

Decisions taken by the Communicable Diseases High Committee convened on 9th March 2022 within the scope of the 45/2018 Communicable Diseases Law

- Criminal proceedings will be launched in accordance with Article 43 (6) of the Communicable Diseases Law 45/2018 in the case of non-compliance with the rules decided by the Communicable Diseases High Committee and listed below.
- The rules to be implemented will be overseen by the District Police Boards, municipalities and the Police General Directorate.

WEEKLY COVID-19 DATA TABLES (09.03.2022)

COMPARISON TABLE			
	01.03.2022	08.03.2022	Change
Total number of cases	3,108	2,637	-15.15%
Number of local cases	3,108	2,637	-15.15%
Cases from abroad	0	0	0.00%
Number of cases per 100,000	813.61	690.31	-15.15%
Local cases per 100,000	813.61	690.31	-15.15%
Number of tests	131,147	110,492	-15.75%
Test positivity rate	2.37%	2.39%	0.84%
Being treated in hospital	47	38	-19.15%
Being treated in intensive care	5	3	-40.00%
Intensive care rate	0.12%	0.08%	-33.33%
Number of active cases	4,124	3,614	-12.37%
Number of cases who passed away	8	5	-37.50%

AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAILY CASES PER 100,000 BY DISTRICT			
	01.03.2022	08.03.2022	Change
TRNC GENERAL	116.0	98.4	-15.17%
LEFKOŞA	136.6	126.3	-7.54%
GAZİMAĞUSA	114.2	78.7	-31.09%
GİRNE	113.4	102.8	-9.35%
İSKELE	67.5	39.4	-41.63%
GÜZEL YURT	105.4	99.5	-5.60%
LEFKE	76.2	64.0	-16.01%

DECISIONS

A – RULES REGARDING ENTRY TO THE COUNTRY

1. **Everyone who is vaccinated or has had the disease** will be able to enter the country without quarantine or tests.

** The definition of a person who is vaccinated or who has had the disease is specified below.*

2. **Unvaccinated people** will be able to enter the country with a pre-departure negative PCR result from the last 72 hours or negative Antigen result from the last 24 hours.

Unvaccinated people will have their Covid-19 tests 72-120 hours after entering the country.

3. Everyone entering the TRNC by air-sea and land routes (arriving from outside the island and crossing via the land border gates) must create a **Digital Travel Document**. It is not required to create a Digital Travel Document for people under the age of six (6) as there is no Covid-19 test requirement for them.

Definitions:

- **Digital Travel Document**

Create it by downloading the GÜvende Kal (Stay Safe) application within 72 hours before travel or by filling in the TRNC entry form section on www.guvendekalkkktc.com website. Those with a smart device can download the GÜvende Kal (Stay Safe) application from Apple Store or Android Market and from here they can create a Digital Travel Document by filing in the TRNC Entry Form. Those without a smart device can create a Digital Travel Document by filing in the TRNC Entry Form from the www.guvendekalkkktc.com website. A valid negative PCR result from within the last 72 hours before travel should be uploaded to the TRNC Entry Form by scanning the QR code. The Digital Travel Document to be created should be kept with you digitally or as a printout.

- Citizens of the Republic of Turkey can automatically upload their digital vaccination documents and PCR test results into the TRNC Entry Form by entering their HES codes.

- **Vaccinated people and those who have had the disease:**

- People aged 18 and over for whom 14 days have passed and 270 days (9 months) have not passed since their second dose (single dose for Johnson & Johnson) will be considered as vaccinated.
- People aged 18 and over for whom 270 days (9 months) have passed since their second dose (single dose for Johnson & Johnson) will be considered vaccinated if they have had their booster dose.
- People 12-18 inclusive will be considered vaccinated if 14 days have passed since the second dose of vaccine (single dose for Johnson & Johnson) and without a booster dose
- Children under the age of 12 travelling with their parents will be subject to their parents' entry criteria.
- Unvaccinated children aged 12-18 will be subject to rules for unvaccinated people upon entry.

- People who have had the disease and at least 10 days but not more than 180 days have passed since their positive PCR test will be subject to the rules for vaccinated people.
- People will also be considered vaccinated if they receive two different doses of the vaccines specified below.
- People who have had the Covid-19 disease and received 1 dose of vaccine not more than 90 days ago will be considered as vaccinated.

