

Communication to doctors

A pilot project is being carried out for the time period between 7th and 30th September 2023 to enable enhanced surveillance, notification, and fast-tracked referral to specialist GU care where necessary. This includes GPs in both the private and the public health sector. During this time, enhanced STI surveillance will be in place is going to be in place through the form provided below.

Surveillance will include instances where HIV post-exposure prophylaxis may need to be prescribed in accordance with the risk assessment guideline which accompanies this communication. This is currently available only upon prescription from 2 pharmacies in community settings (St. Julian's Pharmacy-Raltegravir; Floriana Dispensary-Dolutegravir; and Regional Pharmacy Msida). Referral form for enhanced STI surveillance between GPs and GU services can be found here: <https://forms.office.com/e/chNxDJ0Gmu> . Contact details for the various health services in Malta and Gozo are compiled in the final sheet.

Notification of Infectious Diseases to Public Health

In Malta there are currently 73 notifiable infectious diseases that are statutorily notifiable.

Notification is mandatory by law for all doctors in both public and private sectors.

It is of great importance that the Infectious Disease Prevention and Control Unit (IDCU) is alerted as soon as possible whenever a patient presents with a notifiable infectious disease so that prompt public health action can be taken.

The full list of notifiable infectious disease is available on the IDCU webpage: https://hpd.gov.mt/idcu/notify_a_disease/notifiable_diseases

How to Notify

Notification to IDCU can be done online by:

- Accessing the **Infectious Disease Notification Forms** available on IDCU webpage https://hpd.gov.mt/idcu/notify_a_disease/notification_forms
- Sending an email to disease.surveillance@gov.mt

Alternatively, you can call the unit during office hours (Mon-Fri, 08:00-16:00) on 23266122, 23266109, 23266185, 23266119.

For **Urgent notifications** (please call **79004731** or **79847219** (Consultant IDCU on-call) so that immediate public health action can be taken.

ENSURE that the following case details are collected and **verified as correct** during the clinical encounter:

- **Name and Surname**
- **ID card Number**/Hospital number (F number) /Passport number (for tourists)
- **Contact Number**
- **Address** they are currently staying in
- **Email address**

Specific scenarios of note

It is especially important that you urgently notify IDCU to allow for an immediate and effective Public Health response when encountering the following:

- **Suspected/Confirmed Food-borne Illness**
 - Cluster of cases of gastroenteritis due to food-poisoning
 - Gastroenteritis linked to a particular event (ex. Wedding, group event, gathering)
 - Scombrototoxin food-poisoning
- **Outbreaks of infectious diseases in Institutions** (ex. in homes for the elderly, schools or nurseries)
- **Suspected/Confirmed bacterial meningitis**
- **Vector-borne infections** (eg. Malaria, Dengue, Chikungunya, West Nile, Yellow fever, Zika etc).
 - In such cases, please obtain travel history from patient and take the required tests /refer for admission to Mater Dei Hospital as necessary

- **Measles, Mumps or Rubella**
 - Please gather details on vaccination history
 - Take tests: IgM, IgG, PCR as necessary to confirm diagnosis
 - Give the patients the following advice:
 - Isolate at home immediately
 - Do not go to school/work, do not attend events
 - Wash hands frequently. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub that contains at least 60% alcohol.
 - Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve when coughing or sneezing.
 - Avoid sharing utensils, water bottles or other items contaminated by saliva or respiratory secretions.
 - Patient should wait until being contacted by IDCU for further advice.

- **Suspected active TB**
 - If patient has suggestive X-Ray changes and is symptomatic, alert IDCU consultant on-call and arrange for ambulance to immediately transfer patient to MDH so they are not lost to follow-up and get the appropriate treatment.

