

STATE OF EMERGENCY and government crisis measures

The Government has declared, in accordance with Articles 5 and 6 of the Constitutional Act No. 110/1998 Coll., on the Security of the Czech Republic, for the territory of the Czech Republic due to health threat in connection with proving of the occurrence of coronavirus (referred to as SARS CoV-2) in the Czech Republic the state of emergency for the period as of 2:00pm on 12 March 2020 for a period of 30 days.

Restrictions on free movement

- **the free movement of persons throughout the Czech Republic is prohibited except for:**

- travel to work and business or other similar activities,
- necessary travels to a family or close relatives,
- necessary travels to ensure basic human needs (e.g. food purchase, medicines and medical devices, sanitary goods, cosmetics and other drugstore goods, pet feeds and other pet supplies), including the needs of relatives and close persons, providing childcare, animal welfare, using the necessary financial and postal services, refuelling,
- travels necessary to meet the needs and services for another person (e.g. volunteering, neighbourly assistance),
- travels to health and social care facilities, including the necessary escorts of relatives and close persons, and veterinary care facilities,
- travels for the purpose of handling urgent official matters, including ensuring the necessary escorts of relatives and close persons,
- pursuit of occupations or activities to ensure security, internal order and crisis management, health protection, health or social care, including volunteering, individual spiritual care and services, public transport and other infrastructure, services to the population, including supply and delivery services, veterinary care,
- nature or park stay,
- travels back to the place of residence,
- funerals;

- **it is ordered to persons residing in the Czech Republic**

- to restrict movement in publicly accessible places to the necessary time and to stay in their place of residence except in the above mentioned cases,
- to limit contacts with other persons to the necessary extent;

- **in order to protect public health, the Ministry of Health has ordered a maximum of two persons to stay in publicly accessible places, with the exception of members of one household, pursuit of occupation, business or other similar activity or attending a funeral;**

- **all persons are prohibited from moving and staying in any place outside their home without respiratory protective equipment (nose, mouth);**

- a respirator, veil, face mask, scarf, shawl, or other means to prevent droplet infection may be used for protection;

- Exemption from the Government Resolution No 198 of 12 March 2020 and No 203 of 12 March 2020 for **cross-border workers (the so-called pendlers)** at the borders with the Republic of Austria and the Federal Republic of Germany only applies to persons **traveling for more than 21 calendar days**; Immediately upon returning to the Czech Republic, they must report this fact, either by telephone or other remote access, to their health care provider in order to decide on the quarantine period of 14 days for the persons referred to in point 1.

Measures for traveling to and from abroad

- **the reception of visa applications and temporary and permanent stays** at Embassies of the Czech Republic has been stopped, with the exception of persons whose stay is in the interest of the Czech Republic;
- the proceedings for **applications for short-stay visas**, which have not yet **been decided, have been terminated**, with the exception of persons whose stay is in the interest of the Czech Republic;
- **all proceedings on applications for residence permits of over 90 days** handed at Embassies **were suspended**;
- **a ban on entry into the territory of the Czech Republic for all foreigners**, except for foreigners staying temporarily over 90 days or permanently residing in the Czech Republic and with the exception of foreigners whose entry is in the interest of the Czech Republic;
- for citizens of the Czech Republic and foreigners with permanent or temporary residence of over 90 days in the Czech Republic, **the ban on leaving the Czech Republic** with the exception of those who have been granted an exemption;
- only persons who can prove that they are employed within 100 km of straight line distance from the state border are allowed to cross borders;
- All citizens of the Czech Republic and foreigners with permanent or temporary residence of over 90 days in the Czech Republic, with the exceptions granted by the Minister of the Interior, when returning from their stay in hazardous areas **are obliged to report this fact** by telephone or other remote access, to their general practitioner or doctor for children and adolescents and **spend 14 days in quarantine**;
- to truck and bus drivers, transport crews, train drivers, train crews and chauffeurs, ship's captains and crew members, and crew members of the road manager, who transit or provide transport through risk areas, who are exempted from the mandatory quarantine regulation; the government recommends **that they exercise extreme caution in risk areas** and minimize contact with local personnel.

