

Italy mayors scold people not following lockdown

28th March, 2020



Mayors across Italy are taking direct action to make sure people follow lockdown rules. The whole of Italy is under lockdown. It is one of the countries worst affected by the COVID-19 coronavirus.

The country has reported over 80,000 cases of infections. There have also been 8,215 deaths, the most of any country in the world. The whole country is under lockdown but not everyone is following the rules. There are many videos online of mayors going into the streets to order people to stay at home. Over 100,000 people in Italy have been fined for being on the streets without a good reason. Three-quarters of the world is in lockdown as countries try to contain the virus.

Some mayors in Italy are posting angry messages on social media. The mayor of one town said he was tired of people walking their dogs many times a day. He posted a video saying: "Where are you going with these incontinent dogs? You need to stay home. People are dying. Don't you get it? You are irresponsible idiots, colossal idiots." The president of Lombardy, Italy's worst affected region, said: "Too many people are still out and about." Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte said: "Everyone's efforts are needed as the survival of the social and economic fabric of our country is at stake." Italians have also started a worldwide trend of singing from their balcony to cheer people up.

Sources: huffpost.com / cnn.com / theguardian.com

Writing

People who do not follow lockdown rules should be put in prison. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

mayor / direct / action / lockdown / infection / rules / videos / home / reason / virus / angry / message / dog / idiots / region / survival / fabric / balcony / singing / cheer

True / False

- a) Mayors in Italy are taking action to make people follow lockdown rules. T / F
- b) Italy is the country with the highest number of infections. T / F
- c) Almost 10,000 people have been fined for being on the streets. T / F
- d) Around 75 per cent of the world is in lockdown. T / F
- e) A mayor is angry at people walking dogs too often. T / F
- f) The mayor called people on the streets "idiots". T / F
- g) Italy's leader said the survival of Italy's fabric industry is at risk. T / F
- h) Italians try to cheer each other up by singing on their balcony. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| 1. direct | a. area |
| 2. whole | b. attempt |
| 3. following | c. control |
| 4. try | d. fed up |
| 5. contain | e. entire |
| 6. posting | f. at risk |
| 7. tired | g. fools |
| 8. idiots | h. straight |
| 9. region | i. uploading |
| 10. at stake | j. obeying |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) Do you understand why mayors are angry?
- c) What advice do you have for the mayors?
- d) What advice do you have for people in Italy?
- e) Why do people not follow lockdown rules?
- f) What do you think of the trend of singing on the balcony?
- g) What do you think the world will be like this time next week?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Italy's mayors?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Mayors across Italy are | a. the rules |
| 2. It is one of the countries worst | b. quarters of the world |
| 3. not everyone is following | c. to cheer people up |
| 4. fined for being | d. affected |
| 5. Three- | e. idiots |
| 6. he was tired | f. taking direct action |
| 7. irresponsible | g. needed |
| 8. Too many people are still out | h. of people |
| 9. Everyone's efforts are | i. on the streets |
| 10. singing from their balcony | j. and about |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of the lockdown rules?
- What is the lockdown situation in your country?
- How strict should a lockdown be?
- What can people do at home during a lockdown?
- How can a lockdown affect our health?
- Should the whole world be under a lockdown?
- How is your country's leader handling this crisis?
- For what reasons do people need to be on the streets?

Spelling

- taking eitcdr action
- one of the countries worst edctfafe
- over 80,000 cases of tsfeioincn
- fedni for being on the streets
- Three-rurtqsea of the world
- countries try to ctniaon the virus
- angry agmssee on social media
- irresponsible itiosd
- Everyone's ffoters are needed
- the rslaivvu of the social and economic fabric
- started a worldwide entdr
- singing from their bnolyca

Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. e	3. j	4. b	5. c
6. i	7. d	8. g	9. a	10. f

Role Play

Role A – Social Distancing

You think social distancing is the most important lockdown rule to follow. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): wearing a mask, staying at home or hand washing.

Role B – Wear A Mask

You think wearing a mask is the most important lockdown rule to follow. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): social distancing, staying at home or hand washing.

Role C – Stay At Home

You think staying at home is the most important lockdown rule to follow. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): wearing a mask, social distancing or hand washing.

Role D – Hand Washing

You think hand washing is the most important lockdown rule to follow. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): wearing a mask, staying at home or social distancing.

Speaking – Rules

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important lockdown rules at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| • social distance | • check your temperature |
| • exercise indoors | • do not shake hands |
| • wear a mask | • help your neighbour |
| • stay at home | • sneeze into a tissue |

Answers – True False

a T	b F	c F	d T	e T	f T	g F	h T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.