ACCEPTED VACCINES

- SINOVAC
- SINOPHARM (VEROCELL)
- COMIRNATY (Pfizer/Biontech)
- VAXZEVRIA (Astrazeneca/Oxford)
- COVID-19 Vaccine Janssen / Johnson and Johnson
- SPUTNIK V
- MODERNA
- NOVAVAX
- COVISHIELD (Astrazeneca/Oxford)
- COVAXIN
- CANSINOBIO

B – RULES REGARDING INLAND BORDER CROSSINGS

4. Based on the results of the epidemiological assessment, “LEVEL 3” rules will be applied at the inland crossings. Accordingly;

a- People who can cross without a Covid-19 test.

- People fully vaccinated with Comirnaty (Pfizer/BioNTech), Vaxzevria (Astrazeneca) and Moderna vaccines as of 14 days after their second dose. People whose last dose was less than 7 months ago or who have had their booster dose if 7 months have passed.
- People fully vaccinated with Sinovac, Sinopharm, Sputnik and Johnson & Johnson vaccines as of 14 days after their 2nd dose (1st dose for Johnson & Johnson). People whose last dose was less than 3 months ago or who have had their booster dose if 3 months have passed.
- Unvaccinated high-school students (secondary and high school students), children aged between 5 and 11 years old, and people residing in Kato Pyrgos.

b - A 72-hour negative PCR or 48-hour negative antigen test is required for

- People who have not been vaccinated at all.
- People aged 12 years and above who have not received a booster dose when due.

C- RULES REGARDING THE ADA (ISLAND) PASS CHECK

5. THE VACCINE AND PCR CRITERIA AT THE ENTRY TO VENUES/ SECTORS/ ACTIVITIES/ EVENTS TO BE CHECKED WITH THE ADAPASS SYSTEM ARE STATED IN THE TABLE BELOW.

CATEGORY I	CATEGORY II	
VACCINATED: NO TEST UNVACCINATED: LAST 48 HOURS ANTIGEN	VACCINATED: NO TEST UNVACCINATED: LAST 24 HOURS ANTIGEN	
VILLAGE WOMEN'S COURSES	CASINOS	INDOOR AREAS OF COFFEE SHOPS/COFFEEHOUSES
STATE OFFICES	BARS/ CLUBS	CINEMAS
BANKS	INDOOR FITNESS HALLS	GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS
	STADIUMS	CONGRESSES/RALLIES
	INDOOR TEAM SPORTS	YOUTH CAMPS
	BOXING / WRESTLING TRAINING	BETTING SHOPS
	GROUP DANCES / CEREMONIES	SHOPPING CENTRES
	SWIMMING POOLS	INTERNET CAFES
	HOTELS	BARBER SHOPS/HAIRDRESSERS, BEAUTY SALONS
	NIGHT CLUBS	PLACES OF WORSHIP
	CONCERTS / THEATRES	OFFICES
	WEDDINGS (WITH FOOD- COCKTAIL)	EXHIBITIONS
	INDOOR AREAS OF RESTAURANTS, TAVERNS, PATISSERIES, CAFES	

- ✓ People visiting care homes for the elderly must submit a negative Covid-19 test result from the last 24 hours.
- ✓ The Adapass check is mandatory for those aged 12 and above and should be done with an ID card. The Adapass check can be done with an Adapass card, vaccine card and test result document for the 12-18 age group.
- ✓ There must be a responsible person at the entrances of the venues/activities/sectors/events specified above with the aim of actively performing Adpass checks
 - People who have had the:

COMIRNATY (Pfizer/Biontech)	}	vaccines and 6 months have passed since 2nd dose;
VAXZEVRIA (Astrazeneca/Oxford)		
their MODERNA		
 - CORONAVAC (Sinovac) vaccine and 3 months have passed since their 2nd dose;
 - COVID-19 Vaccine Janssen / Johnson and Johnson vaccine and 3 months have passed;

will be regarded as unvaccinated people **within the country** and have their Adapasses cancelled if they do not have their 3rd dose vaccines.

Note: People who have had the disease will continue to be regarded as vaccinated for up to 90 days.

