

Lapsed or Modified Government Measures May to December 2020

Measures valid until December 27, 2020:

- From **December 18**, 00.00 am, the Government tightened the crisis measures from Stage 3 to Stage 4 of the PES system, based on the Ministry of Health's recommendations. According to the emergency measures currently in force, **face masks are obligatory** both outdoors and indoors if the social distance is less than 2 meters.
- **Ban on free movement is in place and night curfew** between 11 pm and 5 am will be reintroduced. It will be possible to hold weddings, funerals and religious gatherings for up to 20 people, religious gatherings for up to 20% of seat capacity, under strict hygienic measures. The limit for the gathering of non-family members has been decreased from ten to **six** people indoors.
- Students at all types of schools returned to presence education, although some on a rotating basis. **School holidays** will start on December 21, except kindergartens and universities. **Visits** to the inpatient health care facilities, homes for the elderly and homes with a special regime are allowed from Saturday December 5 with negative Covid-19 tests not older than 48 hours; costs will be covered by the Ministry of Labour through its support program.
- **From December 18**, operation of restaurants, **shopping mall (no wifi) food courts** will be possible only via take-away windows, hotel restaurants only serving the hotel guests 5am-11pm, or serving customers via their take-away windows. Food delivery is not affected. Hotels and **accommodation** facilities can serve only business travellers, foreigners stranded in the country and other listed exceptions. Alcohol drinking or selling over take-away windows in public places is banned.
- **From December 18**, shopping centers, **shops** and service providers remain partially open (listed categories), including Sundays and Christmas Day, following strict hygienic conditions (limited number of persons, 2m distance between customers, 15 m² per customer). Indoor sports activities are restricted, max. of six people can perform sports outdoors. Cultural institutions will be closed (with exception of National Gallery's exhibitions with arts pieces borrowed from abroad).

- [The Government decided](#) that **voluntary nation-wide testing will take place between December 16, 2020 and January 15, 2021** (full capacity of 60,000 performed tests per day to be reached by December 18). Prime Minister Babiš recommended the population to participate. All those who have health insurance in the Czech Republic can get tested free of charge (it is necessary to provide a document proving health insurance in the country, it is recommended to bring ID card, too). It will be possible to get tested free of charge maximum once in five days until January 15, 2021. It is necessary to register for the test. All details are available [here](#).

AUTUMN 2020 OUTBREAK AND WINTER WAVES

- [Measures in force until December 17.](#)
- **As of December 3, shops and service providers reopened** (the rule of 15 m² per customer applied). **Restaurants** (food courts in shopping centers will continue to serve food via take-away windows only) can now [open between 6am and 10pm](#) and provide services only to seated guests, with max. 4 persons per table and max 50% of the restaurant's seat capacity used. Wi-fi for guests is not allowed. Provision of **accommodation** services will not be restricted anymore.
- [Museums and galleries](#) could open for 25% of their capacity. The concerts and music, theater, film, and other art performances, incl. circus and shows can still be held only in the absence of spectators. Indoor cultural and sports activities were also generally [limited](#) by the criteria of a group of max. ten persons and 15m² of space per person.
- From **November 30, students of all grades of elementary schools and first year students of universities** returned to schools; students of **grades 6 to 8** as well as students in the corresponding years of extended-curriculum grammar schools (nižší stupeň, víceletá gymnázia) attended classes on a **rotating basis**. [More. After December 7](#), all grades of secondary schools returned to schools.
- The Government [recommends](#) employers to keep employees working from home and regularly test their employees.

