

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

I. LATEST UPDATE

The Czech government continues with lifting current anti-epidemic measures. The new system consists of 6 phases. When each of the phases will be implemented is subject to the number of new Covid-19 cases per 100 000 inhabitants. Whether the requirements are fulfilled and a next phase starts will be announced by the Government each Monday and confirmed each Thursday.

THE ANTICIPATED PHASES AND DATES ARE THE FOLLOWING:

Phase 1 – since April 12:

-Educational institutions

- Pre-school children return in Kindergarten and faces masks are not mandatory.
- Elementary school childrens at grades 1-5 return to school in a bi-weely rotating modus and are subject to mandatory antigennic testing twice a week and must weare face masks.
- Primary school pupils at grades 6-9, secondary school pupils continue with distance learning only.
- University students in their final year and middle school pupils can attend practical courses and laboratory exercises.

-Retail and Services

- Stores with non-essential goods remain closed.
- Exceptions for certain stores, which can open are back in place, e.g. for stationary stores and shops with children´s clothes and shoes, dry cleaners, laundries, locksmiths, appliance repair stores, stores with car spare parts, etc.
- Store opening hours have been adjusted from 6 am until 10 pm.
- Store delivery of goods ordered from e-shops remains possible.

-Restaurants, Accommodation and Cultural activities

- Theaters, concerts and cinemas, museums, galleries, castles and other sightseeing premises are closed indoors, but outdoors exhibition areas re-open.
- Restaurants are closed and food and non-alcoholic beverages can only be served for take-away 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 are re-opened but no on-site consuming of food and beverages is allowed.

- Outdoor premises of zoos and botanical gardens re-open, if not exceeding 20% of their capacity

Phase 2 – from May 3, 2021:

-Educational institutions

- Elementary school children at grades 6-9 return to school in bi-weekly rotating modus in seven regions including Prague, Central Bohemia, Liberec, and Pardubice.
- Kindergartens also reopen to all children in these regions.
- School staff and elementary school pupils at grades 1-5 have to undergo antigen testing for Covid-19 only once a week. Pupils at higher grades will be tested twice a week.

-Retail and Services

- Hairdressers, cosmetics, massage, animal care, and similar services re-open
 - The services operate in the regime of one staff per one customer
 - Customers need to provide a negative test for coronavirus
 - Antigen tests are valid for 3 days hours, PCR tests for 7 days. The antigen test can also be from work or school. It is also possible to perform a self-test in the establishment.
 - The test is not required from those who had Covid-19 in the past 90 days, with the date of the first positive test being the start of the deadline period.
 - Covid vaccination certificates are recognized if at least 14 days have elapsed since the last vaccination dose
 - The reopening of services also applies to spa treatment and rehabilitation care. Spa stays are only accessible for post-Covid patients
- Outdoors market re-open for all goods.

-Restaurants, Accommodation and Cultural activities

- Museums, galleries in Prague and six regions re-open
 - Cultural institutions can reopen in Prague, Karlovy Vary, Plzeň, Hradec Králové, Bohemia, Liberec, and Pardubice.
 - The institutions can let in a limited number of visitors that does not exceed one person per 15 square meters.
 - People have to observe social distancing and wear a respirator.
 - Group tours are banned.

Phase 3 – from May 10 2021

-Educational institutions

- Kindergartens are fully open, without respirators or tests.
- Elementary school children at grades 6-9 return and lower levels of multi-year grammar schools are back to school in a bi-weekly rotating modus in all regions

- University students from all years return to on-site practical, laboratory, experimental and artistic instruction, except in Zlin, the South Bohemian and the Vysocina region.

-Retail and Services

- All retail and other services re-open with nose/mouth protection and social distancing restrictions, including shoe repair shops, second-hand car shops, car showrooms, solariums, travel agencies, photographic services, cable cars, etc.

-Restaurants, Accommodation and Cultural activities

- Weddings and funerals allowed with up to 30 persons outdoors and indoors.
- Restaurants, swimming pools, fitness centers, bars and accommodation services remain close.

-Gatherings and Sport activities

- Outdoor sport activities can be conducted in groups of 2 players/athletes with up to 6 groups with a social distancing of 10 meters between them. Athletes and players under 18 years old can gather in groups up to 30.

-Face masks

- Respirators are no longer required outdoors, unless in a place where it is impossible to maintain more than two meters distance.

Phase 4 – May 17

-Educational institutions

- Bi-weekly rotating modus ends for elementary school children at grades 1-5 everywhere and also for grades 6-9 in six regions and in Prague.

-Retail and Services

- All retail and other services re-open with nose/mouth protection and social distancing restrictions, including shoe repair shops, second-hand car shops, car showrooms, solariums, travel agencies, photographic services, cable cars, etc.

-Restaurants, Accommodation and Cultural activities

- Outdoor premises of restaurants re-open with a maximum of four people at one tables, unless from the same household. Guests need to be tested negative for Covid-19 or vaccinated, but restaurant staff does not have to conduct controls.
- Cultural activities outdoors are allowed with a max of 700 people.
- ZOOS and botanical gardens can fill up to 50% of their capacity

-Gatherings and sport activities

- Indoor sport facilities re-open, except for swimming pools, with a max of one visitor for 15 square meters and a max. of 10 people at the facility and group of max. 2 people.
- Hospital visits are allowed.