D- RULES REGARDING SECTOR WORKERS

6. There is no test requirement for fully vaccinated people working in the sectors operating in our country. Unvaccinated sector workers will repeat their antigen tests once every 72 hours.
7. However, fully vaccinated school/special education centre, care home-nursing home and prison staff will not be evaluated in this context, and will continue to have tests once every 7 days.

TABLE: TESTS THAT SECTOR WORKERS MUST HAVE

(VACCINATED: NO TEST)	
(UNVACCINATED: ANTIGEN TEST ONCE EVERY 72 HOURS)	
HOTEL STAFF	MARKETS / STORE STAFF AND SUPPLIERS
CASINO STAFF	BARBER / HAIRDRESSER/BEAUTY PARLOUR/TATTOO SHOP STAFF
MUSICIANS	RESTAURANT STAFF
BAR / CLUB STAFF	CAFÉ STAFF
CINEMA STAFF	TAVERN STAFF
THOSE WHO DO TEAM SPORTS	PÂTISSERIE STAFF
THOSE WHO DO SWIMMING SPORTS	COFFEE SHOP / COFFEE HOUSE STAFF
INDOOR SPORTS HALL STAFF	BANK STAFF
INDOOR CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA STAFF	PUBLIC SECTOR WORKERS
ENTERTAINMENT/CONCERTS AND SIMILAR EVENT STAFF	OFFICE WORKERS
NIGHT CLUB STAFF	INTERNET CAFÉ STAFF
CARE HOME-NURSING HOME STAFF	BETTING SHOP STAFF
SEA / CRUISE BOAT WORKERS	BOXING, WRESTLING, CLOSE COMBAT SPORTSPEOPLE
THOSE WHO STAY IN WORKER ACCOMMODATION / LODGINGS	BEACH/POOL STAFF
PRODUCTION / FACTORY STAFF	SCHOOL/SPECIAL EDUCATION CENTRE STAFF
PUBLIC TRANSPORT STAFF	PRISON STAFF
STAFF AT PLACES OF WORSHIP	

8. All businesses can use 75% of their indoor areas. Hygiene and disinfection conditions must be applied both inside the workplace and at entrances and exits. It is the responsibility of the workplace to take and implement these measures. It is mandatory to wear masks and comply with the social distance rule in all indoor and outdoor areas.

E-RULES REGARDING PEOPLE WHO ARE CONTACTS

11-Those who have been in contact with a Covid-19 person

a - Fully vaccinated people (two doses for Jansen, three doses for the others) who have been in contact with a Covid-19 positive person will continue with their daily lives by wearing a mask and monitoring their symptoms. These people will have an antigen test done on the 5th day if they have no symptoms.

b - People whose vaccinations are incomplete or who are unvaccinated will also continue with their daily lives by wearing a mask. These people will have antigen tests done on the 5th and 7th day.

c - People whose vaccinations are incomplete or who are unvaccinated and who work in special education centres, elderly care homes, prisons, or who stay and provide service in areas where care is provided to high risk people, and who have been in contact with a Covid-19 positive person, will isolate for 7 days and have a PCR test done at the end of the 7th day. If the result is negative, their isolation will end.

d - If a Covid-19 positive person has entered quarantine with a carer because they are a child or in need of care, or for a similar reason, when the patient's test turns negative vaccinated carers can continue with their daily lives by adhering to mask, distancing and hygiene rules if the carer's result is negative.

Vaccinated carers will have an antigen test done on the 5th day, and unvaccinated carers on the 7th day. These people will have a PCR test done earlier if they show symptoms before the specified time periods.

If they are positive, the positive patient follow-up processes will begin.

F- RULES REGARDING COVID-19 POSITIVE PEOPLE

- 12.** For home quarantine to be applied to Covid-19 positive people, there must be a separate room in a way that there will be no contact with other individuals in the home (house, dormitory, lodgings, etc). If the same bath and toilet is used in the home then these places are disinfected after each use. Disinfection is done with bleach diluted to a rate of 1%. (1 small tea cup of bleach placed into 10 litres of water.)

A Covid-19 positive person placed in home quarantine cannot leave the home during quarantine (they can only leave in the case of an emergency, with the knowledge of the quarantine centre) and absolutely no visitors are allowed into the home where they have been placed in quarantine.

Official documents will not be issued by the Ministry of Health to Covid-19 positive people who do not have any records on the Pandemic Information System.

