



## Overview of the national exit strategies

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# AUSTRIA

*Updated on the 7 of April*

- from April 14, smaller shops up to 400 square meters should be allowed to reopen;
- from May 1, all shops, shopping centers and hairdressers should be allowed to reopen but only under strict security measures such as wearing masks and a limited number of customers in the shop;
- All other areas, hotels and restaurants should not be allowed to follow until mid-May;
- events will no longer be allowed until the end of June. This includes all sports and cultural events with the involvement of the public;
- schools: no more regular classes until mid-May, matura takes place in this semester;
- teaching at universities remains digital for the whole term;
- events are prohibited in Austria until at least the end of June ;
- the regulation for the summer will be decided at the end of April.

# ITALY

*Updated on the 7 of April*

The possibility to relax the lockdown measures has been made public on the 5 of April.

A “**phase 2**”, amounting to a “**co-existence with the virus**”, might be activated as soon as the **16 of May** if the “evolution of the pandemic does not change”. It will entail the gradual reopening of Italian businesses.

In that regard, the Italian Minister of Health set out on the 5 of April a strategic health plan revolving around 5 points to gradually exit the crisis:

- 1) compulsory to wear a mask;
- 2) Scrupulous social distancing in public spaces and at work;
- 3) a set of hospitals dedicated to addressing the Covid 19 afflictions will remain open after the crisis to prevent a recurrence of the pandemic;
- 4) the strengthening of the local health networks to enable every sick person to be taken care of, from the testing phase to the treatment, and to carry out large scale testing among the population;
- 5) the creation of an app on smartphones, drawing on the South Korean example, in order to map the movements of the diagnosed infected within 48 hours before the infection.  
In addition, this app will facilitate telemedicine for instance to monitor sick people's heart rate and oxygen level.

Firms pertaining to the manufacturing sector will be the first ones to be authorized to resume activity, with a priority for the firms operating within the food supply chains and the pharmaceutical sector.

Second, the businesses operating without any direct contact with the clients will be able to reopen.

Third, the businesses operating with a direct contact between the clients and the salesmen will be authorized to resume their activity.

Bars, restaurants, clubs and gyms will be the last businesses to be authorized to reopen.

Regarding schools and universities, classes will probably start again only in September except for the students that will sit their Maturità in June.



*Updated on the 14 of April*

While Italian government has opted on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April to extend its strict lockdown measures until the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May, it also decided to allow the business sectors listed below to resume their activity as of the 14<sup>th</sup> of April:

- **bookshops and stationery stores;**
- **stores selling children's clothing;**
- **forestry and timber production.**

→ however, **it must be noted that regional applications of these rules differ today in Italy:**

- in Lombardy, the worst-hit region, the regional government said bookstores and stationery store would not be opened;
- in Veneto, on the other hand, the regional government went further and lifted the requirement that people must stay within 200 meters of their homes for physical exercise.

# CZECH REPUBLIC

*Updated on the 16 of April*

On April 6, the Czech Government decided to begin lifting some of the quarantine restrictions:

- sport facilities have reopened since the 7<sup>th</sup> of April;
- building material shops, hardware stores and bike shops will reopen on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April;
- People are not required anymore since the 7<sup>th</sup> of April to wear masks during outdoor sports in nature, such as biking and jogging.

**On April 14, the government decided to start releasing restrictions systematically, slowly and carefully on shops and services. The plan is to do from April 20 to June 8.**

There will be several waves with periods of 7-14 between them:

1. Craftsmen, cars and used cars retailers and farmers' markets can be reopened (with limitations and protective measures);
2. From April 27 on → shops selling other goods, such as shoes, garments, electronics, etc ... that are smaller than 200 square meters will be able to reopen (unless located in shopping centers larger than 5 000 square meters);
3. Fom May 11 on → larger shops up to 1 000 square meters (unless located in shopping centers larger than 5 000 square metters), driving schools and fitness centers (will limitations: no showers and dressing rooms) will be allowed to reopen;
4. From May 25 on → restaurants, pubs, buffets, barbershop, masseurs, regeneration services, hairdressing and beauty services will be allowed to reopen (furthermore, museums + galleries + zoos will be also allowed to reopen but only for outdoor activities).
5. From June 8 on → all shops in shopping centers with over 5 000 square meters, shops larger than 1 000 square meters, restaurants + cafes + bars (indoor activities), hotels + taxis + services that affect the integrity of the skin , theatres + castles + other cultural and social sporting events, will be allowed to reoperate.