- From **November 25**, **senior students in the final year** of secondary schools, vocational schools, conservatories and practical training programs will return to schools. One-on-one lessons will be permitted at arts (ZUŠ) and language schools. **Universities** will reopen for clinical and practical part of medical study fields, as well as laboratory, experimental, and arts tuition for senior students in the final year of their study programs, where attendance will be limited to groups of no more than 20 students. Likewise, doctoral students will be able to resume their individual study plans. [More](#). **Starting on November 30**, students of **grades 3 to 5 and grade 9 of elementary schools** will return to school. Students of **grades 6 to 8** as well as students in the corresponding years of extended-curriculum grammar schools (nižší stupeň, víceletá gymnázia) will begin attending classes on a **rotating basis**. [More](#).
- From **November 23**, the Government relaxed the crisis measures and shifted the Czech Republic down to the **Stage 4** of the PES system and related [emergency measures](#) (ban on free movement, presence at weddings, funerals allowed for up to 20 persons, gathering of max. six people indoors allowed, all [shops that were not closed](#) could remain open until 11pm, restaurants in operation as specified by an [updated decree](#), take-away windows open for customers 5 am - 11 pm, including Sundays, hotel operations limited, meals served 5 am - 11 pm).
- On November 23, the Government cancelled its decree **banning the provision of elective (non-Covid, not urgent) health care by hospitals**. The hospitals can now start scheduling postponed surgeries and other health care procedures again, however, must keep necessary number of beds available for Covid-19 patients. [Visits](#) to the inpatient health care facilities, homes for the elderly and homes with a special regime are banned until the end of the state of emergency.
- From **November 18**, all **shops** and service providers that are not closed have to follow new conditions for distance of customers in their units (excluding staff members) - **one customer per 15m²** with 2m distance from each other. Retail units remain fully closed on Sundays, while on Mondays to Saturdays, they are required to be closed between 9pm and 5am (with [exceptions](#) for gas stations, pharmacies, shops at airports, railway, bus stations, shops at medical facilities). **Restaurants** remain in operation as specified by an [updated measure](#), **Take-away windows** can be open for customers 5am-9pm, including Sundays. **Hotels** remain limited to business travelers, foreigners stranded in the country by restrictions on travel, and employees required for essential services as defined by the emergency law. All exceptions to the general ban on accommodation are listed in the [government decree](#). Meals can be provided to

registered guests between 5am and 9pm. **Schools** reopen from November 18 for the 1st and 2nd grade pupils of elementary schools (face masks obligatory). The elderly citizens are advised to go shopping outside the peak hours. Alcohol drinking in public places continues to be prohibited. General ban on free movement and the obligation to wear respiratory protection continue to be in place.

- Health Minister Jan Blatný would recommend to take a day off or work from home on November 16 (Tuesday November 17 is public holiday), because it can help improve the situation. On the other hand, he said he understood that this would mean a fall-out of CZK 6 billion.
- On November 2, the Government decided to allow **professional sports competitions** and enable sports professionals to perform sports activities as part of their employment, business or other similar activities such as preparation for sports events organized by sports associations, under strict hygienic conditions.
- On November 2, the Government approved regular and repeated **testing in all social care facilities** (complemented by PCR tests under certain conditions) of both clients and social care staff, to be performed from November 4. All social care employees will be required to wear respirators FFP2 or KN95.
On October 30, **the Chamber of Deputies passed extension of the state of emergency until November 20.**
- **On October 26**, new emergency measures were enacted to mitigate the record increases in coronavirus infections. **The measures took effect on October 28** until November 3. The Government decided to **ban free movement of inhabitants between 21:00 and 4:59** (with **exception** of trips to work, travel back home, performance of work, work of public authorities, critical infrastructure, health protection, health and social care, public transportation, logistics, walking a dog 500 meters from place of residence etc.). **The Government requests the companies and organizations across the sectors to introduce home office, when possible**, if, given the nature of the work and the operating conditions, work can be performed at the place of residence of an employee.
- **Limited working hours for retail were introduced from October 28**, retail units will be fully closed on Sundays, while on Mondays to Fridays they need to be closed between 20:00 and 5:00 (with **exceptions** of gas stations, pharmacies, shops at airports, railway, bus stations, shops at medical facilities). The new measures do not apply to **restaurants**; they remain in operation as specified by **previous measures**, including Sundays.