How the Process Works

- ✓ The isolation process of a person starts after the message that their Covid-19 PCR test result is positive (Day 0).

- ✓ It is important not to go to another test centre to repeat the test in order not to increase transmission.
- ✓ The isolation period is 7 days. A control PCR test will be conducted on patients at the end of the seventh day. If the test result is positive, the quarantine period of patients is terminated in 10 days.
- ✓ It is compulsory for school/special education centres, care home-nursing home and prison staff to have PCR tests done at the end of their isolation period.
- ✓ If the positive person experiences shortness of breath, chest pains and an increase in existing symptoms (fever, coughing, fatigue, headache, etc) at home they must call the doctor's number given to them and provide information.

G- RULES REGARDING EDUCATION

13. When the studies and guides are examined, it is deemed appropriate to open the special education, pre-school, primary and secondary education 2021-2022 Academic Year on a full-time basis within the scope of the measures listed below. In this context each school:

a – Is responsible for setting up a “School Pandemic Committee”. This committee will work in coordination with the Ministry of Health and will consist of at least 2 people. (2 people for up to 250 students, and +1 person for every 250-plus students.) The contact details of the responsible person of the committee formed should be forwarded to the Ministry of Health.

b - The Communicable Diseases High Committee will hold meetings with Pandemic Committee representatives determined by the National Education and Culture Ministry to assess the situation at least once a month.

c - Transportation at Schools

- Students, drivers and supervisors will wear masks on school buses.
- Hand sanitiser will be available at the entrance to school buses.
- Supervisors on school buses will ask students about symptoms. Students with symptoms such as a fever, sore throat, cough, etc., will not be allowed on the bus.
- School pandemic committees will be responsible for the disinfection of transport vehicles and the follow-up and inspection of other transport-related measures.
- Students who are taken to school buses will be seated in the same seat every day.
- Transportation companies and pandemic committees will be responsible for implementing these rules

d - Mask

It is mandatory for all school staff (including transport staff) to wear masks.

Students aged 6 and over will be required to wear masks. It is recommended that students aged 2-6 wear masks in the classroom and in indoor areas. If there are Covid-19 positive cases in pre-school classes among ages 4-6 then the contact status will be evaluated by taking into account whether or not the mask rule was applied.

Training on the use of masks will be provided by the School Pandemic Committees.

Students who wear fabric masks are required to wash their masks every day.

e - Entry-Exit to Schools

- Attendants will be determined by the school management or the School Pandemic Committees to avoid congestion at school entrances and exits. Entry and exit will be provided by observing social distance.

f - The classroom

Those who work in the classroom and students aged 6 and over are required to wear a mask. It is recommended that pupils aged between 2-6 wear a mask.

Social distancing must be maintained as much as possible in the classroom (particularly in classes for pupils aged between 2-6).

Classrooms must be ventilated and disinfection rules must be followed.

Classroom teachers will ask students about symptoms such as a fever, cough, sore throat, etc. at the classroom entrance. Students with symptoms will be sent home.

g - Disinfection

Training on hand disinfection will be provided by School Pandemic Committees.

Hand sanitiser should be placed in areas deemed appropriate by the school administration (canteen, dining hall, etc.).

The disinfection procedures specified in the booklet prepared by the Ministry of National Education and Culture must be followed.

Disinfection within the school will be inspected by the School Pandemic Committees.

h - Break times

- Classes should take turns for breaks in order to prevent crowding during break times.
- The necessary arrangements should be made by the school administration in order to prevent crowding in the canteens.
- Classes should rotate their meal times in order to prevent crowding in the dining halls.

i - Common Use Areas

- Toilets in the school will be disinfected frequently.
- Masks will always be worn in the teachers' room, which is used as a common use area, and the social distance rule will be observed.

The teachers' room, which is used as a common area, needs to be ventilated and disinfected frequently.

School Pandemic Committees will be responsible for the supervision of common areas within the school.

i - Events

If there is any collective activity in a school, mask and social distance rules will be observed. These activities will be carried out by minimising the interaction between classes.

j - Illness

Parents should be warned not to send children with symptoms such as a cough, loss of taste and smell, sore throat, etc., to school.

k - Tests

People working at schools will repeat their antigen tests once every 7 days if they are vaccinated (for screening purposes), and once every 72 hours if they are unvaccinated.

