

Fourth Serious H1N1 Case-Scientists Call for Calm

Scientists call ones concerned about H1N1 flu to indicate calm and not panic and avoid going to hospitals unless there is serious reason. In the meantime, the fourth H1N1 serious case was reported on Monday. A 30yo man infected by the virus developed pneumonia and has been hospitalized at the intensive care ward of Heraklio Hospital.

In the meantime, the 33yo, hospitalized since July,

19, has been disconnected from support machine. Doctors have also described as stable and without complications the health condition of a 42yo man and a 16yo girl, both treated in hospital.

Another four hospitals, two in Athens and two in Thessaloniki have been included in the H1N1 reference hospitals.

Also Larissa, Heraklio, Alexandroupolis and

Ioannina hospitals laboratories have joined the list of laboratories already operating in Athens and Thessaloniki.

‘All hospitals are operating within the context of alert plan to deal with new flu cases’ said Health Minister. Justice Minister Nikos Dendias meets with directors of disciplinary institutes to discuss dealing with new flu virus in prisons.



Summer reading for city-lovers

Prominent Greek poet Kiki Dimoula is one of the contributors to the free-press publication Metropolitan Stories.

It's the ideal companion for anyone left behind in the city in the slow-moving month of August. Titled Metropolitan Stories, this free-press publication is full of stories regarding summer life in downtown Athens and its surroundings: the city's historical center, the neighborhoods of Patissia and Kypseli as well as Nea Smyrni, Kastella and Elefsina, are a few of the areas serving as a lively backdrop to the stories. The current issue, "Erotes II" (Love Stories II), is the third in a row and is distributed at a variety of local outlets, including cafes and bookstores.

Capturing the city's beat via narration, Metropolitan Stories is on the lookout for anything newsworthy – though its contributors record aspects of the city that are usually kept secret.

The stories aim to cover the unexpected, ranging from the personal that turns into the collective and the single incident that has the power to spread and influence an entire wave of events. The publication is edited by Athos Dimoulas, while contributors include Kiki Dimoula, Thanassis Skroubelos, Valia Dimitrakopoulou, Despina Trivoli, Nikitas Karayiannis and Alexandros Hatzis, among others.

Thassos: Discovering the Aegean's emerald isle

The island of Thassos in the northern Aegean was named after Thassos, the brother of Europe, who, according to ancient Greek mythology, established the first settlement in this area in search of his sister, kidnapped by Zeus.

The island's sandy beaches, its beautiful villages with stone-built houses coloured by flower yards and its pine-covered slopes make Thassos one of the many small "paradises" found in the Aegean basin.

The landscape on Thassos is unique. Numerous chapels and monasteries stand on rocks overlooking the sea, while numerous villages, Theologos, Potamia, Kazaviti, Maries, Pefkari, Limenaria, Prinos, to name a few, preserve their traditional character.



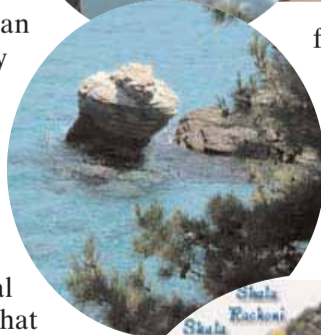
Thassos was known since antiquity for its white marble quarries and traces of them can be found today across the island.

Visitors can reach Thassos by ferry from the port of Keramoti in the seaport of Kavala.

Archaeological findings prove that the island's capital and port was populated since the Neolithic age. The ancient port of Thassos was built in the 4th century BC, while the ancient agora, dating back to the Hellenistic period, was further developed by the Romans. The 4th century BC temple of Poseidon is an attraction

for tourists while the walls of ancient Thassos are equally impressive.

Thassos is known for its olive oil and "throumpes" olives. It is believed that the first olive trees were brought to the island by the Phoenicians some 2,500 years ago and were first planted in the regions of Rachoni and Prinos. The island is also known of its exceptional honey and hand-made sweets.



Greek exports to Egypt increase

Greek exports to Egypt recorded a noticeable increase in the first four months of 2009 compared to the same period last year. The rise recorded was much higher than the increase in the imports from Egypt, leading to the reduction of Greece's bilateral trade balance deficit.

Greek exports to Egypt increased to 76.03 million euros in Jan.-Apr. 2009 compared to 33.35 million euros in the same period last year, corresponding to an increase of roughly 128 pct, according to foreign ministry figures released Monday.

Imports from Egypt increased roughly 35 pct in the first four months of 2009, reaching 135.33 million euros compared to 100.54 million euros in the same period last year.