



HUNGARIAN CHARITY SERVICE OF THE ORDER OF MALTA

OUR ACTIVITIES SO FAR DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

The focus of MMSZ since the coronavirus appeared in Hungary has been the protection of the people entrusted to its care. The measures that had to be taken as a result of the spread of the virus have deeply affected the everyday functioning of our institutions. MMSZ institutions care for an average of 13,000 people every day, its assistance programs and charitable activities touch tens of thousands more. We summarise here below the most important events to date.

03.08. The Hungarian Chief Medical Officer orders a ban on visits to residential institutions. This measure affects 30 institutions of MMSZ, with a total of 1,895 residents. MMSZ reminds relatives and friends that telecommunication devices can be used to communicate with residents inside institutions: our staff gives all necessary help in this regard to the elderly and the disabled. The only staff of the Charity Service who are allowed inside these institutions are those officially on duty. They will take in food, groceries, mail, and other consignments handed over by the resident's relatives. They disinfect themselves according to regulations before entering.

03.11. The collection and distribution of in-kind donations and packages is suspended on all the premises used by MMSZ. The activity is continued by other means: food parcels are handed out individually to families in need at their own residences.

03.16. A Schools run by MMSZ, like all schools in the country, switch to off-premises teaching by digital means. MMSZ runs 12 teaching institutions, with a total of 2,000 students, mostly from needy, disadvantaged families. The staff of the organisation have worked out special proposals for this situation, since most of the students do not have access to computers at home. MMSZ continues to teach, using methods adapted to each particular circumstance.

03.17. MMSZ launches a funding appeal for its relief efforts targeting the hardships caused by the coronavirus emergency, on the www.adomanyozz.hu website.

03.18. The MMSZ sewing workshop in Tiszabura starts the trial production of multi-use, washable facemasks. The production of this device, of which there is a nationwide shortage, will be introduced gradually in the workshops of MMSZ's employment programmes. Similar masks have already been produced, on a smaller scale, in the sewing shop of the MMSZ home for the handicapped in Göd, for the use of the workers of the institution itself. The Tiszabura shop will be able to produce 1,500 of these per day, destined for use in MMSZ institutions.

03.19. MMSZ summarises the rules for voluntary home quarantine, and produces a printable notice that can be affixed on entrance doors, providing basic information to neighbours. The text of the poster draws attention to basic prevention measures, and has a space for the user to add their telephone number, to facilitate communication.

03.20. MMSZ schools introduce a special distance teaching program that takes into account local conditions.

In view of the cold weather expected over the next few days, MMSZ temporarily reopens its 100-bed homeless night shelter, to ensure, now that homeless shelters are ordered to limit the number of users, that people on the Buda side of the capital city who normally spend the night outside, have a place to go.

03.21. MMSZ launches a distance tutoring service: its staff link children who ask for help, with young volunteers who have offered their services. Tutors and pupils are connected, for the time of the lessons, on a closed-circuit video link. One can register for this service on the link www.korrepetalas.maltai.hu.



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