-Face masks

- Respirators are no longer required outdoors, unless in a place where it is impossible to maintain more than two meters distance.

Phase 5 – May 24

-Educational institutions

- All Czech schools return to regular instruction without rotation. Pupils at schools that use antigen tests will have to undergo them once a week. Alternatively, PCR tests are compulsory once in two weeks.
- Universities can re-start on-site teaching, with the condition of 1.5 social distancing for theoretical studies.

-Restaurants, Accommodation and Cultural activities

- Guesthouses, hotels, and other accommodation facilities are able to reopen for recreational purposes without the limitation of their capacities. Guests must provide either a negative test, a certificate of completed vaccination, or proof of past illness.-19. Guests can only be accommodated for seven days. If the stay is to be prolonged, a repeated test is necessary.
- Outdoor cultural events may be attended by up to 1,000 people, but maximally one-half of the capacity of the space may be filled.
- Indoor events are permitted as well, provided there is the maximum participation of 500 viewers.
- Cinemas are also able to open, but are not allowed to sell snacks.
- Conferences and other educational events can take place with 100 participants outdoors or 50 indoors
- Zoos and botanical gardens are now open, including interior facilities.

-Gatherings and sport activities

- Up to 12 people instead of the current two are able to practice collectively sports at indoor sports facilities.
- The number of people who may practice sports in the whole area of a sports ground increases to 30 instead of the current 10.
- People no longer have to wear respiratory protection during exercise.

-Face masks

- Respirators and masks can also be removed by customers of hairdressers, barbers, beauty salons, massage services, or tattoo artists.

Phase 6 – date TB (subject to new Covid-19 cases at max. 25/100 000 inhabitants in seven days)

-Mouth and nose protection rules TBD

-Indoor premises of restaurant might re-open by mid June.

THE FOLLOWING RULES REMAIN IN PLACE (UNLESS CHANGES IN RESPECTIVE PHASES):

1. Free movement:

- The free movement of persons in the Czech Republic is generally re-stored in the country and not any more limited to a person's district of permanent residence/domicile.
- Also, there is no more curfew during night hours.

2. Vaccination

- Vaccination is now available for persons of 35 years old and over, who register through the Central Reservation System, from May 26 persons 30 years and older can register.

3. Rules for entering the Czech Republic maintain restrictive:

- 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.
- For Czech citizens, their family members, persons with a permanent residence permit in the Czech Republic the entry to the Czech Republic is allowed under certain restrictions, depending on the which zone the country of their arrival is in: low risk, medium risk, high risk or very high risk and whether the travel is underdone by private (e.g. car) or public (e.g. plane) transportation.
- Detailed rules for entry to the Czech Republic, effective from April 5, 2021 can be found here:
https://www.mzv.cz/jnp/en/issues_and_press/mfa_statements/x2021_02_05_overview_new_travel_rules_valid_from_5.html

II. CORE CONTENTS OF MAIN PAST GOVERNMENTAL REGULATIONS

(with links to legal texts when available in English)

(Regulations of March 27, 2021)

No. 315

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/315_Amendment-of-Emergency-Measures_26032021.pdf

No. 314

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/314_state-of-emergency_26032021.pdf

No. 299

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/299_free-movement_18032021.pdf

No. 298

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/298_retail-sales_18032021.pdf

No. 297

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/297_prohibition-of-visits-to-all-healthcare-services_18032021.pdf

- The Czech government has approved an extension of the state of emergency for two more weeks, until April 11, 2021 with current lockdown measures in place.

Regulations of March 1, 2021

No. 249

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/249_resolution.pdf

No. 217

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/217_resolution_26022021.pdf

No. 216

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/216_free-movement_26022021.pdf

No. 212

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/212_resolution_26022021.pdf

No. 211

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/211_securing-and-organization-of-the-provision-of-social-services_26022021.pdf

No. 207

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/207_resolution_26022021.pdf

No. 206

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/206_resolution_26022021.pdf

No. 205

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/205_critical-infrastructure_26022021.pdf

No. 203

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/203_resolution_26022021.pdf

No. 202

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/202_resolution_26022021.pdf

No. 201

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/201_visits-to-healthcare-service_26022021.pdf

No. 200

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/200_resolution_26022021.pdf

No. 199

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/199_resolution_26022021.pdf

No. 196

https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/196_state-of-emergency_26022021.pdf

- The Czech Government has declared a new state of emergency from February 27 until March 28, 2021 with strict anti-pandemic measures in place, including a limitation of free movement beyond the district of people's permanent residence.
- The night curfew from 9 pm until 5 pm has been re-installed.
- Only up to 2 persons from different households can meet.
- Only stores with essential goods remain open during limited opening hours and people can only leave her homes for work or essential needs.

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-malooobchod-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.

* **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/>