

UPDATE ON COVID-19 RELATED MEASURES IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC*

I. LATEST UPDATE

On February 27, 2021 the Czech Government has declared a new state of emergency for 30 days until March 28, 2021 with new and ever stricter restrictions in place during this period, including the limitation of movement to a person's district of residence, the obligatory use of respirators and similar devices in stores, public transportation and other places and the closure of day cares. The country remains at the highest stage of the anti-epidemiological system referred to as PES.

CURRENTLY THE FOLLOWING MEASURES APPLY:

1. Free movement:

- The free movement of persons in the Czech Republic is limited to a person's district of permanent residence/domicile, except for movement for essential reasons, such as work or a medical visit. The movement outside a person's district of residence requires a confirmation by the employer or an affidavit, depending on the reason.
- Within one's district of residence, movement is only allowed for necessary reasons such as grocery shopping, trips to the outdoors or sportive activities.
- The curfew during night hours is remains from 9 pm to 5 am, with the exception of dog walking, but only within 500m of one's residence.
- Visits of relatives within a persons's district of residence is only allowed in order to provide necessary care or secure essential needs of the relative.
- Participation at funerals is allowed also outside a person's district. Participation in a wedding and the actual wedding is only allowed in the district where the respective couple lives.
- A travel ban in and out of the regions of Cheb, Sokolov and Trutnov until the end of the State of Emergency has been established.
- Recreational facilities can only be used by members of the same household.
- Business trips with family members are not allowed; a written confirmation which proves the purpose of a business trip is required from the employer or client.
- Hospital visits are not permitted.

2. Gatherings and activities:

- Gatherings are overall limited again to max 2 persons from different households.
- Capacity in church is limited to one-tenth.
- Maximum of 15 people is allowed to attend marriages and funerals.

3. Retail and services

- Non-essential shops remain closed.

- Prior exceptions for stationary stores and shops with children's clothes and shoes are not in place any more. Therefore children's clothing, footwear stores, laundries and dry cleaners, stationary stores and others are required to close.
- Only food stores, drugstores, pharmacies, opticians, florists, gas stations, car washes and towing services, phone and computer services are allowed to remain opened.
- Store delivery of goods ordered from e-shops remains possible.
- Government agencies returned to regular working hours from Monday 15, 2021.

4.Face masks

- It is mandatory to wear at least a one medical mask in the built-up areas of cities.
- In stores and public transportation respirators are obligatory. It is no longer possible to replace them with wearing two medical masks. Employers must provide protective mouth/nose devices who come into contact with other persons.
- Respirators are obligatory at work places and employees are only allowed to take of respirators when alone in one room or office.

5.Restaurants, Accommodation and Cultural activities (Regulations No. 1332, 1333):

- Theaters, concerts and cinemas, museums, galleries, castles and other sightseeing premises are closed.
- Restaurants are closed and food and non-alcoholic beverages can only be served from take-away windows
- Accommodation services are closed.
- Ski resorts, ski and cableways are closed and may not be used by neither skiers nor hikers.
- Farmer's markets must stay closed.
- Driving schools' instructors and students are required to wear FFP2 respirators.

6.Educational institutions (Regulation No. 1335):

- Kindergartens and day cares for children under the age of three are required to close.
- Children in first and second years of primary schools, special schools and one-year and two years vocational schools are required to switch to distance learning.
- Schools returns to remote learning, except kindergartens, schools for disabled children and first and second graders.
- Only primary schools, kindergartens and children's groups at medical and other special institutions are allowed to remain open.

7.Vaccination

- Vaccination is available from March 1, 2021 for persons of 70 years old and over, who register through the [Central Reservation System](#).
- As of March 1, 2021, general practitioners start providing COVID-19 vaccinations.
- From the same date, employees of primary and secondary schools and facilities can register for vaccination. The exact day when vaccination will start for these groups will be specified.

- Free voluntary antigen testing has started from December 16, 2020.
- Voluntary testing for COVID-19 is launched in industrial firms, compulsory testing is being discussed by the Government.

8. Mandatory quarantine

- The mandatory quarantine period for people with a positive COVID-19 test and for those who came into contact with a positive person is extended from 10 to 14 days.
- People who have already received both doses of a COVID-19 vaccine do not have to quarantine after they have been in contact with an infected person, if at least 14 days have passed since the second vaccination dose.

