

Lapsed or Modified Government Restrictions

State of emergency

- declared on March 12, later extended to April 30 and later **to May 17**);

Ban on free movement of people (Lapsed, valid March 16 - April 23)

- [ban on free movement of people](#) at the national level, reducing social contact to the necessary minimum, with the following exceptions: way to and back from work, necessary visits or accompanying family members or relatives, or to obtain food and essential supplies, medicines or pet supplies, medical visits or to deal with urgent official matters or post, banks or use petrol stations, also carry out work of police officers, medical staff or social workers, etc, but also walks in the parks or to the countryside, allowed are volunteering, individual spiritual care, occupations providing services to general public, including supply and distribution services and veterinary care.
- the Ministry of Health strongly warns that citizens with an ordered quarantine or having been in contact with a Covid-19 positively tested person should not leave their homes. Citizens who do not experience the symptoms of the disease may travel to a different location, except for closed sites and facilities, subject to basic hygiene rules, including a mask/mouth, nose cover, and provided they remain in the enclosure of the holiday home and minimize social contact;
- from March 24, the Ministry of Health [issued](#) an extraordinary measure extending the ban on the free movement of persons in the Czech Republic, with the exception of, for example, travel to work or provision of basic necessities of life, such as the purchase of food. At the same time, it is ordered to restrict movement in publicly accessible places and to limit contacts with other persons to the necessary extent. A maximum of two persons were allowed to stay/meet in public spaces, except for members of a household, persons carrying out occupation, business or other similar activity or participate in a funeral, while keeping the distance of two meters if possible; this was changed to 10 people after April 23 (lapsed on May 25)
- on March 30, exemption from the obligation to wear a face mask newly applied to children below two years of age and members of one household driving in a car, public transportation drivers behind a shut door of a cabin;
- from April 7, exemption from the obligation to wear a face mask is extended to outdoor sports activities, given that hygienic conditions are met, including the distance of two meters (otherwise face mask is obligatory); from April 20, small weddings (presence of up to 10 persons), attendance of university final year students in education or at exams, and outdoor trainings of professional sportsmen and women is allowed; from April 27, an exemption from the ban on free movement will also apply to attendance at services of religious worship (for up to 15 persons);
- on April 23, the Government terminated ban on free movement, social distancing (2m) and [hygienic measures](#) remain in place.

Shopping hours for elderly people, gatherings of people in public spaces (Lapsed, valid March 25 - May 25)

- Presence of all persons is banned in larger retail stores (over 500 m² of sales area) selling food, sanitary goods, cosmetics and other drugstore goods, medicaments and medical devices between 8:00 and 10:00, with the exception of elderly persons and the owners and employees of the stores; more frequent cleaning and disinfection (shopping baskets, handles, etc) recommended. In stores below 500 m², employees are obliged to prioritize the elderly.

Obligation to wear nose/mouth cover in general public spaces (Lapsed, valid March 19 - May 25)

- On April 23, the Government terminated ban on free movement, but social distancing (2 metres) and hygienic measures have remained in place, including the obligation to wear a mouth/nose cover (a respirator, face mask, scarf, shawl or other means to prevent droplet infection spread; washable textile face mask is recommended).
- effective from May 1, the Government approved exceptions from the obligation to cover mouth/nose for children aged 2 to 7 during their stay in kindergartens, mentally handicapped persons, artists/performers (but they need to provide Covid-negative test every 14 days if the artwork/performance continues over a longer period of time) and TV presenters in media (listed professions, under stated conditions). From May 12, the obligation is lifted for specified medical professions and clients/patients, as well as for the cases of entry exams where the face cover is an objective obstacle (the conditions of up to 15 persons present in one room and keeping distance of 1.5 meters apply).
- From May 19, employees working in facilities where there is high temperature as well as office employees will not be obliged to wear a mouth/nose cover as long as they keep a two-meter distance from each other.
- From May 25, employees in manufacturing/halls/sites are not obliged to wear nose/mouth cover.

Travel (Lapsed, valid March 14 - April 23, April 24- May 11-25)

- 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, has been 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 have been suspended;
- 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;
- 16 March 2020, imposed 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;
- 16 March 2020, imposed ban 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 shall be allowed to cross borders;
- extraordinary measure 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 13 March 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.
- the Government recommends to lorry and bus drivers, airline crews, engine drivers, train crews and mechanics, ship's captains and crew members and crews working for the road administration

authority who transit or provide transportation services through risk areas, and who are exempted from the mandatory quarantine regulation, that they exercise extreme caution in risk areas and minimize contact with local personnel;

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs is [assisting](#) with returns home. Each returnee to the Czech Republic has to undergo the mandatory 2 weeks quarantine;
- 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;
- after the ban on free movement was lifted from April 24, EU members states citizens (under conditions listed by the Ministry of the Interior) may enter the country and Czech citizens are allowed to leave the country (for holidays for example), but upon return they need to [provide a certificate](#) (not more than four days old) stating they are tested negative for Covid-19. Otherwise they will be obliged to undergo a 14-days-long quarantine.
- [Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) does [not recommend](#) to travel or leave the Czech Republic, unless it is necessary.
- International travel suspended (Lapsed partially on May 11 – for bus and train transport, on May 25 – for air transport). Foreigners are not allowed to enter the country (exemptions are EU citizens crossing borders for business, family and study purposes, providing a negative PCR test result, freight drivers, diplomats and other cases listed by authorities).

