

Lapsed or Modified Government Border Restrictions

Summary as of June 15,2020:

At the very outbreak of the crisis, the Government focused on closing the borders (ban on entry of newcomers/ban on departure of Czech citizens and resident foreigners). This was done within days. Subsequently, the measures focused on cross-border workers. For weeks, various formats of measures were put in place to avoid the spread of the virus on the one hand and let the cross-border workers commute to work on the other. Cross-border workers were gradually categorized (according to country of work and its Covid-19 incidence or a profession, e.g. medical staff). The measures tightened or loosened according to the incidence rates in the Czech Republic, with the Government aiming at having only documented cross-border work (later university studies) and urgent matters as a reason to cross borders.

From the end of April, EU citizens (non-residents in the Czech Republic) were allowed to enter the Czech territory under specific, documented conditions, including negative PCR test result and limited time. At the end of May, negative PCR testing requirement has been eased upon entry of citizens and legal residents of geographically closest EU countries with similar incidence (Austria, Hungary, Slovakia). From mid-June, measures applying to the entry of EU+ citizens/legal residents have been adopted based on the incidence rates in individual EU+ countries (red, orange, green light indication on an official map).

Nationals of third countries (unless they legally reside in the EU+), with exemptions, are still not allowed to enter the territory of the Czech Republic.

Border régime, cross-border workers

- **March 12, 2020, STATE OF EMERGENCY WAS DECLARED BY THE GOVERNMENT**
- **March 16, 2020, BAN ON FREE MOVEMENT DECLARED**
- **(Modified later)** Extraordinary measure issued stipulating that all citizens of the Czech Republic and foreigners with permanent or temporary residence over 90 days in the Czech Republic returning from coronavirus risk countries, with the exception of exemptions granted by the Minister of the Interior, are obliged **from March 13, 2020** from 12.00 **to report** the fact, by telephone or other remote way, to their GP or GP of their child/adolescent child **and spend 14 days in quarantine** (*note: this caused mass returns to the territory*)
- **(Modified later)** From **March 14, 2020**, the **ban on entry into the territory of the Czech Republic applied to all foreigners coming from coronavirus risk countries**, with the exception of foreigners staying temporarily over 90 days or residing in the Czech Republic and foreigners whose entry is in the Czech Republic's interest (exceptions set by the Ministry of the Interior);
- Admission of **applications for visa and temporary and permanent stays at embassies of the Czech Republic**, with the exception of persons whose residence is in the interest of the Czech Republic, was suspended;
- Proceedings have been suspended in the cases of applications for **short-stay visas** which have not yet been decided on, with the exception of persons whose residence is in the interest of the Czech Republic;
- All proceedings on applications on the right to residence over 90 days submitted to diplomatic missions was suspended;
- **(Modified later)** From **March 14, 2020**, the **ban on entry into risk areas** was imposed on citizens of the Czech Republic and foreigners with permanent or temporary residence over 90 days in the Czech Republic, with the exception of persons with an exemption;