Measures to ban cultural, sporting and other events and about retail service

- **a ban on the organization of events with public participation**; theater, music, film and other artistic performances, sports, cultural, religious, federal, dance, traditional and similar events and other gatherings, exhibitions, festivals, pilgrimages, shows, tastings, markets and fairs, educational events are prohibited until further notice , both public and private, with participation exceeding 30 persons at the same time;
- **The presence of the public is prohibited in establishments of some service providers** - gyms, swimming pools, solariums, saunas and other wellness services, music and social clubs,

entertainment facilities, public libraries and galleries; swimming pools and tourist information centers;

- **a ban on retail sales in markets and market places;**

- **retail sales and the sales of services in establishments is forbidden**, with the exception of the following stores:

- foodstuffs,
- fuel,
- sanitary goods, cosmetics and other drugstore products,
- pharmacies and dispensaries of medical devices,
- small pets,
- feed and other pet supplies,
- eyeglasses, contact lenses and related goods,
- news, magazines,
- tobacco products,
- laundry and dry cleaning services,
- internet sales and other remote means, whereas those goods and services are mainly sold or offered at the establishment,
- repairs of road vehicles, if there are not more than 30 persons at the same time in the establishment,
- towing and troubleshooting of vehicles in road traffic,
- sale of spare parts for vehicles and production technologies,
- premises allowing collection of goods and third parties shipments,
- sale of gardening supplies including seeds and seedlings,
- ticket sales cashier,
- spa facilities, if the spa service provided is at least partly covered from public health insurance,
- operation of funeral services,
- florists,
- execution of buildings and their removal, project activities in construction, geological work, land surveying, testing, measurement and analysis in construction,
- supply and sale of medical devices,
- sale of textile materials and haberdashery,
- service of computer and telecommunication equipment, audio and video receivers, consumer electronics, appliances and other household products,
- real estate brokerage and activities of accounting consultants, bookkeeping, tax register;

- **The presence of the public in catering establishments is prohibited**, with the exception of establishments not serving the public (e.g. employee catering, catering for health and social service providers, prison facilities); this prohibition does not apply to sales outside the catering business establishment (e.g. fast food establishments with a dispensing window or the sale of takeaway food without entering the establishment), which may take place without time limit;

- **the operation of catering establishments located within shopping malls with a sales area exceeding 5 000 m² is prohibited;**

- The operation of gambling rooms and casinos is prohibited pursuant to Act No. 186/2016 Coll., On Gambling, as amended;

- **the sale of accommodation services is prohibited**, with the exception of persons providing accommodation in hostels, school accommodation facilities, accommodation services to foreigners until they leave the Czech Republic and foreigners with a work permit in the Czech Republic;
- **driving school, taxi services is prohibited**, except for food delivery taxis or persons authorized to drive taxis; **operation in the premises of self-service laundries and dry cleaners;**
- **public presence is prohibited in shops of building materials and building products, and hobby markets;**
- **the presence of the public in the service providers' premises is prohibited - indoor and outdoor sports fields;**
- for the duration of the emergency state, for employees whose labor-law relationship has been established since the announcement of this measure **can be replaced by an affidavit** (medical card, medical fitness assessment)
- **the sale of unwrapped pastry is allowed only if the following conditions are met:**
 - there is no crowding of people at the place where the pastry is collected;
 - the point of sale is equipped with personal hygiene aids
- **the sale of travel documents by Czech Railways conductors is suspended;** passengers without travel documents will be asked to purchase them electronically and, if this is not possible, passengers will be transported without a travel document;
- **the presence of all persons is prohibited in stores of retail grocery, sanitary goods, cosmetics and other drugstore goods**, with an area of more than 500 m², between 8:00 am and 10:00 am, **except for persons over 65 years of age and their necessary escorts, holders of the particularly handicapped person card older than 50 years and their necessary escorts and the owners and employees of the shop operator or persons in similar relation;**
- **instructs retailers** of foodstuff, sanitary goods, cosmetics and other drugstore goods, with an area of **less than 500 m²**, to give preference to persons over 65 years of age, and holders of the particularly handicapped person card older than 50 years when selling in this shop;
- **it is recommended to disinfect shopping carts and trolleys** after each use and **handles or door handles** at least once an hour;

