**Covid-19 and Islands**

***Greek Islands Generally, Greece***

1. What actions are being taken to protect the island community from Covid 19? In particular, how are travel restrictions being put in place and enforced?

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| Respondent | Date | Response |
| Kostas Komninos  Aegean Energy  [kk@aegean-energy.gr](mailto:kk@aegean-energy.gr) | 23 March 2020 | * Travel from the mainland to islands has now been limited to those carrying documentation issued by the tax authority showing that they are economically active on the island. * There are reports that local islanders are reporting unfamiliar arriving persons to the port police |
| Prof. Thanasis Kizos  Department of Geography, University of the Aegean, Mytilini, Lesvos Island, Greece  [akizos@aegean.gr](mailto:akizos@aegean.gr) | 7 April 2020 | More travel restriction measures have been implemented in the Greek islands, besides the overall movement restrictions that have been applied in the whole country for the past 15 days (movement with an SMS for six reasons, up to two persons at a time, etc.). For islands, the first restriction involves the ban of travel to the islands for all non-permanent residents. This involves all ferry trips to all islands, with the exception of coastal islands where movement restrictions for all residents apply. Air travel has also been restricted to the islands for permanent residents only as well, with the exception of police, army and medical staff. These restrictions were accompanied by a reduction of travel frequencies for both ferries and planes. Last Friday, two islands (Mykonos and Santorini) were placed under further movement restrictions due to a rise of confirmed cases: all movement is banned between 20-00 and 08-00. |
| Thanasis Kizos  University of the Aegean  [akizos@aegean.gr](mailto:akizos@aegean.gr) | 13 May 2020 | There are travel restrictions to and from the islands in place since March. Only permanent residents can travel and board ferries and/or airplanes. This was part of a general travel restriction policy outside NUTS 3 areas. It is lifted for continental Greece (and Crete) on Monday the 18th. For islands it will be lifted on the 24th according to yesterday announcement. |

1. What actions will be taken should people on the island have Covid 19?

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| Respondent | Date | Response |
| Kostas Komninos  Aegean Energy  [kk@aegean-energy.gr](mailto:kk@aegean-energy.gr) | 23 March 2020 | * As of 23 March, no special measures have been announced. * Public health infrastructure on smaller islands is lacking. Typically, in health emergencies, helicopters and fast boats will transfer patients to bigger islands with hospitals, or to the mainland. |
| Prof. Thanasis Kizos  Department of Geography, University of the Aegean, Mytilini, Lesvos Island, Greece  [akizos@aegean.gr](mailto:akizos@aegean.gr) | 7 April 2020 | * A 14 days self-isolation is required for “contacts” (people that have been in contact with the COVID positive persons). Persons with symptoms are strongly advised to call their GP and follow the instructions and visit hospitals or health centers only if they feel unwell or their situation worsens. Once there, they are treated according to approved protocols of contact and are tested. If proven positive, they are moved via air travel to one of the reference hospitals in the mainland. In smaller islands with no airports, helicopters can be used for these transports (none has been done so far). * A special case are camps for refuge / asylum seekers / immigrants that are located on Lesvos, Chios, Samos, Leros Islands. There are health centres (very basic) in the camps and a few of the suspect cases are forwarded to the closer hospital to be tested. If a case is proven, then the whole camp will be set in quarantine and movement will be banned completely outside the camp. No cases have been proven positive so far to see how this will be enforced. |
| Thanasis Kizos  University of the Aegean  [akizos@aegean.gr](mailto:akizos@aegean.gr) | 13 May 2020 | This depends on the size of the island. Reference centers for patients (where they can be treated) are located only in Crete. For the rest of the islands, where there are intensive care units beds some patients can be treated if necessary, but the policy is to transfer them to a reference center in the mainland. A special mention for asylum seekers/ refugees / migrants: there is a special restriction of movement in place for camps and a quarantine period of 2 weeks for new arrivals. |

