

COVID 19: CURRENT CHANGES CONCERNING RESTRICTIONS ON FREE MOVEMENT

Dear Clients and Partners,

Please, let us inform you of the current developments concerning restrictions on free entry into the Czech Republic. In the early hours of 5 June 2020, the Czech government adopted resolutions no. 606 and 607 which approved protective measure of the Ministry of Health no. MZDR 20599/2020-7/MIN/KAN, which applies to the period between 5 June 2020 and 14 June 2020, and protective measure of the Ministry of Health ref. no.: MZDR 20599/2020-5/MIN/KAN, which will apply from 15 June 2020 on („**Resolutions**“). These Resolutions have changed the conditions of entry into the Czech Republic. This newsletter brings you the most important information on the current changes.

1. Changes effective from 5 June 2020

The obligation to submit a confirmation of a negative PCR test at the Czech border or to undergo testing within 72 hours from the entry into the Czech Republic has been revoked for returning Czech citizens and certain categories of foreigners.

Free entry into the territory of the Czech Republic now applies to citizens of Germany, Hungary, Austria and Slovakia and their family members and persons with permanent or temporary residency in these countries. Free entry for these persons means that they no longer need to prove the purpose of their visit (and the fact that the visit qualifies as one of the exceptions from the general ban on entry), that there is no limitation of the duration of their stay in the Czech Republic and that they are not obliged to test negative for SARS-CoV-2 or complete mandatory quarantine upon entry.

Free entry is however only allowed directly from the territory of the states listed above. It is irrelevant whether the borders are crossed by land or by air.

Citizens of other countries than those listed above are still subject to restrictions adopted in protective measure of the Ministry of Health no. MZDR 20599/2020-7/MIN/KAN.

2. Changes planned from 15 June 2020

With the effect from 15 June 2020, obligatory testing for SARS-CoV-2 will no longer be mandatory for all EU citizens who enter the Czech Republic and travel with a confirmation of a temporary or permanent residency in a EU member state or another state from the Schengen area with a low risk of COVID-19 infection and for their family members. Czech citizens returning from these states are not obliged to undergo testing for SARS-CoV-2 either.

Countries with a low risk of infection include:

- Bulgaria
- Estonia
- Finland
- Croatia
- Iceland
- Cyprus
- Lichtenstein
- Lithuania
- Latvia
- Luxembourg
- Hungary
- Germany
- Norway
- Poland
- Austria
- Romania
- Greece
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Switzerland

Countries with a medium risk of infection have also been defined. Citizens and residents of these countries will be able to travel to the territory of the Czech Republic only if they fall under one of the exceptions listed in protective measure no. MZDR 20599/2020-5/MIN/KAN and continue to be obliged to test negative for SARS-CoV-2 upon entry. This obligation and mandatory quarantine do not apply to Czech citizens (unless they are residents in the given country) and foreigners with a temporary (more than 90 days) or permanent residency in the Czech Republic.

Countries with a medium risk of infection include:

- Belgium
- Malta
- Denmark
- France
- Ireland
- Italy
- Netherlands
- Portugal
- Spain

Sweden and United Kingdom continue to be considered high-risk countries, and therefore, all travellers from these countries, regardless of their citizenship, are obliged to submit a negative PCR test upon entry. Citizens of these countries may enter the Czech Republic only if an exception listed in protective measure no. MZDR 20599/2020-5/MIN/KAN applies to them.

We hope that our newsletter will help you navigate your current possibilities and we will be happy to assist you in any situation you may encounter.

Your LTA team