



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

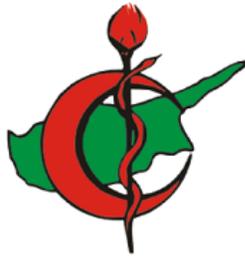
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**CYPRUS-COUNTRY REPORT-MAY 2022**

**COVID-19 Pandemic:**

As in the whole world, the number of COVID-19 cases has decreased in the northern part of Cyprus and hospital and intensive care occupancy rates have decreased too. For this reason, the individual and social measures that were previously implemented in the country were also abolished. Nowadays, the use of masks in practice, except for hospitals and schools, is almost non-existent.

In summary, the total number of infected people in the country from the beginning of the pandemic to the present (6 May 2022) is: **93 963**

Total number of people deceased due to COVID-19 is: **236**

The number of physicians deceased due to COVID-19 is: **2**

Vaccinations against COVID-19 has started on 14th January 2021. Vaccination is still voluntarily administered from the age of 5 onwards.

According to official data, the rate of vaccination for the first dose in the community is **96.6%**, while the third dose remained at **53.2%**.

Vaccination of the physicians and the healthcare workers is not mandatory but still the vaccination rate of the physicians is **99%**.

**Political and Economic Situation in the Country:**

In our country, whose economy is mostly based on tourism, there has been a serious economic contraction with the pandemic. Inflation and increasing unemployment duo to the pandemic have become even more evident in the recent period due to the devaluation of the Turkish Lira against foreign currency. Purchasing power of the people is significantly reduced and poverty has risen.

The four-party coalition government collapsed and early parliamentary elections were held in January 2022 in order to attain political stability.

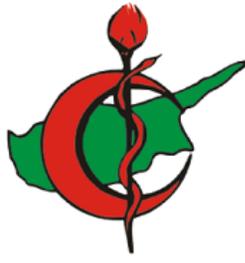
However after the election, none of the parties had the majority and a new coalition government was formed. Ministerial changes were made in the period of two months, and as a result, the government resigned. New government has not yet been formed and a trend towards political crisis is prevalent in the country.

**Health System:**

The deficiencies in the health infrastructure and physician and health worker shortage have become even more evident with the pandemic. The need for the public health services increased visibly, parallel to the impoverishment of people. But unfortunately not enough improvement has been achieved in the provision of services to meet this demand. Accordingly, waiting lists in public hospitals are getting longer.

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There are many medical and dentistry faculties in the country, and still new ones are added without any planning.

**Physicians and Other Healthcare Professionals:**

Due to the shortage of physicians and healthcare workers, overtime work has increased even more. In order to provide 24-hour service in the hospitals, doctors are doing more shifts and oncall duty but the fees are paid with a delay of 5-6 months.

Physicians and other healthcare professionals working in the forefront of pandemic services were not given any additional payment or salary increase. Many physicians, especially working in emergency and pandemic services, resigned.

Problems in working conditions and the personal rights of the physicians who are in specialization training, still continue.

**Cyprus Turkish Medical Association (CTMA) and Turkish Cypriot Physicians Union (TCPU)**

We have studied to raise awareness and inform the public during the pandemic. We carried out lot of studies especially on vaccination and have become the most reliable source of information for the public.

Our struggle continues regarding the professional problems and personal rights of physicians, especially physicians who are in specialization training.

According to the law, the health service costs, which must be determined by CTMA, could not be presented to the Council of Ministers due to the government crisis and are still pending.

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