9. The rules for entering the Czech Republic have been re-adjusted. As of February 5, 2021, the following applies:

- It is possible to travel to the Czech Republic **only for essential reasons**. Travelling for the purpose of tourism, or to visit friends, is not possible. Cross-border workers are not affected by the ban.
- In particular, the following **entry restrictions** apply:

- For **countries classified as "low-risk" (green)**: Australia, South Korea, New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand, Vatican

-Entry is allowed without restrictions

- For **EU countries classified as "medium-risk" (orange)**: Finland, Iceland, Norway, Greece

-Obligation to complete the **Electronic Public Health Passenger Locator Form** and undergo an **antigen test** (no more than 24 hours before arrival in the Czech Republic) or a **PCR test** (no more than 72 hours before arrival in the Czech Republic)

-Obligation to **present the employer with a negative result** of the antigenic or PCR test performed when entering the workplace.

-Obligation to **wear a respirator** everywhere outside of home for 10 days after entering the CR.

- For **EU countries classified as "high-risk" (red)**: Azores Islands, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Croatia, Italy, Canary Islands, Cyprus, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madeira, Hungary, Malta, Germany, Netherlands, Poland, Austria, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland

-Obligation to complete the **Electronic Public Health Passenger Locator Form** and undergo an **antigen test** (no more than 24 hours before arrival in the Czech Republic) or a **PCR test** (no more than 72 hours before arrival in the Czech Republic) before arrival in the Czech Republic.

-Obligation to **undergo a PCR test within 5 days** of arrival in the CR.

-Obligation to **self-isolate** until the result of the PCR test is submitted.

-Obligation to **wear a respirator** everywhere outside for 10 days after entering the CR.

- For **countries classified as "very high-risk" (dark red)**: Other countries not listed in the previous categories - Slovakia, Portugal, Spain, etc.

-Obligation to complete the **Electronic Public Health Passenger Locator Form** and undergo a **PCR test** (no more than 72 hours before arrival in the Czech Republic) before arrival in the Czech Republic.

-Obligation to **undergo a PCR test at the earliest on the 5th day** of arrival in the CR.

-Obligation to **Self-isolate** until the result of the PCR test is submitted.

-Obligation to **wear a respirator** everywhere outside of home for 10 days after entering the CR.

- **All employees are required to inform their employer about their possible private trips to medium, high and very high-risk countries.**
- The above rules do not apply:
 - if the stay abroad **does not exceed 12 hours**
 - for cross-border workers
 - if the person submits written medical confirmation that he/she has no clinical signs of COVID-19, has undergone COVID-19, has undergone isolation extent and no more than 90 days have passed since the first positive PCR test result.
- As neighboring countries also keep adjusting their rules and measures, Germany currently prohibits the entry and even the passing through their territory from the Czech Republic, with only a few exceptions in place.

II. CORE CONTENTS OF MAIN PAST GOVERNMENTAL REGULATIONS

(with links to legal texts when available in English)

Regulations of February 14, 2020 (in force from February 15)

No. 167

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/71_social-services_0167.pdf

No. 137

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/79_medical-examinations-0137.pdf

No. 136

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/77_cremations-0136.pdf

No. 135

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/78_critical-infrastructure-0135.pdf

No. 133

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/73_prisons-0133.pdf

No. 132

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/75_leaving-of-retirement-homes-0132.pdf

No. 131

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/76_prohibition-of-visits-to-all-healthcare-services-0131.pdf

No. 130

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/72_schools-II-0130.pdf

No. 129

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/70_schools-0129.pdf

No. 128

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/69_public-authorities-and-administrative-authorities-0128.pdf

No. 127

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/74_free-movement-0127.pdf

No. 126

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/80_retail-sales-and-the-sale-and-provision-of-services-malobchod-0126.pdf

No. 125

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/81_STATE-OF-EMERGENCY-0125.pdf

- The Czech government has declared a new state of emergency which will take effect from midnight through the end of February. Most current regulations remain in effect. The decision followed the Czech Republic's regional governors' call for a new state of emergency to be declared in the country for 14 more days. The Czech Chamber of Deputies, the lower house of Parliament, has prior refused to prolong the government's previous state of emergency, casting doubt over the legality of establishing a new state of emergency as a replacement.

Regulations of December 17, 2020 (in force from December 23)

Regulation No. 1374

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/48_prolongation-of-resolutions-1374.pdf

Regulation No. 1373

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/47_state-of-emergency_1373.pdf

- The state of emergency has been extended until January 22.