Screening tests are not mandatory for pre-school students. However, an antigen test will be requested from a parent who lives in the same home as these students once every 7 days if they are vaccinated, and once every 72 hours if they are not vaccinated.

Primary education (from the 1st grade up to the 5th grade) students can repeat antigen tests once every 7 days. However, if these students are unable to do so, an antigen test will be requested from a parent who lives in the same home once every 7 days if they are vaccinated, and once every 72 hours if they are not vaccinated.

- Students from the 6th grade onwards (6th grade included) will repeat their antigen tests once every 7 days.

Random tests will be conducted by the Ministry of Health on school staff and students.

Pandemic rules will be applied in workplaces where vocational education students undertake internships. Tests will be also be in this context. This will also apply to apprentices.

- Practices relating to higher education are being maintained in communication with the School Pandemic Committees formed within the universities. Students coming from abroad will be able to enter based on the specified country criteria.

l – Exams It has been deemed appropriate to conduct international exams to be held in our country under the conditions stated below:

Examinees and invigilators must have negative antigen tests from within the last 7 days if they are vaccinated and from within the last 48 hours if they are unvaccinated.

Doors and windows must be kept open at all times in order to ventilate the exam area,

Those entering the exam area must use personal protective equipment during the exam,

Desks in the exam area must be arranged to comply with social distancing rules

Disinfectant must be placed at the entrance to the exam area.

m - Schools' Positive Case and Contact Protocol

The School Pandemic Boards established in each school and the Ministry of Health contact team will consult with each other to manage the follow-up of Covid-19 positive patients and contacts.

- Symptoms must be checked before leaving home, boarding a bus and entering school. Those who show symptoms (teachers, workers or students) will be not be allowed into schools. They will be directed to take a PCR test.
- If a student in the class shows symptoms, the student will be directed to take a PCR test.
- If the student's test result is positive, the contact students determined by the Contact Tracking Unit will have PCR tests and isolate at home until their test result comes out.
- During this process, the Ministry of Health's CONTACT TRACKING UNIT decides on people's isolation status and reports it to the school administration or the school pandemic committee. The rest of the class will continue their education at school by wearing masks and not coming into contact with other classes.
- **If the teacher is a contact, fully vaccinated teachers will continue with their daily lives by wearing masks. These people will have their antigen tests done on the 5th day.**
- **Teachers whose vaccinations are incomplete or who are unvaccinated will continue their daily lives by wearing masks and monitoring their symptoms. Teachers whose vaccinations are incomplete or who are unvaccinated will have antigen tests done on the 3rd, 5th and 7th days.**
- **If contact people show symptoms before the specified days, they will have a PCR done on the day the symptoms start.**
- As for students and teachers who are positive; a control PCR will be conducted on them on the 7th day of home monitoring. If the test result is negative home quarantine is terminated. If the test result is positive, the patient's quarantine period will be terminated on the 10th day.

- If the positive person experiences shortness of breath, chest pains or an increase in existing symptoms (fever, coughing, fatigue, headache, etc) at home they must call the doctor's number given to them from the number 0533 878 1030 and provide information.

- The Attendance Of A Child At School If There Is A Covid-19 Positive Case In The Family:

	CHILD	THE COVID-19 POSITIVE INDIVIDUAL LIVING IN THE SAME HOME	SCHOOL ATTENDANCE
VACCINE	FULLY VACCINATED	FULLY VACCINATED	ATTENDS SCHOOL
	FULLY VACCINATED	UNVACCINATED	ATTENDS SCHOOL
	UNVACCINATED	FULLY VACCINATED	ATTENDS SCHOOL
	UNVACCINATED	UNVACCINATED	DOES NOT ATTEND SCHOOL

H – RULES REGARDING TRANSPORTATION

14. a - Passengers will not be allowed to sit next to the drivers of buses, minibuses, taxis with “T permits”, touristic minibuses and permitted similar public transport vehicles. In buses, shared taxis and minibuses, passengers will be transported with a seating arrangement that leaves the seat behind the driver's seat empty.

b - Vaccinated people (including those who have had their first dose but whose time for their second dose has not yet come) aged 12 and over who use public transport will present their Adapass/vaccine card before travelling. Unvaccinated people will present a PCR test from the last 72 hours/ antigen test from the last 48 hours.

c - Vehicles must be ventilated during and after journeys. The driver and passengers in the vehicle will wear masks. Vehicles will be disinfected after each journey.

d - It has been deemed necessary to accept passengers on sea journeys to our country with a maximum of 4 journeys per day and 350 people (excluding soldiers) per journey.