Also from June 8 on, the ban will cease to apply to recovery events for children under 15, weddings and indoor pavilions of zoos.



**The above listed plan is based on a recent optimist epidemiology situation and might be revised if the number of people starts to rise too fast (now it is +/- 250/day but +/- 400/day is considered to be critical)**

→ it is almost certain that there will not be any summer music festivals or other mass scale events;

→ individual physical exercise outside allowed and professional sports training in small groups allowed from April 20;

→ wearing a mask is still compulsory;

→ states borders are still closed but since 14 April Czech citizens (settled foreigners) can undertake the necessary business trips/doctor visits/family visits ... abroad (no shopping or leisure trips). There is a compulsory 14-days quarantine after returning.

**It is expected that the possibility to travel abroad will be fully renewed in June.**

→ travel restrictions lifted for workers in “essential” sectors;

**There is also a plan to bring schools back into operation in several steps.**

1. From April 20 on, activities of up to 5 people at universities will be allowed (consultations, exams, ...);
2. From May 11 on, students in final year of high school will be able to attend classes in order to prepare their final exams;
3. From May 25 on, the first grade of primary schools can start education in person with some limitations : a stable group of 15, one child per desk, no gym lesson, ...



**however, in most school classes won't resume by the end of June.**

**Since April 13, the car maker Hyundai has started manufacturing again – with some restrictions and only 2 shifts. This is the first large factory to resume operations among those which have interrupted their production.**

# DENMARK

*Updated on the 8 of April*

On April 6, the Danish government decided to make a first step towards a gradual loosening of the lockdown measures:

- 1) On April 15 day care centers and elementary school will reopen. Middle school, secondary school and higher education will remain closed. Consequently, exams are cancelled for middle school. Instead, annual grades will be converted into final grades. For secondary school and higher education, exams will take place through online measures.
- 2) All other restrictions will at this stage be prolonged until 10 May. These include:
  - Border closure;
  - Official encouragement not go on unnecessary travels outside the country;
  - Obligation to work from home for all employees in the public sector working in non-critical functions;
  - Ban to be gathered more than 10 people;
  - Shutdown of restaurants (take-away exempted), cafes, bars, nightclubs, malls, indoor sports facilities etc;
  - Ban on businesses implying physical contact like hairdressing, massage etc;
  - Shutdown of secondary schools, higher educations, churches, cinemas, libraries etc.
- 3) Larger gatherings will be banned until August. Consequently, all festivals have been cancelled this year. As summer festivals are important for the Danish tourist sector, this ban will have negative effects on the economy.

In the coming week, the government will discuss with business organizations and trade unions how and to what extent employees should return to their physical workplace. The government states that only necessary functions should be carried out at the workplace and that precautionary measures should be taken. These could include staggered working hours.

# NORWAY

*Updated on the 13 of April*

Following a prior Health Minister's statement that the epidemic is under control within the country, the Government announced on the 7<sup>th</sup> of April that Norway will begin easing some of the lockdown measures.

This has been decided after advice from and close consultation with the education authorities, the business associations/NHO, and the health authorities.

This exit strategy is risk based.

## **Reopening of kindergartens and schools**

*April 20:* Kindergartens reopen. The prerequisite is that this can be carried out in a contagious defense manner. Kindergartens can use the time until April 27 to prepare the opening if they need it.

*April 27:* Schools reopen for 1st - 4th grade in primary school. The school leisure scheme also opens. High schools open to students who follow vocational training in school. The prerequisite is that this can be carried out in a contagious defense manner.

*April 27:* Universities, colleges and vocational schools reopen to some students and staff. Students and staff in recruitment positions who are in the final stages of their studies and projects, and who are completely dependent on equipment at the educational institution, can return to universities, colleges and vocational schools from April 27. They must follow the same rules of distance as in working life, and work from home whenever possible.

## **Access to cabins**

*April 20:* The prohibition on overnight accommodation is repealed.



### **Gradual and partial reopening of businesses**

→ the reopening of the different sectors will take place after best-practise standards of behaviour are developed in cooperation between the business sectors and the health authorities.

*April 20:* Many health-care companies with one-on-one contact, such as physical therapists and psychologists, will be able to operate more as usual if regulatory requirements for infection control measures are followed. *Industry standards will be developed in consultation with the Norwegian Institute of Public Health and the industry.*

*April 27:* One-to-one contact services such as hairdressers and skin care providers will be able to stay open if they meet the requirements for infection control measures. *Before reopening, contamination requirements will be developed in collaboration between the industry and the Norwegian Institute of Public Health.* If the industry agreement on infection protection can be complied with, such businesses can also open earlier than April 27.