[Questions and answers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the declaration of a state of emergency in connection with travel.](#)
[Information by the Ministry of the Interior.](#)

Measures to ban cultural, sporting and other events and retail and services operations - until the end of the state of emergency (with exemptions for retail) (Lapsed, valid March 13 – April 27),

- on 13 March 2020, from 6.00, the public is also prohibited from visiting certain service providers - gyms, open-air swimming pools, solariums, saunas and other wellness services, music and social clubs, entertainment facilities, public libraries and galleries;
- with effect from 14 March 2020, imposed ban on public presence in service providers' premises extends to indoor swimming pools and tourist information centers;
- with effect from 14 March 2020, imposed ban on retail sales in marketplaces and open-air markets;
- with effect from 14 March 2020, the retail sale and sale of services in establishments shall be [banned](#), with the exception of the following ([full list of exceptions](#) as of **April 27**)
 - food,
 - motor fuel,
 - heating fuel,
 - sanitary goods, cosmetics and other drugstore goods,
 - pharmacies and dispensaries of medical devices,
 - small pets,
 - animal feed and other supplies,
 - glasses, contact lenses and related goods,
 - newspapers, magazines,
 - tobacco products,
 - laundry and dry cleaning services,
 - eshops/sales via the Internet and other remote means, while the goods and services being predominantly sold or offered at the establishment of the business;
- from 16 March theater, music, film and other artistic performances, sports, cultural, religious, community, 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;

- from March 16, the government specified that the ban does not apply to car repair shops for up to 30 persons, towing services, spare parts for vehicles and manufacturing technologies, mail order services, gardening and agricultural products, public transportation ticket sale, spa facilities at least partially covered by public health insurance, funeral services, flower shops and establishments related to construction. The prohibition also does not apply to activities that are not trades under the Trade Licensing Act;
 - banks, including building societies, insurance companies, investment firms and other providers and legally regulated financial services intermediaries can continue to serve their clients. These entities may, at their option, limit the opening hours of their branches, outlets and establishments;
 - banned is the operation of driving schools, alternative taxis, taxis except food distribution or for supply purposes, banned are self-service laundries and dry cleaners, retail sale of construction products to general public and presence of general public at hobby markets. Gathering of general public at sports facilities is prohibited;
 - blue parking zones in towns and municipalities were revoked. Direct sale of tickets by train conductors was also banned;
 - open remain shops selling textile materials and haberdashery to ensure availability of material for home face mask sewing. Computer, telecommunications and electronics repair/service facilities remain open;
 - with effect from March 20, the ban on retail and service sales no longer applies to the activities of real estate agencies and the services of accounting and tax advisors;
 - from 26 March, the ban does not apply to locksmith services and household appliances repair services, maintenance and installation of household machinery or devices and carwash services;
 - from 25 March, presence of all persons is banned in larger retail stores (over 500 m² of sales area) selling food, sanitary goods, cosmetics and other drugstore goods, medicaments and medical devices between 8:00 and 10:00, with the exception of persons over 65 years of age and the owners and employees of the stores; more frequent cleaning and disinfection (shopping baskets, handles, etc) were recommended. In stores below 500 m², employees are obliged to prioritize the above-mentioned age group;
 - from April 2 until the end of state of emergency, accommodation services are allowed to accommodate guests, foreigners, who need to be accommodated for the purposes of work or business, ordered quarantine or find shelter from domestic violence;
 - from April 2, retail establishments selling means of protection against the spread of the coronavirus (face masks, shawls, latex gloves, disinfection) and retailers able to separate selling food from selling other goods (conditions are specified) are exempted from the ban;
 - from April 7, outdoor sports grounds, parks and other public spaces can be used by for individual sport activities without a face mask, provided hygienic conditions are met, including the distance of 2 meters;
 - from April 9, the government [decided](#) to reopen selected retail operations, such as hobby markets, bike shops and repair services, or building material and hardware stores, ironmongeries, given that strict [hygienic conditions](#), distancing of customers etc will be adhered to.
 - from April 20, tradespeople and open-air farmers' markets, (new as well as used) car dealers and showrooms, as well as craftsmen establishments are [open](#).
- with effect from 14 March 2020 from 6:00 to 1 April 2020 to 6:00, the presence of the public in catering establishments is prohibited, with the exception of establishments not serving general public (eg employee canteens, catering for health and social services providers, prison facilities); this ban does not apply to sales outside the catering premises (eg fast food establishments with a drive-through or takeaway window or the sale of takeaway food without customer entering the establishment), which are allowed to continue to operate without time limit. Unpacked bakery products can be sold only under the conditions of customer distancing at an establishment where means for personal hygiene are available. Self-service food shops are obliged to provide their customers with a means of hand protection (gloves, plastic bag, etc)

