

Bulgaria

Updated on 16/07/20

Restrictions on movements

- On 15 July, the Bulgarian authorities extended the emergency epidemic situation until 31 July.
- In a new order issued on 15 July, the Minister of Health has confirmed the temporary entry ban from 16 July until 31 July for all foreign nationals through all border crossing points by all means of transport.
- The following categories are excluded from the prohibitions above:
 - Bulgarian citizens, citizens of Member States of the European Union, UK, Schengen States (including San Marino, Andorra, Monaco and the Vatican), Algeria, Australia, Canada, Georgia, Japan, Morocco, New Zealand, Ruanda, Republic of Korea, Thailand, Tunisia, Uruguay, Ukraine , family members of Bulgarian citizens, persons who are in actual cohabitation with a Bulgarian citizen, persons with permanent and long-term residence status in the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria and members of their families, as well as persons who hold a residence permit in a Member State of the EU, UK or Schengen State (including San Marino, Andorra, Monaco and the Vatican) and their family members;
 - Medical professionals, medical scientists and social workers and their managers, if the purpose of their journey is linked to their professional work;
 - Workers involved in the delivery of medicinal products, medical devices and personal protective equipment, medical equipment, including its installation and maintenance;
 - Transport personnel engaged in the carriage of passengers and goods, aircraft crews engaged in commercial air transport and other transport personnel, as appropriate;
 - Officials (Heads of State, Government, etc.) and members of their delegations, as well as diplomats, administrative and technical staff of missions of foreign countries, officials of international organisations, military personnel, personal of security and public order services and humanitarian workers carrying out their duties, as well as their family members;– Persons travelling for humanitarian reasons;
 - Representatives of trade, economic and investment activities and persons directly involved in the construction, maintenance, operation and security of strategic and critical infrastructure of the Republic of Bulgaria, in the implementation of projects certified under the Investment Promotion Act, analyzes of projects of potential investors and other activities relevant to the country's economy, certified by a letter from the Minister of Economy or another minister responsible for the respective

activity; persons involved in shipbuilding and ship repair; as well as their family members;

- Seasonal farm workers and workers in tourism sector;

- Cross-border workers; and

- Persons traveling due to educational reasons.

- Provided that immediate leaving from the country can be guaranteed, transit through Bulgaria is additionally allowed for:

- Nationals of Member States of the European Union, UK and Schengen States (including San Marino, Andorra, Monaco and the Vatican) and their family members in order to return to their country of residence;

- Third-country nationals who hold a long-term residence permit in another Member State of the European Union, UK or in a Schengen country (including San Marino, Andorra, Monaco and the Vatican) and their family members in order to return to their country of residence;

- Citizens of Serbia, the Republic of North Macedonia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Turkey, Albania and Kosovo in order to return to their country;

- All persons arriving from Sweden, Portugal and from all third countries as well as from third countries, except UK, Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, Lichtenstein, San Marino, Andorra, Monaco, the Vatican, Algeria, Australia, Canada, Georgia, Japan, Morocco, New Zealand, Ruanda, Republic of Korea, Thailand, Tunisia, Uruguay, Ukraine would be allowed to enter Bulgarian territory only after presenting a proof of negative PCR test. The test should be dated within 72 hours before entering. If such a proof will be not presented the persons above shall be quarantined for a period of 14 days at home or other accommodation where the person has indicated that he/she will reside, with a prescription issued by the director of the relevant regional health inspectorate, or a person authorised by him.

Exemption to the PCR tests and quarantine provisions are granted to Bulgarian citizens and citizens of other EU Member States, UK, and Schengen States (including San Marino, Andorra, Monaco and the Vatican) who are:

- Travelling for humanitarian reasons

- Representatives of trade, economic and investment activities and persons directly involved in the construction, maintenance, operation and security of strategic and critical infrastructure of the Republic of Bulgaria. In the implementation of projects certified under the Investment Promotion Act, analysis of projects of potential investors and other activities relevant to the country's economy. The journey must be certified by a letter from the Minister of Economy or other ministries responsible for the respective activities. Persons involved in shipbuilding and ship repair, including their family members, are also exempt

- Bus drivers performing international transport of passengers;
- Truck drivers performing or completing international transport of goods by their entering on the territory of Bulgaria;
- Vessel crew members who are Bulgarian citizen

The following persons, regardless of their nationality, are also exempt:

- Medical professionals, medical scientists, social workers, and their managers, if the purpose of their journey is linked to their professional work
 - Workers involved in the delivery of medicinal products, medical devices and personal protective equipment, medical equipment, including its installation and maintenance
 - Officials (Heads of State, Government, etc.) and members of their delegations, as well as diplomats, administrative and technical staff of missions of foreign countries, officials of international organisations, military personnel, personnel of the security and public order services and humanitarian workers, carrying out their duties, including their family members
 - Cross-border workers
 - State administration officers on short-term business trips abroad, carrying out their duties.
- Since 22 May, International goods transport drivers and anyone not subject to quarantine provision entering Bulgaria are required to fill out the declaration forms (in **English, Bulgarian and Romanian, Turkish and Czech**) for people entering Bulgaria. Members are reminded that such declaration does not substitute Annex 3. In order to minimize waiting times, drivers are advised to fill in the declaration prior to their arrival at the border crossing points.
 - In cases where drivers of goods vehicles which are allowed to transit Bulgaria, but due to a ban by a neighbouring state cannot leave Bulgaria, a place will be determined by the Road Infrastructure Agency where the truck and the driver must stay until the ban is abolished.
 - On 30 March 2020 and until further notice, the border crossing point between Bulgaria and Greece “Zlatograd-Thermes” has been closed due to the spread of Covid-19 and a quarantine has been announced in the respective Greek border region.
 - On 14 April, the Bulgarian Road Infrastructure Agency has published an interactive map of the green corridors for road transport of goods transiting the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria. The map contains useful information on rest areas and the respective number of parking slots, sanitary facilities, possibility to buy food, availability of internet connection, lighting, video surveillance, fuel station, nearest emergency services, number of slots for refuelling refrigerated

trucks, etc.:<http://www.api.bg/index.php/en/green-corridors> or <https://www.bgtoll.bg/en>

Measures applying to drivers: Health equipment

- The use of face masks is mandatory in all closed public spaces (except for eating and drinking places). However, it remains highly recommended to use masks in open public places where physical distancing cannot be ensured.

Facilitation measures

- On 14 April, the Bulgarian Road Infrastructure Agency has issued an order temporarily suspending the official holidays driving ban and the summer weekly traffic ban for trucks over 12 tonnes until further notice.
- Relaxations of driving and rest time rules have not been renewed after 31 May. Therefore, Regulation (EC) 561/2006 fully applies from 00:00 on 1 June.