Regulations of December 14, 2020 (in force from December 18)

Regulation No. 1336

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/44_work-duty-of-students-1336.pdf

Regulation No. 1334

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/40_free-movement-1334.pdf

Regulation No. 1333

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/43_1333.pdf

Regulation No. 1332

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/42_sale-and-services-1332.pdf

- The nightly curfew in place from 11pm until 5am.
- Restaurants, pubs, hotels, swimming pools wellness centers, fitness centers, galleries, museums must **remain closed**. The consumption of alcohol in public spaces is banned.
- Shops, services and salons may **remain open**. In addition, Czech ski resorts are allowed to reopen, however, they will not be able to provide accommodation. Equipment rentals may operate and refreshments are available through a take-away window only.
- Libraries are allowed to be accessed for returning and lending books through a window.
- School winter holidays starts earlier, on Dec. 18 instead of Dec. 22.
- Gatherings are limited to max. 6 people.
- Weddings, funerals and religious services are limited to max. 20 people.
- Free voluntary antigen testing starts from Wednesday, December 16.

Regulations of December 10, 2020 (in force from December 16)

- Restaurants are only allowed to stay open until 8pm
- The consumption of alcoholic beverages in public spaces is prohibited

Regulations of November 30, 2020 (in force from December 3)

- Night curfew is lifted
- Other than stores with essential goods re-open
- Restaurants re-open
- Gatherings of max. of 50 persons outdoors and max of 10 persons indoors allowed.
- Accommodation services re-open

Regulations of November 20, 2020 (in force from November 23, 2020)

Regulation No. 1199

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/31_R_schools-from-30-November_1199.pdf

Regulation No. 1200

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/32_R_free-movement-of-persons_1200.pdf

Regulation No. 1201

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/33_R_shops-1201.pdf

- The night curfew moves to 11 pm instead of the previous 9 pm.
- Stores may stay open until 11 pm. The ban on Sunday sales remains in effect.
- Gatherings of up to 6 people are allowed in public spaces.
- Books from libraries can be borrowed via take-away windows.
- Up to 20 people are allowed to attend church services.
- The number of people at farmers markets is limited to one person per 15 m²

Regulation No. 1195

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/28_R_state-of-emergency-1195.pdf

- The State of Emergency in the Czech Republic has been extended to December 12, 2020.

November 16 2020 (in force from November 18, 2020):

Regulation No. 1192

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/27_R_shops-1192.pdf

Regulation No. 1191

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/26_R_schools-1191.pdf

Regulation No. 1190

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/25_R_free-movement-of-persons-1190.pdf

- First and second grade students of primary school, preparatory classes, and special schools for disabled students return to school. Food service operations and after-school groups can resume; however, music and physical education classes are not allowed to restart yet.
- Compulsory distance learning continues for students of upper grades.
- The number of people in stores is limited to one person per 15 m²

Regulations of October 16, 2020 (in force from October 18, 2020)

Regulation No. 1190

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/25_R_free-movement-of-persons-1190.pdf

- The free movement of persons throughout the Czech Republic from 9:00 p.m. to 04:59 a.m. is prohibited (curfew) with a few exceptions.

Regulations of October 30, 2020

Regulation No. 1116

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/23_R_retail-sales-and-the-sale_1108_30102020.pdf

Regulation No. 1115

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/22_R_visits-to-patients_1115_30102020.pdf

Regulation No. 1114

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/20_R_administrative-authorities_1114_30102020.pdf

Regulation No. 1113

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/19_R_free-movement_1113_30102020.pdf

- The State of Emergency in the Czech Republic has been extended to November 20, therefore the current measures still remain in force.
- Prague's metro system starts to shut down as of 10 pm.
- Regular daytime tram service stops between 10 pm and 10:30 pm. Night trams will start operation at 10 pm, and run at half hour intervals.
- Regular daily bus service also ends between 10 pm - 10:30 pm. Night buses will start at 10 pm, with an interval of 60 minutes.

Regulations of October 26 (in force from October 28, 2020)

Regulation No. 1103

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/15_R_retail-sales_26102020.pdf

Regulation No. 1102

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/14_free-movement-of-persons_26102020.pdf

- The free movement of persons is prohibited during night hours from 21:00 (9:00 pm) until 4:59 (4:59 am) with the main exceptions being:
 - Trips to work
 - Movement related to safety, security, health and emergency measures, including delivery services.