- **Farmers' markets** remain open with the possibility to sell fruits, vegetables, milk, meat products, eggs, bakery, honey from domestic provenience, with density of 20 persons per 400 m². It is banned to consume these products directly at the markets. Florists remain open with max 2 customers present in the shop at one time. Spa care providers can offer only services that are at least partially covered by health insurance companies.
- All **cultural and sports events continue to be banned** and museums, galleries, cinemas, theatres, observatories, monuments, ZOOs, sports halls and facilities continue to be closed for general public after October 26.
- On October 21, new emergency measures were enacted. The measures took effect at 6 am **on October 22** and should lapse with the end of the state of emergency at 23:59 on November 3. All **inhabitants are limited to essential trips to work, grocery shops, doctors etc.** With the exception of family members, no more than **two** people can meet in public places, no more than ten people can participate at weddings and funerals and no more than 100 people in groups of twenty can gather under the right of assembly.
- The Government has also decided to **close most shops and service providers, except for those** specified by decree. Businesses exempted include grocery shops, gas stations, shops offering sanitary goods, cosmetics and other drugstore goods, and pharmacies.
- The Government also confirmed limited working hours and operation of public authorities and **public offices** (5 hours per day, two days in a week) as well as limited operation of hotels and restaurants. **Hotels are limited to business travellers**, foreigners stranded in the country by restrictions on travel, and employees required for essential services as defined by the emergency law. All exceptions to the general ban on accommodation are listed in the government decree. Meals continue to be provided to registered guests between 6 am and 8 pm. and via take-away windows of restaurants until 8 pm.
- **From October 19, face masks are obligatory both outdoors and indoors if the social distance is less than 2 meters, with exception of family members.** As of October 19, weddings and funerals can be attended by up to 30 persons (changed to 10 persons on October 21).
- **From October 13 until the measure is terminated, face masks** are obligatory for all people gathering while waiting **outside at stops of public transportation.**

- **From October 14, all grades of elementary schools incl. grades 1-4 of elementary schools** switched to online learning for two weeks **until November 1** (with exceptions). Individual one-on-one lessons of students of arts schools (ZUŠ) are no longer possible. Examinations at **universities** are possible in a limited format (except practical part of medical and pedagogical fields that will continue).
- Students of medical studies will assist in hospitals. The **rule of max. of six persons at one place at a time applies indoors and outdoors nationwide** (with exceptions: family within one household, employment, public authorities meetings). Drinking of **alcohol** in public space is banned.
- **Operations of restaurants, clubs and bars** (except for take-away windows between 6.00 and 20.00, and hotel restaurants available to hotel guests between 6.00 and 20:00) will be limited (inner parts closed) until the end of the state of emergency.
- Wi-fi network was switched off in public space and in foodcourts in **shopping malls**. A group of max. of two persons (unless they are members of one household) is allowed to enter shops. Between customers in a shop, a safe distance of 2m has to be kept.
- **From October 12** for 2 weeks all **cultural events** are banned and museums, galleries, cinemas, theatres, observatories, monuments, ZOOs and sports halls will be closed for general public. No **sports** competitions can be held, neither professional, nor amateur. (Until October 14, all indoor events, incl. religious gatherings were restricted to 10 persons. Maximum of 20 persons were allowed at outdoor sports activities. Generally, max. of 10 people could be present indoors and 20 people outdoors at one place at a time.)
- **From October 9, restaurants** are obliged to close (except take-away windows) at 20.00 and the rule of four persons per one table applies. Fitness centers, swimming pools are closed for general public for two weeks.
- Autumn **school holidays** were extended by two days to full five working days (October 26 - 30). **Public service offices** are open for two days in a week only, for 5 hours each day. Online education was introduced for two weeks at all **universities** (except practical part of medical and pharmaceutical studies) and **secondary schools** (except practical lessons) nation-wide.
- Isolation of Covid-positive citizens should be possible in hotels. Visits in all hospitals and homes for elderly are banned nation-wide. Weddings and funerals

are allowed (from October 19 the number of participants was limited to 30, from October 21 to 10 participants).

