Announcement by the Ministry of Health on the decisions of the Council of Ministers

Over the last few days, there has been an increase in all epidemiological indicators, as well as in the number of hospitalized individuals. The increase in infections is due to BA.4, BA.5 variants and their evolutionary sub-strains**. The Ministry of Health reiterates its call for compliance with the personal protection measures (mask, distance, hand hygiene), in order to prevent further deterioration of the epidemiological situation.** Collective and individual responsibility has had a major contribution in addressing the pandemic. The Ministry of Health, in cooperation with the members of the Advisory Scientific Committee, evaluates the data on a daily basis and, if deemed necessary, measures will be taken to ensure Public Health.

In view of the above, **the Council of Ministers has decided:**

a) **as of 30 June 2022,** the mandatory use of a protective mask by employees and customers in pharmacies, clinical laboratories, as well as persons visiting the testing units for COVID-19.
   - **It is reminded that a protective mask is mandatory for employees and visitors, of over 12 years of age, in hospitals, senior people's homes, closed structures of vulnerable groups, outpatient clinics, clinics, medical centers, rehabilitation centers and public transport.**
   - **It is recommended to use a protective mask in places where a large number of people congregate (indoor spaces, social events venues), for persons who belong to vulnerable groups of the population, as well as for those who interact with high-risk people.**

b) **as of 30 June 2022,** the reduction of the maximum charge price (price limit) for a molecular test for SARS-COV-2 from EUR 50 to EUR 30.

c) **as of 4 July 2022,** that the maximum charge price for self-tests for COVID-19 is set at EUR 1.70 per item.

- **It is reminded that the maximum charge price for the package of the 5 self-tests is EUR 6.**

d) the extension of all existing measures until 31 July 2022.

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