Restrictions on the activities of the authorities

- instructs public authorities and administrative authorities **to initiate limited emergency operations in all their workplaces**, consisting of:
 - Restrictions on work, public services, in particular those agendas whose performance must be continually ensured, in particular for: ensuring the operation of public administration and public administration services to the necessary extent and fulfilling the tasks of the Government of the Czech Republic aimed at achieving the emergency objectives; other agendas are carried out to the extent that they do not jeopardize the following measures necessary to protect the health of state employees, employees and other officials (hereinafter referred to as “employees”),

- **limiting personal contact of employees with addressees of public administration** (with applicants, with other parties of administrative proceedings) and other outside persons (hereinafter referred to as 'clients / the public') to the absolutely necessary level.
 - to limit the opening hours of the institutions to **Monday and Wednesday only to a maximum of three hours on a given day**; the authorities shall inform and publish the change of office hours in an appropriate manner and publish them on their official boards,
 - ensuring the operation of the individual departments of the institution always by the lowest possible number of employees present at the workplace, which must be maintained for the administrative body,
 - ensuring the functioning of the body so that any quarantine measure against part of its staff does not jeopardize the body's ability to act (e.g. rotation of separate groups of staff of the body, homeworking).
- **Restrictions of contacts** shall be carried out in particular as follows:
 - Restricting or suspending the exercise of relevant agendas not falling under the definition under point I / 1 of this resolution if their exercise would jeopardize employees' health protection measures;
 - wherever possible, including contact with other employees, on receipt of all documents from clients / the public only through the mail room, if they are established; wherever possible, electronic communication shall be given priority,
 - whenever contacts are made with staff of other institutions and bodies, by taking measures to prevent direct contact; the negotiations shall be carried out under increased hygiene measures;
 - the above measures shall apply adequately to the internal contacts of staff within the institution;

Transport measures

- **it is prohibited to all forwarders in international road passenger transport provided by vehicles with a capacity of more than 9 persons to transport passengers across the borders of the Czech Republic; the same applies also to forwarders in international rail passenger transport and forwarders in cross-border inland waterway passenger transport;**
- Within the commercial air transport of passengers crossing the border of the Czech Republic, **forwarders** are prohibited to use airports other than **Václav Havel International Public Airport in Prague-Ruzyně** (these measures do not apply to the return of Czech citizens and foreigners with permanent or temporary stay of over 90 days in the Czech Republic to the Czech Republic, for the transport of empty buses, empty trainsets and empty vessels without passengers back to or outside the Czech Republic);
- **the driving ban of truck traffic over 7.5 tonnes on Czech roads and motorways on Sunday and public holidays is cancelled;**

Social measures

- **a work obligation is imposed** on students in full-time form of study at colleges and universities in the fields of education focused on social work and social work pedagogy, social pedagogy, social and

humanitarian work, social work, social-legal activity, charity and social activity or in a program focused on social work, social policy, social pedagogy, social care, social pathology, law or special pedagogy in order to provide care in social service facilities;

- the government will impose a specific work obligation in cooperation with the governors and the mayor of the capital of Prague;
- **suspension of social service** providers who operate **a day care center**; if necessary and to the extent necessary, they must provide clients with other appropriate social services in cooperation with municipalities;
- persons who are provided with social services **are forbidden to go outside the premises or premises of the facility** where these social services (i.e. homes for people with disabilities, homes for the elderly, homes with special regime) are provided **for the duration of the emergency state**;
- **interruption of the provision of services for the duration of the emergency state** to social service providers under the Social Services Act (day-care centers, weekly centers, low-threshold facilities for children and youth, social activation services for families with children, social activation services for seniors and people with disabilities, social therapeutic workshops);
- **interruption of the provision of social services of providers on the basis of a concluded contract with the user** pursuant to Section 91 of Act No. 108/2006 Coll., about social services, and at the same time interrupt the provision of services under individual planning for the duration of the emergency;
- All healthcare providers providing follow-up bed medical rehabilitation care is forbidden to accept new patients to provide follow-up bed medical rehabilitation care
- **Persons over 70 years of age are advised not to leave their homes** for the duration of the emergency state, except for a necessary visit of a health facility to ensure an emergency medical care;
- **In the legislative emergency regime**, the Government has prepared **a draft of extraordinary law** that regulates the Sickness Insurance Act for the duration of the emergency by
 - **extending the period of the nursing allowance for the duration of the government emergency measure** about the ban of school attendance.
 - **granting entitlement to nursing allowance** so that it will newly relate to children under 13 years of age
 - **by extending the payment of nursing allowance also for the care of handicapped persons** in the common household, regardless of age, if the care facility was closed
 - whereas the nursing allowance may **also be paid retrospectively**;

