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ASOCIAȚIA EUROPEANĂ A MEDICILOR DIN SPITALE**

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Ε Λ Λ Η Ν Ι Κ Η Δ Η Μ Ο Κ Ρ Α Τ Ι Α

**NATIONAL REPORT TO THE AEMH PLENARY ASSEMBLY
ONLINE, 8 MAY 2021**

PANHELLENIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Author: Dr Konstantinos Koumakis

In Greece, healthcare is mainly focused on the covid-19 pandemic. Greek authorities have reimposed a lockdown continuing until May 10th, to combat the spread of COVID-19. Authorities announced 24-hour movement restrictions, prohibition of nonessential travel between regions in Greece, a nighttime curfew 23.00 – 05.00

The National Health System is now under strong pressure but still resist. The lack of ICU beds is confronted by converting operating rooms into general ICUs, since scheduled operations in public hospitals are cancelled and oncologic cases are operated on in the private section with no expenses for the patient. In the beginning of the pandemic there were 557 ICU beds, now there are 1,402 beds, some of them are private donations.

In hospitals there is no regular work shift. All healthcare personnel work overtime, with no additional financial compensation. This situation caused burn-out symptoms to numerous hospital doctors. Last April 2020, all intensivists and ICU nursing staff received an extra bonus of 400 euros. Although a considerable number of doctors have been hired, there is still shortage in medical and nursing staff. Several public hospitals have been transformed into strictly COVID-19 hospitals, in order to deal with the increased rate of positive COVID-19 cases during the second and third wave of the pandemic. A certain number of beds in most private hospitals are used for hospitalization of covid cases, in separate units, where treatment is performed by doctors of the private section, without any additional compensation. Nevertheless, patients who need ICU care are only treated in public hospitals, for the time being.

The expansion index of COVID-19 positive cases shows an intensified rate. According to data on April 25th, 2021, there are 323,129 covid cases (51.3% men), 816 intubated patients (84.9% with underlying disease and/or >70 years old) 10,007 deaths (95.5% with underlying disease and/or >70 years old). 2,032 patients have been released from ICUs, while daily change in hospital admissions is +8.73%. Referring to the rise in cases, health authorities have attributed the increase to new virus variants which have made it more transmissible.

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Ε Λ Λ Η Ν Ι Κ Η Δ Η Μ Ο Κ Ρ Α Τ Ι Α

Since January 2020 up today, a total of 4,577,609 clinical samples have been tested in labs that carry out covid testings, while 3,270,465 Rapid Ag samples have been carried out by delegates of the Greek National Public Health Organization (EODY) and in state Primary Healthcare Units.

Vaccinations are performed in public hospitals and public structures of primary healthcare. Additionally, municipal infrastructures are used for vaccinations, under the supervision of qualified health workers. Doctors and other healthcare professionals are a priority group in Greek COVID-19 vaccination plan. Residents in small islands are also given priority when it comes to vaccination. According to data on April 24th 2021, 2,821,625 doses have been administered, approximately 13.2% of the Greek population. Authorities are aiming to have 70-80 % of the adult population vaccinated by August.

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