

Covid-19 Preparing for the Autumn

From the experiences abroad, especially in France, Spain and UK - and Portugal's own increased number of Covid-19 confirmed cases in recent days - a worsening of the pandemic situation in Portugal may be on the horizon very soon.

The Government guarantees that it is keeping an eye on the epidemiological situation and that is why it has already decided that there will be an increase in the country's state of readiness, to the Situation of Contingency, as of September 15. The goal is to have the support to take new measures and "prepare for autumn / winter".

What measures will result from this new situation is not yet known. Outside, there are countries imposing a mandatory mask or banning smoking in public areas. Here, the Government has not yet decided on the measures, which should be announced during the week prior to the



country's entry into a Situation of Contingency i.e. after the Council of Ministers meeting scheduled on 8 September.

Before then, technical experts and politicians will resume the meetings at Infarmed headquarters, on September 7, to discuss the conditions to combat the pandemic, and recommend the new rules.

Safe Communities welcomes the statement by the Minister of State and Presidency, Mariana Vieira da Silva, that the government's aim is to act in a preventive manner, explaining that "we will live in times that are more difficult given the international context, the change in the lives of families and the circumstance of facing autumn".

So the message is: Be prepared, use Face masks, practice hygiene etiquette and maintain social distancing.