- **Monkeypox**
 - GU clinic. - (For queries regarding Monkeypox the Community ID service can be accessed through a dedicated pager **79703525**, Mon to Friday from 8am till 1pm, Saturday 8am till midday.)
 - Anyone examining a suspected case of Monkeypox should wear the appropriate PPEs: **mask/N95, visor, gloves, gown**. Areas where the patient had direct contact should be decontaminated with a chlorine-based disinfectant or a proprietary product possessing virucidal properties.
 - Refer urgently to GU clinic for diagnosis and management. For queries regarding Monkeypox the Community ID service can be accessed through a dedicated pager **79703525**, Monday to Friday from 8am till 1pm, Saturday 8am till midday)
 - Give the patients the following advice:
 - Advise the patient to isolate with immediate effect
 - Patient should wait until being contacted by IDCU for further advice.

Healthcare setting	Location	Opening hours	Contact number	Further information
Primary HealthCare (Malta)	Primary HealthCare Client Support Centre +356 21231231 / +356 21222444	Monday - Sundays (24hrs)	+356 21231231 / +356 21222444	
	Floriana Health Centre Triq Frangisk Saver Fenech, Floriana, FRN-1211			
	Paola Health Centre Pjazza Antoine De Paule, Paola, PLA-1266	Monday - Sundays (24hrs) GP service: Monday-Friday: 8am-8pm; 8pm-8am for immediate medical care only		
	Mosta Health Centre Rotunda Square, Mosta, MST-9059	Saturdays: 8am-1pm; 1pm-8am for immediate medical care only Sundays and Public Holidays: 24 hours for immediate medical care only		
	Gzira Health Centre Meme' Scicluna Square, Gzira, GZR-1120	GP service: Monday-Friday: 8am-8pm Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays: 8am-5pm (At other times this service is provided from Floriana Health Centre)		
	Qormi Health Centre Triq il-Vitorja, Qormi, QRM-2503	Temporarily closed		
	Cospicua Health Centre Triq Ljun, Cospicua, BLM-1921	GP service: Monday-Friday: 8am-8pm Saturday: 8am-1pm (At other times this service is provided from Paola Health Centre)		
	Kirkop Health Centre Triq Danny Cremona, Kirkop, KKP-1703	GP service: Monday-Friday: 8am-8pm Saturday: 8am-1pm (At other times this service is provided from Paola Health Centre)		
	Rabat Health Centre Civic Centre, Triq San Kataldu, Rabat, RBT-1528	GP service: Monday-Friday: 8am-8pm Saturday: 8am-1pm (At other times this service is provided from Mosta Health Centre)		
Birkirkara Health Centre Triq Tumas Fenech, Birkirkara, BKR-2527	GP service: Monday-Friday: 8am-8pm Saturday: 8am-1pm (At other times this service is provided from Mosta Health Centre)			

Primary HealthCare (Gozo)	Victoria Health Centre Triq Enrico Mizzi, Victoria, Gozo, VCT-2041	Monday - Sunday from 7:00 to 20:00	+ 356 21231231 / +356 21222444	
Mater Dei Hospital - Emergency Department	Mater Dei Hospital Triq id-Donaturi tad-Demm, Msida MSD 2090 Malta	Mondays - Sundays (24hrs) for emergency care only	+356 25450000/112	
GU Clinic (Malta)	Mater Dei Hospital, Level 2 Outpatient department Triq id-Donaturi tad-Demm, Msida MSD 2090 Malta	Monday to Friday: 7am-4pm (doctors available till 2 pm); Extended opening hours till 6pm on the 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th and 18th of September 2023	+356 25457494 / +356 25457491	guclinic@gov.mt
Gozo General Hospital Emergency Department	Gozo General Hospital Triq I-Arcisqof Pietru Pace, Victoria, Gozo, VCT 2520	Mondays - Sundays (24hrs) for emergency care only	+356 23446000	
Sexual Health Malta- Health Promotion Disease Prevention			Anonymous messaging is possible on Sexual Health Malta Messenger page	sexualhealthmalta.hpdp@gov.mt