### **Other measures**

The ban on *cultural and sporting and other events* that do not meet basic contamination requirements will apply until June 15.

**Sports activities** can be carried out when the Directorate of Health's distance and group recommendations are followed.

The municipalities are instructed to ensure that those who are in quarantine or isolation can stay at a hotel or other place designated by the municipality.

**The hospitals** must prepare for normal operation after Easter.

The Directorate of Health will work with the county authorities to ensure that the municipalities restore normal activity in the health and care service.

### **The following measures are unchanged:**

- Frequent hand washing and disinfection;
- Quarantine or home isolation in case of illness, close contact with the sick, return home after foreign trips, etc;
- Avoid hand greeting and pinching;
- Those who live together can socialize normally;
- Remember good cough and nasal hygiene;
- Schools from 5th - 10th grade will still be closed and students will receive homeschooling;
- High schools and higher education institutions will still be closed, with the exceptions announced on April 7;



- Distance limit of two meters, except for people who live together on a daily basis. In stores and pharmacies where two meters can be difficult to comply with, a distance of at least one meter should be kept;
- A maximum of five people can be together, except for people who live together on a daily basis;
- It is encouraged to avoid using public transport and to avoid unnecessary leisure travel;
- The health authorities recommend a home office if possible, and this is clarified with the employer;
- Fitness centers, swimming pools, water parks and the like are closed;
- Visits to nursing homes and other institutions for vulnerable groups are not allowed;
- Most dining places will be closed, with the exception of those who serve food and can comply with the rule of at least two meters distance between guests and those serving, and meet other basic requirements for infection control;
- A number of public services are closed, such as passport offices, police public service, libraries etc;
- More stringent border controls - foreigners without a residence permit in Norway will be expelled from the border;
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs advises against all foreign travel that is not strictly necessary.

# SPAIN

*Updated on the 14 of April*

The Spanish Government decided on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April to extend the shutdown of the country for another two weeks, until April 26.

However, the Government decided at the same time that the ban imposed on all non-essential work including manufacturing and construction would be lifted after Easter.

## **return to regular activity for some non-essential businesses**

From the 14th of April on, **workers in the industrial and construction sectors are allowed to resumed activity on site.**

Public-facing businesses like shops, entertainment centers and restaurants will remain closed.

## **concomitant recommendations on how to reduce the risks of contagion**

→ In a bid to ensure this change does not lead to a rise in coronavirus cases, **the Spanish government has published on the 11<sup>th</sup> of April a guide for workers and businesses with recommendations on how to reduce the risk of contagion.**

This guide applies to workers in the industrial and construction sectors, as well as other sectors where working remotely is not possible. It also applies to essential activities, like food distribution and the production of health resources, which were not suspended during the state of alarm or temporary “hibernation” period.

These are the main recommendations for workers:

- **Don't go to work if you have symptoms;**
- **Use private transport if possible:**

→ the guide recommends that workers use a private form of transport, such as a motorbike, bicycle or walking, to get to and from work.

→ a private car is also an option, but the guide adds that utmost care must be taken to clean the vehicle, and that no more than one person should be in the front and back seats;



- **Use face masks on public transport;**
- **Keep a two-meter distance;**
- **Minimize contact between client and staff;**
- **Set flexible hours:**
  - to avoid large gatherings on public transport, and when workers enter and leave the workplace;
- **Use face masks when working around others;**
- **Gloves for more exposed workers:**
  - the Spanish Health Ministry asks that companies provide workers with enough personal protection equipment.
- **Medical service:**
  - all companies, independently of their size, must clearly identify their medical service "*in order to rapidly intervene on the ground in collaboration with the public health system.*"
- **Hygiene recommendations:**
  - according to the guide, companies must ventilate their facilities at least once a day for more than five minutes. The guidelines recommend that the temperature of the workplace be set between 23°C and 26°C.
  - the Health Ministry also suggests cleaning air filters more frequently; checking at least once a day that soap dispensers, anti-bacterial gel, and paper towels are in working order; increasing the cleaning done in all areas, especially surfaces and door knobs; and periodically disinfecting tables and counters.
  - the guide adds that workspaces must be cleaned after each worker's shift.
  - all of these jobs must be done with a face mask and disposable gloves, according to the guidelines;
- **Wash uniforms in hot water:**
  - the guide recommends that workers wash their work clothes or uniform in a "*complete cycle in a temperature between 60°C and 90°C.*" These clothes should be



taken off at the end of the shift and carried in a closed and sealed bag to their normal laundry.

