

End of the state of emergency and impacts on the stay of foreigners in the Czech Republic

19th May 2020

After the end of the state of emergency on Monday, May 18, 2020, a protective measure of the Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic came into force, which regulates the conditions of entry of persons into the territory of the Czech Republic. The content of the measure almost exactly copies earlier Government Resolution No. 511, which ceased to be effective with the end of the state of emergency.

Entry into the Czech Republic is still restricted. Persons who may come (e.g. Czech citizens, foreigners with temporary or permanent residence in the Czech Republic and their family members, EU citizens entering the Czech Republic for gainful employment) are required to present at the borders a recent medical certificate for the presence of COVID-19 with a negative result (in certain cases, supplemented by a certificate from the relevant laboratory) and 14 days after entry to tolerate restrictions on free movement with the exception of travel to work, to the doctor, or travel strictly necessary to procure basic necessities of life. If no confirmation is presented upon arrival, the person must immediately report to the locally competent regional hygiene station and either provide it with a confirmation on COVID-19 testing within 72 hours of entering the territory, otherwise the station will order mandatory quarantine.

From 26 May 2020, more border crossings are to be opened and border controls are to be random - but it will continue to be mandatory to prove a negative coronavirus test when entering the country. From 8 June 2020, a negative test might not be required when traveling to and from some countries, such as Slovakia and Austria. It will depend on the current situation and reciprocal agreements between the Czech Republic and individual countries.

The protection measure stipulates which previously suspended proceedings for visas or other residence permits can be continued and which applications can be newly submitted. Currently, priority is given, for example, to family members of EU citizens, seasonal workers or key and scientific staff (this is also related to the launch of special government programs for labor migration). However, this only applies to applications submitted at a Czech embassy in those states that (in the eyes of the Czech authorities) are managing the fight against COVID-19 and where embassies can already resume operation - the list of offices is published by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In the coming weeks and months, we expect further easing of measures and a gradual return to the standard immigration regime - it will, of course, depend on the current situation both in the Czech Republic and in the countries from which foreigners would travel to the Czech Republic.

The Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic has published detailed information on the functioning of the department handling the residence agenda already processed in the Czech Republic (extension of stay, application for permanent residence, etc.) in the period from 18 May 2020 to 16 July 2020. At this time, workplaces will still operate in a limited mode; instead of often mandatory personal visits to the Ministry of Interior, foreign nationals will be able to use the opportunity to resolve their issues via a data box or mail, as it was possible during the state of emergency. Until 16 July 2020, departure is also possible without penalty for foreigners who were legally resident in the Czech Republic on the day of the declaration of the state of emergency, but whose residence permit expired during or after its termination.



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