- **(Lapsed April 26) From March 16, 2020 0.00, the ban on entry into the territory of the Czech Republic applies to all foreigners (any foreign nationality, coming from any country)** with the exception of foreigners staying temporarily over 90 days or permanent residence in the Czech Republic and with the exception of foreigners whose entry is in the interest of the Czech Republic;
- **(Lapsed April 14, 26) As of 16 March 2020, 0.00 shall be imposed on citizens of the Czech Republic and foreigners with permanent or temporary residence over 90 days in the Czech Republic forbidden to leave the Czech Republic** with the exception of exempted persons; **only commuters/cross-border workers** who can prove that they are employed **within 100 km (air distance)** from the state border **were allowed to cross borders**;
- **(Lapsed, valid March 24 – April 19)** Ministry of Foreign Affairs [advises](#) and organized returns home.
- **(Lapsed, valid March 14 - May 26 Austria, June 15 Germany)** border controls with Germany and Austria and internal air borders have been reintroduced until further notice. Slovakia and Poland already reintroduced regimes at borders with the Czech Republic; The state border with Slovakia was closed by the decision of the Government of the Slovak Republic, Poland closed the border from Sunday March 15, and the Czech Republic closed borders to Germany and Austria on March 16, including air border, with exceptions for those commuting up to 100km (crow-fly distance) and providing certificate issued by their employer; All cross-border workers (commuters, so-called *pendlers*) are obliged to reduce their movement within the territory of the Czech Republic to meeting their necessary needs (exemptions include necessary visits or escorting family and relatives, assisting another person with their basic needs, or urgent official matters);
- **(Lapsed, valid March 21 – March 26)** Commuters need the so-called cross-border worker's booklet, which will be stamped by the police on departure and return, and will serve to prove the frequency and regularity of crossing the border
- **(Lapsed, valid March 23 – March 26)** The Government decided that cross-border workers/commuters to **Germany** and **Austria** who continue to work in these two countries can do so in a three-week intervals (i.e. find accommodation for 3 weeks in Germany/Austria). They will be placed into quarantine immediately after their arrival back in the Czech Republic. Conditions for commuters to Slovakia and Poland remain unchanged;
- **(Lapsed, valid March 26 – March 30), cross-border workers were divided into different categories** according to the border crossing point and the type of work carried out abroad. For example, a booklet of a cross-border worker was not required, and no quarantine was required upon return for **medical personnel**;
- **(Lapsed, valid March 26 – March 30)**, the Government decided that anyone returning to the Czech Republic from abroad (any country), will be placed into a 14-day long quarantine (with exemptions);
- **(Lapsed May 17)** **Foreign** nationals with permanent residence or temporary residence in the Czech Republic over 90 days may depart the country without right to return for the duration of the state of emergency. Foreigners already legally present in the Czech Republic are allowed to stay for the duration of the state of emergency; exemptions apply for repatriation and transit or foreigners who wish to leave the country without return, etc;
- **(Lapsed, valid April 14 – April 26)**, the Government decided that commuters/cross-border workers can stay and work abroad for two weeks only (instead of three weeks), followed by quarantine upon their return. i.e. regime **„two weeks at work, two weeks at home“** OR for non-resident cross-border workers "two weeks in quarantine, at least two weeks at work", applicable from April 14 (*note: these measures caused problems to businesses and large employers in border regions relying on cross-border workforce*);
- **(Lapsed) From April 14**, the so-called **"24-hours-limit"** is introduced for crossing borders and return for citizens who need to do so for business/occupation, medical or family reasons;

- **(Lapsed) From April 14,** [A diplomatic note of an embassy for cross-border workers in health and social services, workers of integrated rescue system \(IRS\) and workers of critical infrastructure subject](#)

- **BAN ON FREE MOVEMENT LIFTED ON APRIL 24**

- **(Lapsed, April 27 – April 30)** Commuters/**cross-border workers and newly cross-border students** are allowed to cross the border on a daily basis (2+2 week rule was abolished), but need to provide a certificate stating they are **tested negative for Covid-19 upon first entry and then [every 14 days](#)**. Otherwise they will be obliged to undergo a 14-days-long quarantine.
- **(Lapsed, April 30 – June 15)** Cross-border workers are obliged to provide a negative PCR test result upon first entry to the territory of the Czech Republic and then **every 30 days**
- **(Lapsed, valid April 27 – June 15)** Softened measures for entry of EU citizens and their family members. Effective from April 27, 2020 (0:00) possibilities for entry of the European Union citizens (as well as the Schengen area and United Kingdom citizens) to the Czech Republic have been extended. It will be possible to arrive also for the purpose of **documented economic and educational activities after presentation of PCR testing results** in the Ministry of the Interior's form. **The test at entry must not be older than four days**. For all persons who do not undergo the order mandatory quarantine upon arrival to the Czech Republic, a two-week prohibition of free movement on the territory of the Czech Republic with the exception of urgent travels still applies.
- **(Lapsed, April 27– May 11).** For **cross-border employees in health care, integrated rescue system, social services and critical infrastructure** entities, the right to cross borders **without** quarantine upon return still applies. Therefore, these workers are not obliged to submit a negative test. The same applies to international transport drivers, diplomats or persons who in exceptional cases stay on the other side of the border for less than 24 hours for private purpose or 72 hours for business purpose.