*Updated on the 24 of April*

**On 22 April**, in his appearance before the plenary session of the Spanish Parliament to prolong the state of alarm until 9 May, **Prime Minister Sánchez announced a progressive and slow exit strategy based on the criteria established by the WHO, which are also reflected in the European Commission exit roadmap.**

The de-escalation of the strict restriction of movements in Spain, will be “gradual, slow and very prudent”, to protect citizens and the sanitary system. The goal is to avoid false steps and, thus, the possibility to re-establish restrictions will not disappear as long as the health threat continues.

The Ministry of Health will manage the exit strategy and its competences include modify, extend or restrict measures in public places, economic activities, cultural and recreational activities. The first decision taken to alleviate the confinement has been to allow children up to 14 years old to go outside once a day accompanied by an adult.

The main criteria will be the behavior of the pandemic considering territorial specificities, as not all regions are equally impacted. This means that there will be a special effort to coordinate the exit strategy with the Autonomous Communities.

From a health and safety at work perspective, the aim is to achieve a coordinated approach with social partners, which are already elaborating sanitary protocols in some sectors (such us construction and automotive) to secure as much as possible a secure return to work. In this regard, the access to personal protective equipment and disinfectant hydrogels continues to be an issue.



# FRANCE

*Updated on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April*

During a speech on the 13<sup>th</sup> of April, the French president announced an extension of the country's lockdown measures until May 11 but declared that restrictions would gradually begin to ease thereafter.

## What will open first

Emmanuel Macron set out a **staggered easing of restrictions**.

→ **kindergartens, grade** and **high schools** will progressively reopen as of May 11;

There is still a lack of operational details in that regard.

→ **universities** will only reopen in September;

→ as of the 11 of May, **workers operating in the manufacturing sector, the retail sector and in services will be able to resume activity**.

The President stated that rules will have to be worked out between authorities and trade unions to ensure proper sanitary precautions in the workplace.

**The government will announce a more detailed lockdown exit plan by the end of April.**

## What will stay closed

→ **the elderly, handicapped and those with pre-existing chronic conditions will have to remain under lockdown beyond May 11**, as they are the most vulnerable to the disease;

→ cafés, restaurants, bars, cinemas and theaters, concert halls and museums will remain closed;

→ the big festivals and events with large crowds will not be held until at least mid-July. There will be an evaluation of the situation in that regard in mid-May to adapt the restrictions.

→ the borders with non-European countries will remain closed.



### **Testing, masks, tracking and vaccines**

→ President Macron announced that the country will have the capacity to **test everyone with symptoms** as of May 11;

People who test positive for the virus will be quarantined.

**Testing priority will be given to seniors, medical professionals and the most vulnerable.**

→ as of May 11, the central government, in coordination with local mayors, will **make general-use masks available for each citizen, as well as for workers who are most exposed.**

The use of masks on public transport and in other situations could also become "systematic" said the French President.

→ authorities will also explore potential use of **tracking application** that would be **voluntary and anonymous.**

As this idea raised privacy concerns, the Parliament will have the opportunity to debate the use of such an app and the opinions of "competent authorities" will be gathered.

→ there will be in the foreseeable future an initiative on finding a coronavirus vaccine:

*"The first path to exit the pandemic is vaccines,"* Macron said. *"Our country will invest even more massively in research, and I will announce in coming days an initiative with a number of our partners to accelerate current efforts."*



# LUXEMBOURG

*Updated on the 21 of April*

The government announced on the 15 of April that it will start gradually to put in place a gradual exit strategy, motivated by the fact that the evolution of the situation allows it.

Thus, from 20 April 2020, **construction, renovation, transformation, maintenance and revision sites, DIY and gardening businesses, as well as the activities of gardeners, landscapers and businesses selling mainly seasonal products for planting** have reopened. I

In addition, civil weddings and funerals will be allowed, but limited to a maximum number of twenty people.

In order to limit the risk that this opening will have an impact on the resurgence of COVID-19, **the wearing of the mask**, which is recommended for all outdoor travel, **has become mandatory** in a series of hypotheses outside the home of the person concerned.