- Walking dogs within 500 m of a person's residence.
- The free movement of persons is prohibited during day hours from 5:00 am until 20:59 (8:59 pm) with the main exceptions being:
 - Trips to work
 - Trip to see family members
 - Trips to buy groceries and daily necessities
 - Trips to medical institutions
 - Trips related to administrative errands
 - Trips to the outdoors, parks, etc.
- In public places, groups of only two persons are permitted with the main exceptions of members of the same household, employees of the same employer, students at educational activities at educational institutions. If possible social distancing of 2 meters must be maintained.
- The contact with other persons must be limited to as much as possible.
- Employers must enable remote work, if possible.
- Restaurants remain closed and take away windows are limited to day hours from 6:01 am – 19:59 (7:59 pm).
- Market sales are prohibited with the exception of farmers' markets, but with the limited number of 20 visitors per 400 square meters. The consumption of food and drink at farmers' markets is prohibited.
- Stores must close all day on Sundays and opening hours Monday until Saturday are limited to 5:00 am until 19:59 (7:59 pm)

Regulations of October 21, 2020 (in force from October 22, 2020):

Regulation No.1080

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/13_R_limited-operations-of-public-authorities_1080_21102020.pdf

Regulation No.1079 (substituted by regulation No. 1103 from October 26, 2020)

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/09_R_schools_12102020.pdf

Regulation No.1078 (substituted by regulation No. 1102 from October 26, 2020)

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/09_R_schools_12102020.pdf

- The free movement of persons is prohibited with the main exceptions being:
 - Trips to work
 - Trip to see family members
 - Trips to buy groceries and daily necessities
 - Trips to medical institutions
 - Trips related to administrative errands
 - Trips to the outdoors, parks, etc.
- In public places, groups of only two persons are permitted with the main exceptions of members of the same household, employees of the same employer, students at educational

activities at educational institutions. If possible social distancing of 2 meters must be maintained.

- Shops and services in the Czech Republic must remain closed with the main exceptions being:
 - grocery stores
 - drugstores
 - pharmacies
 - laundries
 - flower shops
 - gas stations
- Hotels and other accommodation providers must close just as food courts in shopping centers. The same applies to hairdressers, nail salons, and other venues providing similar services.
- Public office opening hours have been limited to ten hours per week, and all visitors are required to make an appointment in advance.

III. SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

FREE MOVEMENT & FACE MASKS

- The free movement of people is limited to essential movement for work or other essential purposes with a night curfew from 9 pm to 5 am.
- It is not allowed to leave one's district of permanent residence/domicile, except for essential reasons, such as a trip to work or doctor visits. Employer's confirmation or an affidavit is needed for commuting to work in another district.
- Respirators or other similarly effective protective mouth/nose devices are obligatory in stores, public transportation and at work. At least face masks are necessary in open air areas.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

- Kindergartens and day cares for children under the age of three are closed.
- Students in the first and second years of primary schools, special schools and one-year and two-year practical schools, switched to distance learning. Exemptions are allowed for primary schools, kindergartens and children's groups at medical facilities, schools established at institutions for institutional or protective education.
- Universities and Higher Education institutions remain in the distance learning modus.

RESTAURANTS & STORES

- Restaurants, bars and similar catering establishments are closed with exceptions of take-away windows until 8 pm.
- It is prohibited to consume alcoholic beverages in public.
- Only food stores, drugstores, pharmacies, opticians, florists, gas stations, car washes, and towing services as well as places handing out goods ordered from e-shops, phone and computer services remain open.

SOCIAL GATHERINGS

- Gatherings are allowed up to a max of 2 persons.
- The participation of people at weddings and funerals and subsequent banquets are limited to 15 people (but people may not travel to weddings outside their district of residence).

LEISURE ACTIVITIES

- Theatres, museums, galleries, cinemas, zoos, fitness centers, swimming pools etc. are closed.
- Accommodation services are closed.
- Ski resorts are closed.

* **Note:** This update is subject to change as governmental regulations change and its purpose is to provide a mere overview of current core measures. The provided information is by no means the exact and complete translation of official governmental statements and regulations. Due to the frequent changes and complexity of governmental regulations, certain irregularities in the here provided updates cannot be always prevented. For the complete wording and official updates of Governmental measures please keep checking these sources:

Current measures in force in the Czech Republic

<https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/en/current-measures/>

Resolutions of the Government of the Czech Republic and extraordinary and protective measures of the Ministry of Health

<https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/en/extraordinary-and-protective-measures-and-recommendations/>