 21 Doğu Sokak Yenikent
Gönyeli - Nicosia TRNC
Tel : (+90 392) 223 3990
Fax: (+90 392) 223 3989
E-Mail :info@kttb.org
Web : www.kttb.org

24.09.2020

Covid-19 has been the main preoccupation both for health and politics in the North Cyprus as it has been the case across the world

As not enough preparation was made in the country despite the warnings issued by the professional organizations of medical doctors, we went into a lockdown very quickly after the detection of the first Covid-19 case on the 9th of March which has prevented the widespread infection. After 16 April 2020, no cases were detected. Therefore, the government has opted for an abrupt reopening starting from 4 May 2020 instead of a gradual reopening in spite of all our warnings and all sea and air borders of the country have thus been re-opened on 1 July 2020.

The sea and air borders were re-opened in line with the political interests of the government and the risk classification of countries by WHO and EU were not taken into account.

Turkey, which had rising case numbers at the time, was first placed in category A which includes the lowest-risk countries. Due to the public backlash, it was later included in category B, which is the medium risk countries. The decision was taken to let the arrivals from Turkey into the country following a PCR test alone without any quarantine requirement.

As a result of that, Cyprus Turkish Medical Association has filed a law-suit to the High Administrative Court on 28 June 2020 to have the decisions of the Council of Ministers revoked and to stop the implementation. During the court-case, the Council of Ministers had to reverse its own decision and declared Covid-19 as a dangerous communicable disease. The Law on Communicable Diseases, which was enacted by the Parliament as a part of the European Union harmonization process in 2018 but was not implemented until that date, has thus been put into implementation. Therefore, the management of the pandemic was transferred to the Health Ministry.

Nevertheless, due to the political pressure exerted on and appointments made to the management committees stipulated by the said law, the borders were re-opened without any quarantine requirement.

While the number of Covid-19 cases was 108 on the 1st of July, it has increased to 711 on 22 September 2020. Due to a rise in local cases, the public measures had to be taken across the society. Face-to-face education, which was initially scheduled to start on the 14th of September, had to be cancelled.

The services of the biggest hospital of the country, Nicosia State Hospital which provides the most comprehensive health-care, were closed down and transformed into Covid-19 services. The need to build a pandemic or an emergency hospital was repeatedly postponed despite the fact that both the Health Ministry and the government have acknowledged such need. The pandemic hospital, which is being built at the moment, is not in use yet. Doctors could not place the

KIBRIS TÜRK
TABIPLERİ BİRLİĞİ

Adres : 21 Doğu Sokak Yenikent
Gönyeli - Lefkoşa KKTC
Tel : (+90 392) 223 3990
Fax: (+90 392) 223 3989
E-Mail :info@kttb.org
Web : www.kttb.org



CYPRUS TURKISH
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Address : 21 Doğu Sokak Yenikent
Gönyeli - Nicosia TRNC
Tel : (+90 392) 223 3990
Fax: (+90 392) 223 3989
E-Mail :info@kttb.org
Web : www.kttb.org

patients, who tested positive for the virus in the past weeks where cases rose, under isolation and had to keep them waiting.

Health-care personnel needed to accommodate the rising number of patients due to the pandemic have not been hired. Moreover, some medical doctors resigned from critical services such as emergency services. Also, the Trade Union of Nurses have taken legal action when nurses were hired as temporary workers to take samples for PCR tests. No work plan has been prepared by the Health Ministry yet either.

Thanks to the public measures taken and the frequent warnings issued by the medical doctors for the public, a decline in the cases has started recently.

Also, presidential election which was scheduled for spring was postponed to 11 October 2020. That is why, populism and political interests are increasingly visible in all decisions and practices.

There is a very serious economic crisis underway in the country. Many businesses have shut down or are on the verge of shutting down. According to the calculations, GDP has declined by 15-18% in March-July 2020.

The economic measures taken by the government fell short in keeping an island economy, which is heavily dependent on tourism and higher education as its main sources of revenue, on its feet. As seen clearly, the government is far from ensuring the coordination that it is supposed to ensure and cooperate with the sectors with which it is supposed to cooperate regarding the fight against the pandemic which has a strong grip on many sectors.

Despite the fact that the payment of overtime for health-care personnel is a legal requirement, the payment in question had not been made as of January 2020 and it was paid with a 6-month delay although not regularly following the pressure exerted on the government as well as the decision taken to go on a strike and take action by the trade union.

Coordination and cooperation were not established with the TC Association of Medical Doctors, Chambers and Trade Union of Medical Doctors either despite the fact that they have made the biggest contribution since the beginning of the process. On the contrary, we have been treated as an enemy and targeted throughout the process due to the recommendations and criticisms we have made.

CYPRUS TURKISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Dr. Özlem GÜRKUT MD
(President)