Health measures

- **It is prohibited for all employees** in the medical profession **to take leave during the emergency state**, except for those who have been quarantined;
- **a work duty is imposed** on students of the fifth and sixth year of full-time study of general medicine at medical faculties of public universities and the last years of full-time or full-time study programs or fields of study preparing for the profession of general nurse, a childrens nurse, a paramedic, an assistant for the protection and promotion of public health and a nurse;

- **to limit planned surgical interventions** to only those that cannot be delayed, so that maximum capacities are reserved for potential COVID-19 patients;
- **there is no need to carry out periodic medical examinations of employees;**
- **a ban on the distribution of drugs** in connection with the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus epidemic, which are prohibited at all authorized medicinal products **intended for marketing on the territory of the Czech Republic**, their subsequent **export to EU Member States and export to countries outside the European Union;**
- It is forbidden to prescribe Plaquenil to all doctors (except those granted by the Ministry of Health);
- The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of the Interior purchase protective equipment and other equipment necessary to deal with and prevent the epidemic in the public interest and these ministries are authorized to acquire such equipment also for distribution to state and non-state entities and citizens;
- imposes a **ban on visits to patients and clients** to all providers of bed care health services and to all social care facilities in residential form and to all relief social services in residential form with the exception of
 - underage patients and underage users of social services,
 - patients and users of social services with limited legal capacity,
 - hospice patients and other patients and users of social services in the terminal stage of an incurable disease.
- **prohibits to all healthcare providers providing spa and rehabilitation care to accept new patients** for the purpose of providing spa and rehabilitation care;
- All acute bed care facilities in the Czech Republic are obliged to allocate bed capacity to COVID-19 patients, including the provision of necessary staff and adequate safety conditions.

Measures in the field of school attendance and educational events

- **The personal presence of pupils is prohibited** in elementary, secondary and tertiary professional education in schools and educational establishments and in collective forms of teaching and examinations during university studies and events organized by these schools (personal presence in clinical and practical education and undergraduate practice is still permitted);
- **The personal presence of pupils is prohibited at elementary art education** at a elementary art school and at a language school with the right of state language examination and at events organized by these schools;
- **The personal presence of persons is prohibited at education in one-year foreign-language courses with full-time education** in institutions registered in the list of educational institutions providing one-year foreign-language courses with full-time education under the Act on State Social Support;
- **The personal presence of children, pupils and students and other participants is prohibited at non-formal education in leisure education institutions** and in competitions and shows organized for children, pupils and students in schools and school facilities.
- The government **has ordered to regional governors and the mayor of the capital of Prague to provide**, if necessary, **a school facility** that will take care of children aged 3 to 10, whose legal

representatives work as security staff, municipal police, health service providers, authorities protection of public health and members of the armed forces and / or pedagogical or non-pedagogical staff of a designated school or school facility, employees of municipalities assigned to municipal authorities to perform social work, employees of regions assigned to regional authorities to perform social work and social services providers; whereas at each such group can be 15 children at most.

Security measures

- **members of the security forces are prohibited to carry out any gainful activity other than that they perform under the law on the service of security forces members.**

Prison service measures

- **Visits of the accused in remand prisons, convicted prisoners and inmates in institutions for security detention are prohibited.**

Inclusion of coronavirus in the list of infectious diseases

- The Government approved the amendment to the Government Decree establishing, for the purposes of the Criminal Code, what is considered to be contagious human diseases, contagious animal diseases, contagious plant and pest of useful plants diseases, with newly **adding the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus to the list of contagious human diseases;**
- this means that the deliberate spread of the new coronavirus **will be newly a crime.**