- with effect from 14 March 2020 from 6:00 to 1 April 2020 to 6:00, the operation of catering establishments located within shopping malls with a sales area exceeding 5 000 m² is banned;
- with effect from 14 March 2020 from 6:00 am, the operation of gambling rooms and casinos is banned pursuant to Act No. 186/2016 Coll., on Gambling, as amended
- On April 15, the Government introduced a five-stage plan to relax current restrictions starting Monday April 20. The plan eases restrictions in waves according to the size of the shops or nature of activities. For all waves, businesses will have to observe hygienic and safety measures strictly. The staged ease of restrictions will continue unless the number of newly infected Covid19 patients reaches 400 per day. If this occur, the government did not announce an exact response, but may freeze, reverse, or modify the plan. On April 20, the [first stage](#) of the Government's five-stage [plan to relax current restrictions](#) began (in [Czech](#)).

1. **On April 20**, crafts trade, farmers' markets, car dealers and car showrooms will be allowed to operate. Outdoor training activities of professional athletes that exclude the public can resume. Weddings of up to 10 people will be allowed.

On April 23, the Government decided to further accelerate (by 14 days) the softening of some restrictions on retail and services, cultural, leisure, hospitality facilities

2. **On April 27** (originally planned for May 11), retail premises up to 2,500 m² in size can open (unless situated in the shopping centers over 5,000 m²), driving schools, libraries, gyms and fitness centers (excluding changing rooms and showers) can reopen.

3. **On May 11**, restaurants, pubs, cafes, wine and beer shops, selling over a take-away windows or at the outside gardens, barbers and hairdressers, pedicures, manicures, solariums, beauty salons, massage and wellness services, museums, galleries and zoos, botanical gardens (outdoor areas) can open. The Government decided on April 30 that theatres, cinemas, concert halls can re-open from May 11 and events **for up to 100 people** (cultural, sports events, weddings) allowed. Festivals and events for thousands of participants will not take place until the end of October 2020. Shopping malls over 5,000 m² (excluding playgrounds for children) open.

4. **On May 25**, all other shops, hotels with restaurants, pubs, including indoor spaces, accommodation facilities, indoor parts of castles, larger-scale cultural and sports events for up to 300 participants, tourism facilities and zoos with indoor pavillions open. Hygienic conditions and distancing of 2m remained,

Measures to ban operations of hotels and restaurants (Lapsed, valid March 16 – May 25)

- Accommodation of tourists at lodging facilities, including restaurants banned, except for accommodation of foreigners who stay in Czechia for the purpose of business, or persons in ordered quarantine or those in need of shelter from domestic violence. (Lapsed, valid from March 16 - May 25)

[Emergency measures and recommendations on the website of the Ministry of Health.](#)

Measures in the field of schooling and education (Lapsed or modified, valid March 13 – April 20, 27, May 25)

- from 13 March 2020, the personal presence in higher vocational education in schools and educational facilities and in collective forms of teaching and examinations at universities and in the events organized by these schools was banned;
- from April 20, individual consultations and [exams](#) for students in their [final year](#) of university studies are allowed to take place. From April 27, all university students, not just final years, can rejoin the educational process, under given conditions (consultations for up to 5 students).
- Primary school pupils return to school from May 25, in groups of max. 15 students, given the hygienic rules and social distancing.

[Information from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.](#)

Measures in the area of services for general public (Lapsed, valid March 16 – April 20, May 25)

- from 16 March 2020, public authorities perform services within the limits of the state of emergency measures, including distancing and limited personal contact. Opening hours of institutions' client centers were reduced to Monday and Wednesday to a maximum of three hours on a given day;
- the post office is open until 9:00 only for the elderly. International mail delivery is reduced. Other logistics companies - for example, Zásilkovna already assured on March 16, that its outlets were still working and dealing with shipments;
- from April 6, Czech POINT workplaces will re-open (full working hours) so that people can deal with urgent official matters.
- from April 7, municipalities' representatives may hold sessions as long as they have respiratory protective equipment and keep a distance of two meters;
- all post offices in full operation from May 25.

Full history of measures and updates in [Czech](#) and [English](#).