

Track Changes

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October 2020

CZECH REPUBLIC ENTERS SECOND LOCKDOWN DUE TO COVID-19

The Czech government declared a state of emergency on 30 September 2020. Following the increasing number of COVID cases, the government reacted with **new strict measures yesterday that constitute the second lockdown.**

Some of the most important new restrictions include:

CLOSED RETAIL PREMISES AND RESTAURANTS

From 22 October 2020 06:00 until 3 November 2020 23:59, all restaurants, bars, and shops are closed, with the exception of: grocery stores, pharmacies, and all stores selling IT products, consumer electronics, newspapers, magazines and tobacco, pets and glasses shops, gardening goods, textile. Some other exemptions may apply. Shopping centres remain open and only the particular shops not included in the aforementioned exceptions and restaurants are closed. Furthermore, businesses that remain open shall ensure that people do not gather in groups while visiting the shops and stores or while in the public spaces in shopping centres.

RESTRICTIONS IN THE AREA OF SPORT AND CULTURE

All gyms, swimming pools, libraries, entertainment venues, congress halls, casinos, concert and theatre premises, ZOOs and botanical gardens and similar spaces, where the public gathers must stay closed until 3 November 2020 23:59.

RESTRICTIONS ON FREE MOVEMENT

From 22 November 2020, the free movement of persons is limited with the exception of travel to and from work and necessary travels to ensure basic human needs (e.g. foodstuffs, medication from pharmacies, helping family members, going to doctor appointments, spending time in nature, etc.). The limitation of the free movement is valid until 3 November 23:59.

WORK

The Czech government recommends that employers:

- allow employees to work from home, if possible;
- allow employees to take vacation or other forms of paid leave;
- limit working activities that are not essentially necessary for the employers.

PENALTIES

A penalty up to CZK 3 million (approx. EUR 110,000) may be imposed for the infringement of the binding rules.

In addition, deliberate or negligent dissemination of the coronavirus can be considered a criminal offence with a maximum sentence up to 12 years.

MITIGATION MEASURES

In order to help the enterprises affected by the restrictions, the Czech government approved a prolongation of the *COVID – Rent* programme, which aims to financially support the tenants of commercial premises affected by the governmental measures.

Moreover, the programme *Antivirus* is still effective until the end of October 2020. Possible extension and further supportive measures are currently being prepared and will be introduced very soon. More information about *Antivirus* is available [here](#) or by contacting our [employment experts](#).

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