

**CH/5/P63**

15 October 2020

Professor Charmaine Gauci  
Superintendent of Public Health  
Office of the Superintendence of Public Health  
St Luke's Hospital  
OPD (Level 1) St. Luke's Square  
Pieta'

Dear Professor Gauci

*Re: Covid-19*

I feel that I have to write to you because, as everyone, I am very preoccupied by the escalating number of Coronavirus cases that has now reached alarming proportions. As you know, since June, the number of patients who are under treatment/quarantine has gone up from 3 to over 1000. Per 100,000 inhabitants, this is among the highest in Europe, both as regards positive patients, as well as deaths.

To make matters worse, I am told, that persons who have been in contact with positive patients are being refused swabbing until they develop symptoms.

The Ministry for Health seems to allay its conscience with the often repeated statement that those who died had other underlying causes. Those persons were coping with their other underlying causes.

In spite of all this the Ministry is only issuing recommendations which are to no avail. The situation is very lax wherever one goes including at the ports.

May I therefore suggest that –

- a. Health inspectors carry out surprise inspections including restaurants, and issue fines;
- b. Wearing of masks indoors (except homes) and in the street;
- c. The police will fine those who are not wearing masks;
- d. Fines to be paid within 24hrs;
- e. Encourage teleworking;
- f. Reissue Legal Notices as required (it is the Legal Notices which produced results last March).

Regards



~~Charles Messina~~

Commissioner for Health

Copy – Hon. Mr Christ Fearne MD, MRCS  
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Health

Dr Denis Vella Baldacchino  
Chief Medical Officer