- **On October 5 started the state of emergency** in the Czech Republic for 30 days, with the stated objective of decreasing the reproduction number of the virus by 40% from 1.2 to 0.8. The first set of emergency measures was supposed to be effective for 14 days - until October 19 - primarily to limit free time activities and general public contacts, but due to the increase in incidence, stricter measures apply effective from October 9 and subsequently from October 14 (see above).
- **From September 18 nationwide**, students, pupils and staff at all **schools**, except pupils of grades 1-4 of elementary schools, are **obliged to wear face masks**, including **in classrooms** during the educational process. The Ministry of Health is asking schools to limit all mass school events, excursions and similar activities. The Ministry have asked **businesses to postpone bigger events, teambuildings** and similar **company events**. General population was asked to stick to the „3R rule“ (face masks, hands disinfection, social distance).
- The Ministry of Health Care reintroduced an obligation to wear face masks in all **indoor** spaces and common spaces within schools nationwide from September 10. **Face masks are obligatory outside the place of residence or place of accommodation (eg. hotel room). This applies to public transportation, airports, public offices, retail stores, shopping malls**, and also to the commercial offices where **employees** are obliged to wear face masks if working in one office with less than 2m distance from each other. The emergency measure does not apply to children under the age of two, children and teachers in kindergartens, hospitalized patients, people performing the author's work, moderators, athletes during sports training or competition, fiancés during the wedding ceremony and others, see the ministry's press release. **Face masks are obligatory at all events held indoors (regardless of the number of participants)**.
- Based on a decision of the Government Council for health risks on September 14, the obligation to undergo quarantine will not be applied on the person who met infected person, **if both were wearing face masks properly during the encounter**. Also, those who have already healed from Covid-19 in the past 90 days will not be obliged to stay in quarantine.
- In **Prague, nose/mouth cover is obligatory upon entering the lobby of a metro station** and subsequently while using the underground/metro and leaving

the station. [As of September 14](#), upon entering any indoor space, people are obliged to use disinfectant to clean their hands. From September 18, visits are banned in Prague's health and social care facilities. As of September 21, Prague universities launched distance/online education until October 31.

- Stricter measures may apply to local hotspots.

SPRING OUTBREAK & SUMMER 2020

- The Parliament approved and the President signed [a law by the Ministry of Interior](#) on special forms of distance **voting** in municipal and Senate elections in October. Czech citizens unable to be present in voting sites due to quarantine or isolation ordered by the public health authority were able to vote with special mobile voting committees or from a car at a drive-in site.
- The Ministry of Education together with the Ministry of Health issued a [hygienic manual and recommendations](#) for schools applied from September 1, [rules for introducing quarantine at schools](#) were issued on September 4.
- The Parliament approved and the President signed [an amendment to the Education Act](#) on distance **education** as part of the compulsory education in case of state of emergency or an emergency measure to close educational facilities ordered by the public health authority.
- From July 27, 2020, the max. number of participants at an indoor event stood at 500 in one sector (max. 5 sectors are allowed) and at an outdoor event 1,000 persons. During September, an additional measure applied to indoor and outdoor events with a capacity exceeding 1,000 people. In these cases, there could be 1,000 persons present and the remaining capacity could be used to up to 50%. [More](#).

On August 3, 2020, a framework system with a key role of hygienic stations in it was launched by the Government - visualized as a map of risk on a weekly basis. Four levels of alert will indicate community spread of the virus at the level of municipality (okres).

The [map](#) serves as a recommendation for preparedness for reaction:

0 - white, no or minimum risk of the spread within the municipality/okres

1 - green, sporadic incidence without community spread

2 - yellow, initiated community spread

3 - red, increased and persistent community spread within the municipality/okres, if necessary, whole region can be indicated as red

The traffic lights system is not as much based on the Covid-19 incidence, but focuses on the situations when the source of the spread is not clear (uncontrolled community spread) and on the capacity to handle the situation (testing points, labs, hospitals, etc). The evaluation is based on 20-25 criteria.

Generally in hotspots, nose/mouth cover is obligatory in indoor public spaces, size of events is restricted, 2 m distance between persons and strict hygienic rules have to be kept, visits are limited in hospitals and social care facilities, PCR testing of new patients, employees of these facilities is obligatory, bars and restaurants are obliged to remain closed during night, or accommodation restrictions apply. In border regions, regular PCR testing of cross-border workers may be required. **The final list of restrictions is defined by local hygienic stations.** [More](#).