I – GENERAL RULES REGARDING TESTS

15. With the proposal of the Laboratory Committee, the Covid-19 tests used in our country (PCR/antigen tests) must have CE-IVD certificates.

16. People will be able to perform a "Self-Test" antigen test, which they can obtain from chemists. However, these tests will not be entered into the Adapass system and will not be used for Adapass purposes.

If the self-test is positive, they are required to send the result to the phone number 0539 117 5223 via WhatsApp. The name, surname, identity number and image of the positive test result (photo of the cassette where a double line visible) should be included.

I – RULES REGARDING VACCINES

16. Following the detection of the Omicron variant in our country, the “Vaccination Scheme” has been reassessed by our Committee and updated as below.

A - COVID-19 VACCINATION SCHEME (Age 12 and Above)

1 st Dose	2 nd Dose	3 rd Dose	4 th Dose	5 th Dose
SINOVAC	SINOVAC (1 month after the 1 st dose)	BIONTECH (3 months after the 2 nd dose)*	BIONTECH (1-3 months after the 3 rd dose)	BIONTECH (3 months after the 4 th dose)
SINOVAC	SINOVAC (1 month after the 1 st dose)	SINOVAC (3 months after the 2 nd dose)	BIONTECH (3 months after the 3 rd dose. SINOVAC if there is no Biontech or if the patient does not choose it.	BIONTECH (3 months after the 4 th dose)
BIONTECH	BIONTECH (1 month after the 1 st dose)	BIONTECH (3-6 months after the second)	BIONTECH (3 months after the 3 rd dose people aged 65 and over and health workers)	
MODERNA	MODERNA (1 month after the 1 st dose)	MODERNA/BIONTECH (3-6 months later)	BIONTECH (3 months after the 3 rd dose people aged 65 and over and health workers)	
JOHNSON	BIONTECH (3 months later)	BIONTECH (1-3 months later)	BIONTECH (3 months after the 3 rd dose people aged 65 and over and health workers)	
ASTRAZENECA	ASTRAZENECA (1 month later)	BIONTECH (3-6 months later)	BIONTECH (3 months after the 3 rd dose people aged 65 and over and health workers)	

B - THE VACCINATION SCHEME FOR THOSE WHO HAVE HAD THE COVID-19 DISEASE DESPITE BEING FULLY VACCINATED

** These people who have had the Covid-19 disease should start vaccinating 3 months after the date they became negative.

VACCINATION BEFORE BECOMING ILL	3rd DOSE	4th DOSE	5th DOSE
2 DOSES SINO VAC	BIONTECH (3 months after becoming negative)	BIONTECH (3 months after 3 rd dose)	--
2 DOSES BIONTECH	BIONTECH (3 months after becoming negative)	--	--
1 DOSE JOHNSON & JOHNSON	BIONTECH (3 months after becoming negative)	BIONTECH (3 months after 3 rd dose)	--
2 DOSES MODERNA	BIONTECH (3 months after becoming negative)	--	--
2 DOSES ASTRAZENECA	BIONTECH (3 months after becoming negative)	--	--
2 DOSES SINO VAC	SINO VAC (3 months after becoming negative)	SINO VAC (4 months after becoming negative)	SINO VAC (7 months after becoming negative)

THE VACCINATION SCHEME FOR THOSE WHO HAVE HAD THE COVID-19 DISEASE BEFORE COMPLETING THE VACCINATION SCHEME OR WHO HAVE NEVER BEEN VACCINATED

These people should start vaccinating 1 month after the date they became negative.

1st Dose	2nd Dose	3rd Dose
BIONTECH (1 month after becoming negative)	BIONTECH (2 months after becoming negative)	---
SINO VAC (1 month after becoming negative)	SINO VAC (2 months after becoming negative)	SINO VAC (5 months after becoming negative)
ASTRAZENECA (1 month after becoming negative)	ASTRAZENECA (2 months after becoming negative)	---
MODERNA (1 month after becoming negative)	MODERNA (2 months after becoming negative)	---