Czech citizens are allowed to leave the country, but upon return they need to provide a certificate (not more than four days old) stating they are tested negative for Covid-19. They can still **get tested on the Czech territory, but if they do not provide a negative result within 72 hours after crossing the Czech border, they will be obliged to undergo a 14-days-long quarantine**. Commuters/cross-border workers and newly cross-border students are allowed to cross the border on a daily basis need to provide a certificate stating they are tested negative for Covid-19 every 30 days. Otherwise they will be obliged to undergo a 14-days-long quarantine.

72-hours rule applies to EU citizens, including Switzerland, Norway, UK, Iceland, Liechtenstein: Economic activity with stay for up to 72 hours (this includes e.g. business meeting, business trip or one-time execution of the contract, not pendlers) **must be documented upon entry** to the Czech Republic by 1. confirmation of economic activity performance. or relevant documents (e.g. invitation to business meeting, business trip secondment or contract/order document) and 2. negative PCR testing results certificate

- **(Modified, valid from May 11): EU citizens** generally (including Switzerland, Norway, UK, Iceland, Liechtenstein) may enter the country for one-off/irregular **business activity for up to 72 hours, without** providing a negative PCR test result. [More](#). If their stay exceeds 72 hours, they need to provide a negative PCR test result upon entry. [More](#).

Czech citizens are allowed to leave the country **for more than 24 hours**, but upon return they need to [provide a certificate](#) (not more than four days old) stating they are tested negative for Covid-19. They can still get tested on the Czech territory, but if they do not provide a negative result within 72 hours after crossing the Czech border, they will be obliged to undergo a 14-days-long quarantine.

Commuters/cross-border workers are allowed to cross the border on a daily basis, but need to provide a certificate upon first entry stating they are tested negative for Covid-19 and then always after 30 days. Otherwise they will be obliged to undergo a 14-days-long quarantine. [More](#). Cross-border students have a special régime. [More](#).

- **From May 11**, entry is [allowed](#) to foreigners (such as seasonal workers, health and social care workers) from third (non-EU) countries who will provide negative PCR test result. [Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Receiving visa applications and stays from 11 May 2020](#). Highly qualified workers from **Serbia** and **Mongolia** can apply within Government programs, incl. family members. **Key researchers/scientists from the third countries** on the list can apply.
- **On May 15**, the Ministry of Health issued [conditions for entry to the territory of the Czech Republic](#) after the end of state of emergency (May 17), including new reopening categories of residence permits for foreigners from the third countries.

- **STATE OF EMERGENCY TERMINATED ON MAY 17, 2020**

- **(Modified, valid from May 18, updated May 26,27, June 3,5, 15) Cross-border workers** need to provide a certificate stating they are tested negative for Covid-19 **upon first entry and then always after 30 days**. For cross-border employees in health care, integrated rescue system, social services and critical infrastructure entities, the right to cross borders without quarantine upon return still applies - if their stay in the neighboring country does not exceed 14 days. Then, these workers are not obliged to submit a negative test. The same exception applies to international freight transport crews, diplomats, etc. EU citizens may enter the country for business and study purposes.

For **economic activity with stay up to 72 hours** (this includes e.g. business meeting, business trip or one-time execution of a contract, not applicable to cross-border commuters), **EU citizens** must submit medical PCR testing results certificate upon entry, otherwise the person will not be allowed to enter the territory + free movement limitation in the territory of the Czech Republic applies. EU citizens entering the territory of the Czech Republic for the purpose of economic activity, studies at the university, for the period **exceeding 72 hours**, are obliged to submit a medical testing results certificate upon entry, otherwise the person will not be allowed to enter the territory. All these persons are subjected to a free movement limitation for period of 14 days from the day of entry of the Czech Republic.

