

Order of the Minister of Health

RD-01-677/ 25.11.2020

Pursuant to Art. 63, para. 4, 6 and 11 and Art. 63c of the Health Act, Art. 73 of the Administrative Procedure Code and in connection with Decision № 855 of the Council of Ministers of 25 November 2020 on extending the term of the epidemic situation announced by Decision № 325 of the Council of Ministers of 14 May 2020, extended by Decision № 378 of the Council of Ministers Council of 12 June 2020, Decision № 418 of the Council of Ministers of 25 June 2020, Decision № 482 of the Council of Ministers of 15 July 2020, Decision № 525 of the Council of Ministers of 30 July 2020, Decision № 609 of the Council of Ministers of 28 August 2020 and Decision № 673 of the Council of Ministers of 25 September 2020 and a proposal by the Chief State Health Inspector

I. I introduce the following temporary anti-epidemic measures on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria as of 11.30 pm on 27.11.2020 to 21.12.2020:

1. Attendance classes shall be suspended (including training practices, internships, extracurricular activities, exams, dual education system, etc.) in schools and personal development support centers. The decision for transition to e-learning is taken by the Minister of Education and Science under the conditions and by the order of art. 105, para.6 and 115a, para. 1,4 and 5 of the Pre-school and School Education Act.
2. Holding of group extracurricular activities and classes, activities of interest, activities and others, organized in school and extracurricular environment for all age groups, is suspended.
3. Attendance classes in higher education institutions shall be suspended. Only the state exams for acquiring a specialty in the healthcare system shall be allowed, in strict compliance with the measures for prevention and control of infections according to Ordinance № 3 of 2013 on the approval of a medical standard for prevention and control of nosocomial infections.
4. Attendance group classes in language centers, educational centers and other training centers and schools organized by legal entities and individuals shall be suspended.
5. Attendance to kindergartens and nurseries, as well as to children centers, clubs and other providing organized services for children shall be suspended.
6. Holding of congress-conference events, seminars, competitions, trainings, team building, exhibitions and other public events in attendance form shall be suspended.
7. All cultural and entertainment events (cinemas, museums, galleries, stage events, concerts, dance classes, creative and musical arts, etc.) shall be suspended. An exception is allowed with regard to the theaters, if the seats are occupied up to 30% of their total capacity and provided there is a physical distance of at least 1.5m and obligatory wearing of protective face masks.
8. Organization and holding of private gatherings and celebrations (weddings, baptising, funerals, etc.) with the presence of more than 15 people shall not be allowed.
9. All collective and individual sports events of a training and competitive kind for persons under 18 year of age shall be suspended, with the exception of international sports competitions, which have started on the date of entry into force of this order. All sports events of training and competitive kind for persons over 18 years of age and international sports competitions for persons under 18 years of age are held without an audience.
10. Visits to fitness centers and group exercise halls are suspended.
11. Visits to all kinds of food-serving establishments, mentioned in art. 124 of the Tourism Act shall be suspended. Only deliveries or take-away shall be allowed.
12. Visits to gambling halls and casinos shall be suspended.

13. Visits to shopping centers (representing one or more buildings in which shops, restaurants and other commercial sites are located) and shopping centers of the type of mall shall be banned with the exception of grocery stores, medical establishments, pharmacies, drugstores, opticians, pet stores, banks, insurers, payment service providers, offices of telecommunications operators and other communication service providers in them.
14. The carrying out of group tourist trips (excursions) with organized transport in the country and abroad and group visits to tourist sites in the country shall be suspended.
15. All natural and legal persons who own or manage commercial, administrative or other sites that provide services to citizens and whose activities are not suspended by this order shall create an organization to control the number of customers in the site, not allowing more than 1 person per 3 sq. m.
16. In all markets, auctions and bazaars an organization shall be created for one-way traffic and providing a distance of at least 1.5 m between the visitors. Workers and visitors shall be required to wear a face mask.
17. Employers and recruitment bodies shall organize the work process of employees in a remote form (teleworking / home-office), where possible, allowing the office work with a maximum of 50% of the staff.
18. The grocery stores organize their work, not allowing persons under 65 years of age in the respective sites between 8.30 and 10.30.
19. The carrying out of planned admission and planned operative activity in the medical institutions for hospital medical care and the complex oncological centers shall be suspended, with the exception of the activities related to transplantation of organs, tissues and cells, diagnostics and treatment of patients with oncological and oncohematological diseases, assisted reproduction and births, regardless of the method of birth-giving, rehabilitation activities, long-term treatment and psychiatric care.
20. Visits of external persons to hospital facilities shall be prohibited, except for visits to patients in the terminal stage. The prohibition does not apply to the control bodies in carrying out their control function.
21. Pursuant to item 3 of Order № RD-01-439 of 27.07.2020, the directors of the regional health inspections shall take actions and apply measures to the medical establishments for hospital care and the complex oncology centers on the territory of the respective district, determining a mandatory number of beds for the treatment of patients with primary or concomitant SARS-CoV-2 infection of not less than 20% of the number of beds announced in the respective regional health inspection of each medical institution for hospital care and complex oncology center.
22. In the specialized institutions for providing social services and those for residential-type social services for children and adults, external visitors shall be allowed exceptionally within the discretion of the director of the institution in compliance with the introduced anti-epidemic measures and submission of a declaration by the visitor that he/she was in no contact with infectious patients, has no signs of acute respiratory disease and will comply with the anti-epidemic measures introduced on the territory of the institution. The restriction shall not apply to the control bodies in carrying out their control functions.
23. The activities that are not suspended or prohibited by this order are carried out in compliance with all anti-epidemic measures introduced by Order № RD-01-675 of 25.11.2020.

24. Ministers and state bodies according to their functional competence shall take urgent and immediate control measures on the territory of the whole country, as the efforts should be focused on obligatory application and observance of this order and of Order № РД-01-675 from 25.11.2020.

25. The Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry shall assign to the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency the implementation of inspections in the food and entertainment establishments, under the control of the agency.

26. The Minister of Labor and Social Policy shall assign to the Executive Agency "General Labor Inspectorate" the implementation of inspections of employers regarding compliance with the requirements of this order and Order № RD-01-675 of 25.11.2020.

27. The regional governors and the authorities of self-governing local communities and local administration, within their functional competence and at maximum use of their control powers and administrative capacity, to create the necessary organization for control over the observance of the anti-epidemic measures on the territory of the country by ordering organizational measures, if necessary, taking into account the specifics and data for the respective field.

28. The state health control authorities shall continue the realization of their control powers, as to inform the Minister of Health about the results, by an order determined by him.

II. The ministers, according to their functional competence, shall give instructions, after coordination with the Minister of Health, with regard to the application of the measures introduced by this order in the spheres controlled by them and shall establish an organization for their implementation. The instructions are published on the website of the respective ministry.

III. The mayors of municipalities may issue orders for the implementation of the introduced measures within their powers. The orders are published on the website of the respective municipality.

IV. Order № RD-01-655 of 13.11.2020 is revoked.

V. The order enters into force at 11.30 p.m. on 27.11.2020.

VI. The order should be communicated to the regional health inspectorates, to the ministers, to the regional governors and to the mayors of municipalities, and to be published on the website of the Ministry of Health.

VII. The regional health inspectorates to notify the regional governors, the mayors of municipalities, the directors of the regional directorates of the Ministry of Interior and all medical establishments on the territory of the respective district about the introduced anti-epidemic measures. The order is subject to appeal within one month of its publication on the website of the Ministry of Health, before the relevant administrative court under the Administrative Procedure Code.

Prof. Dr. Kostadin Angelov

Minister of Health