- The elderly citizens aged 70+ or persons in risk categories are not recommended to stay at crowded places. The shopping hours 8.00-10.00 for the elderly were lifted.
- Public transportation lines resumed regular operations.
- The Government decided to relax measures restricting international railway and bus transportation - starting on May 11. International private passenger **travel** has partially [resumed](#). The transportation companies have to follow emergency measures of the foreign countries through which they travel. Airports in Brno, Karlovy Vary, Ostrava, Pardubice re-opened.
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs **published updated travel recommendations**.
- [The system of traffic lights shows the level of risk in individual countries and shows conditions for entering the Czech Republic](#). More about border regime [here](#) and [here](#).
- **An obligation for landlords using digital platforms (e.g. Airbnb), to inform the municipal trade licensing office**, at its request, of the number of contracts concluded for tourism services, the total price for these services, as well as the address of the place where guests were staying. In the future, the data may be used to trace those accommodated in the event of the threat of the infection spreading.

- **Face masks are obligatory in cinemas, concert halls, theatres and all events held indoors.** Sports and cultural activities are allowed, given the face mask rule, hygienic conditions and/or the safe distance are kept, but there may be ad hoc changes depending on the development of the pandemic. As of June 22, events for up to 1,000 persons were allowed to take place (updated on July 27 to max. 500 participants indoors in one sector, 1,000 at outdoor events, and other updates followed in September; different measures apply to local hotspots). Big events with thousands of participants are banned.
- From 25 May, ZOOs, castles, aqua parks resumed operations in full scope, including interior parts (mouth/nose cover obligatory). The Government decided to further increase visitor capacity from June 1.
- From May 11, practically whole **retail** sector re-opened, including shopping malls. On May 25, hotels and restaurants were allowed to resume their full operations. From July 1, bars could remain open after 23.00. In hotspots, this measure may be modified.
- From April 27, university **students** from all years could rejoin the educational process, under given conditions (consultations for up to 5 students). From May 11, there could be up to 15 university students in a group. From May 11, secondary school students preparing for their final exams returned to school. Pupils in the final year of elementary school (9th grade) could voluntarily return to school for preparation for exams in groups of up to 15 students. The same rule (up to 15 students in a group) applied to arts, language schools or leisure time activities at centers for youth. On May 25, elementary schools re-opened for classes of up to 15 pupils. From 8 June, secondary level students returned to schools in a consultation format, under given hygienic and social distancing rules (specific types of schools can open from June 1). From July, during the summer, universities could proceed, no limits were applied to the number of students present or the mode of teaching/examinations, but individual universities could decide for stricter rules.
- Summer camps for children (300-500 persons) could take place from June 27.
- From May 25, visits in **elderly homes, hospitals** are allowed, but some **hospitals** did not allow visits or under limited conditions (see above). Deliberate spread of new coronavirus is a crime.
- From May 25, all post offices are fully open, opening hours returned to the state prior to the state of emergency.

- Telecommunications operators and banks are obliged to assist the authorities in **tracing** the spread of the coronavirus; on March 30, the Government announced Smart Quarantine pilot project launch in the South Moravian region, which has traced the contacts of positively tested individuals to COVID-19 using modern information technology and is intended to help regional hygiene stations trace other potentially infected. The tracing is conducted with assistance of the Czech army and Smart quarantine was extended to all 14 regions of the Czech Republic by May 1. Ministry of Health will take the project over from the army.
- The second part of the Smart Quarantine project includes improved data sharing between laboratories and hygienic stations. The Government decided on July 27 that the Czech Army will be responsible for the logistics part of Smart Quarantine.
- Amendment on the powers of the Czech Police and the municipal police to penalise breaches of crisis measures was adopted. Police officers will be able to penalise (up to 10,000 CZK) on the spot any persons in breach of the crisis measures, even in cases that have to be normally dealt with in administrative proceedings.