- **From May 26**, all border crossings with Germany, Austria are open, checks are random, **obligation of a negative PCR test result for returnees remains**. Ban on tourists entering the country. Airports in Prague-Kbely, Brno-Tuřany, Karlovy Vary, Ostrava-Mošnov and Pardubice re-opened.
- **(Lapsed, valid May 27 – June 3) From May 27**, **Slovak** citizens and residents with permit in the Slovak Republic (not cross-border workers) were allowed to enter and stay in the Czech Republic **for up to 48 hours without the obligation to provide a negative PCR test result** or undergo quarantine when returning back to Slovakia.
- **(Lapsed, valid June 3 – June 5) Special regime on the Czech-Slovak border (for citizens and legal residents of both countries)**, no need to provide negative PCR test and state the length of stay.
- **(Lapsed, valid June 5 – June 15) From June 5**, **border checks at the land border between the Czech Republic and Austria and between the Czech Republic and Germany were abolished and these borders can be crossed at any check-point again**. At the air border, the temporary reintroduction of internal border control is being prolonged until June 30, 2020 23:59. Passengers can now use all airports for flights within Schengen.
- **(Lapsed, valid June 5 – June 15) Czech, Slovak, Austrian, German and Hungarian citizens with residency in these countries, EU citizens residing in these countries and citizens of other countries with the granted status of long-term resident in these countries can enter the Czech Republic without necessity to prove the purpose of their travel and without necessity of submitting**

a medical certificate (no negative PCR test result/or quarantine required). This applies only to travel among these countries, including air transport. Czech police continue to perform random checks in the vicinity of borders. **Germany and Poland continue to apply their border measures at their side of the border. Germany plans to open borders to neighboring countries on June 15.**

FOREIGNERS

- Foreigners, who were **legally** on the territory of the Czech Republic **at the moment of the declaration of the state of emergency** (March 12, 2020), **may continue to remain in the territory for the duration of the state of emergency without any need to resolve their residency status issues;**
- **Certificate of residence is not issued during the state of emergency;**
- A work permit issued under the Employment Act and a short-term Schengen visa issued prior to the date of publication of this measure and expiring earlier than 60 days after the termination of the state of emergency is declared, **shall be extended to expire 60 days after the termination of the state of emergency;**
- This measure applies **on condition that the foreigner will have a valid relationship in terms of labor law with the employer in the Czech Republic** for the duration of the regulation;
- **With effect from 16 March 2020, 00.00,** the validity of work permits and residence permits and visas issued until the date of publication of this measure to persons in employment relationship with employers who provide services pursuant to Section 308 of Act no. No. 262/2006 Coll., Labor Code, as amended, or on the basis of another contract, is extended for a period of up to 60 days after the termination of the state of emergency. [More.](#)
- After the end of the state of emergency, foreign nationals will not be sanctioned for staying in the Czech Republic without a valid residence permit for another 60 days. At this time, they do not even have to deal with the expired validity of the stay at the offices of the Ministry of the Interior or the Police of the Czech Republic. This means foreigners without valid visas will be able to stay in the Czech Republic until July 17. However, they are obliged to leave the Czech Republic during these 60 days!
- In order to ensure a smooth return of foreign nationals to the country of origin, the legality of their stay will be certified during border control by the special stamp in the travel document at the time of departure from the Czech Republic. The Czech Republic informed all states about this procedure.
- To facilitate smooth return this certificate of legality of stay in the form of the stamp in the travel document will be introduced from Monday, May 4, 2020. The stamp does not ensure entry into the territory of other states. The possibilities of transit are always determined by their own measures.
- The validity of this measure is limited in time and applies only to persons who were legally residing in the Czech Republic at the time of the declaration of the state of emergency! Foreign nationals who want to continue their legal stay in the Czech Republic and their long-term visa or long-term residence permit expires must apply for its extension - you can find more information here.

[Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the Stay of Foreign Nationals after the End of State of Emergency](#)

[Ministry of Industry and Trade published FAQs on employment of foreigners.](#)