1. What actions are being taken to ensure that essential goods and services are provided to the island community?

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| Respondent | Date | Response |
| Kostas Komninos  Aegean Energy  [kk@aegean-energy.gr](mailto:kk@aegean-energy.gr) | 23 March 2020 | Boat connections, which are partially or fully subsidised, from the mainland to the islands are being maintained. The supply chain continues to operate normally. |
| Prof. Thanasis Kizos  Department of Geography, University of the Aegean, Mytilini, Lesvos Island, Greece  [akizos@aegean.gr](mailto:akizos@aegean.gr) | 7 April 2020 | Supply lines remain open and tracks continue to board the ferries. No shortages have been recorded so far. |
| Thanasis Kizos  University of the Aegean  [akizos@aegean.gr](mailto:akizos@aegean.gr) | 13 May 2020 | Transport of goods is part of the regular transport network that still operates. There are no shortages. |

1. What actions are being taken to ensure that people working on the islands, not only in the tourism sector, are sustained financially in the short term and in the long term?

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| Respondent | Date | Response |
| Kostas Komninos  Aegean Energy  [kk@aegean-energy.gr](mailto:kk@aegean-energy.gr) | 23 March 2020 | * There are nationwide measures announced to financially support businesses and employees. No additional specific measures have been announced for islanders. |
| Prof. Thanasis Kizos  Department of Geography, University of the Aegean, Mytilini, Lesvos Island, Greece  [akizos@aegean.gr](mailto:akizos@aegean.gr) | 7 April 2020 | * There are no special conditions for island residents, only the general provisions for business that have been forced to close due to the pandemic |
| Thanasis Kizos  University of the Aegean  [akizos@aegean.gr](mailto:akizos@aegean.gr) | 13 May 2020 | There is no special care for islanders, only the general provisions for workers on the country. A special allowance has been given for 2 months to all those who were put out of work and social security payments were done by the State if companies did not fire personnel. |

1. What actions are being taken to ensure the mental well-being of people on the islands?

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| Respondent | Date | Response |
| Kostas Komninos  Aegean Energy  [kk@aegean-energy.gr](mailto:kk@aegean-energy.gr) | 23 March 2020 | Unaware of any measures to date. |
| Prof. Thanasis Kizos  Department of Geography, University of the Aegean, Mytilini, Lesvos Island, Greece  [akizos@aegean.gr](mailto:akizos@aegean.gr) | 7 April 2020 | There are no special conditions for island residents, only the general provisions for the country. There is a help line open 24/7. |
| Thanasis Kizos  University of the Aegean  [akizos@aegean.gr](mailto:akizos@aegean.gr) | 13 May 2020 | During quarantine, personal exercise was permitted and a phone support line operated. |

1. If you consider it appropriate, feel free to share any data about people who have Covid 19 on your island and of people who, sadly, have passed away because of Covid 19.

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| Respondent | Date | Response |
| Kostas Komninos  Aegean Energy  [kk@aegean-energy.gr](mailto:kk@aegean-energy.gr) | 23 March 2020 | As of 23 March in Greece:   * Approx. 500 confirmed cases. * Approx. 10-15 deaths. Only the hospital where they were nursed is announced, so it is unclear whether they were from other islands. * All confirmed island cases are from larger islands (e.g. Crete, Zakynthos, Lesvos, Euboea) |
| Thanasis Kizos  University of the Aegean  [akizos@aegean.gr](mailto:akizos@aegean.gr) | 7 April 2020 | There is so far one death of an elderly woman on Lesvos that has been attributed to Covid-19. There were 4 more proven cases, one has recovered fully the others (a mother and a daughter related to the deceased) in home isolation. |

1. If applicable, how are lockdown measures being relaxed?

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| Respondent | Date | Response |
| Thanasis Kizos  University of the Aegean  [akizos@aegean.gr](mailto:akizos@aegean.gr) | 13 May 2020 | General movement restrictions are being lifted for 10 days now and last Monday (11/05) all shops opened except restaurants, cafes and bars and hotels. These will open either on the 24th of May or 1st of June. |

8) Is there anything else you want to share?

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| Respondent | Date | Response |
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*This information has been collated by the Strathclyde Centre for Environmental Law and Governance in collaboration with Island Innovation and can be found at* [*https://www.strath.ac.uk/research/strathclydecentreenvironmentallawgovernance/ourwork/research/labsincubators/eilean/islandsandcovid-19/*](https://www.strath.ac.uk/research/strathclydecentreenvironmentallawgovernance/ourwork/research/labsincubators/eilean/islandsandcovid-19/)*.*