The Government also proposes to extend the temporary restriction on the entry of third-country nationals into the territory of the Grand Duchy until 15 May 2020 and to extend the scope of the exemptions and derogations provided for.

## Deconfinement strategy in phases

**Phase 1** - Reopening of construction sites (tentative date 20 April 2020). The first phase thus covers the following activities:

- Reopening of construction sites;
- Educational aid and assistance activities (Services in child and family aid, Competence centres in special psycho-pedagogical care and measures to benefit children who are on the verge of dropping out of school);
- Activities of gardeners and landscapers;
- Businesses whose main activity is do-it-yourself;
- Reopening of recycling centres.

This list will be completed on 4 May by the resumption of senior classes, as well as internships and practical work at BTS and university level.

**Phase 2** - resumption of secondary education (tentative date 11 May 2020)**Phase 3** - resumption of fundamental education as well as the reopening of crèches and childcare facilities (tentative date 25 May 2020)

This will be followed - in later phases - by the resumption of commercial activities and the reopening of the HORECA sector (unofficial: not before August, major festivities planned for August & October have already been cancelled...). At this stage, however, it is premature to give a detailed assessment of the lifting of restrictions in this sector. A final decision will be taken in due course by the Government Council on the basis of an analysis of the situation.

Companies, businesses and administrations are generally encouraged to continue to promote teleworking throughout the transition period out of confinement.

Gatherings will remain prohibited until 31 July, except for funerals and civil weddings, which will be allowed for a maximum of 20 people and provided that an interpersonal distance of 2 metres is respected. The prohibitions laid down in Article 2 of the amended Grand Ducal Regulation of 18 March introducing a series of measures in the context of the fight against COVID-19 will be maintained.

The confinement measures currently in place for vulnerable persons and persons over 65 years of age will continue to be in force at least until the end of the first phase. The gradual lifting of the current restrictions also entails the need to develop, in consultation with the Ministry of Family Affairs, Integration and the Greater Region a strategy for the protection of vulnerable persons in care centres and persons over 65 years of age.

Workers belonging to the vulnerable category may consult their doctor to determine whether the severity of the illness prevents them from going to work. This assessment must be done on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the recommendations of the Health Directorate and the working environment of the person concerned.

Press release by the Ministry of State



In accordance with the guidelines of the Governing Council aimed at establishing a deconfinement strategy taking into account the imperatives of public health and the economic aspects related to the current confinement, masks are distributed to all companies in the country.

**The free distribution of protective masks to Luxembourg companies has been organised jointly by the Government, the Chamber of Commerce and other partners, on the basis of five masks per employee.**

The physical distribution of the masks will take place via the Post Luxembourg network in accordance with the following arrangements:

- Companies with 50 or more employees will receive the masks by direct distribution (by mail) as soon as possible,
- Companies with fewer than 50 employees will receive a letter in the next few days from the Centre Commun de la Sécurité Sociale (CCSS) informing them of the number of masks made available to them. The masks will be given to the companies by presentation of the original CCSS mail to the post office (or collection point) indicated in the mail.

Companies are invited not to solicit the helplines of the Government and the Chamber of Commerce for details on the delivery of their quota of masks. The services concerned are currently working hand in hand to ensure the fastest possible delivery.

Communication by the Chamber of Commerce

# GERMANY

*Updated on the 16 of April*

The government announced on the 15 of April that:

- From April 20 on, **stores up to 800 square meters will be able to start trading with sanitary controls in place.**

That will include allowing car dealerships to open.

However, restaurants, bars and shopping mall will remain closed and large events will be banned until the end of the summer;

**Shortly after the announcement, Volkswagen stated it would restart work at a plant in Zwickau on Monday and the rest of its German facilities from April 27**

- Schools will reopen gradually:
  - Secondary school students will return first to take final exams;
  - Then, primary school students and young will be allowed to return.
- Nation's border controls will be extended until May 4, except on the frontier with Belgium and the Netherlands;
- Wearing face masks is "highly recommended" in supermarkets and on public transport;
- Germany's ban on gathering of more than two people will be extended until May 3;
- Germany's Robert Koch Institute, the government's body for disease control and monitoring, will be tasked with presenting hygiene regulations as people return to day-to-day life.

# BELGIUM

*Updated on the 16 of April*

The Government announced on the 15 of April that the lockdown will be extended until May 3, maintaining confinement measures except for small changes:

- Garden centers and DIY shops may reopen their doors under strict social-distancing conditions.

→ mass events, including big summer festivals, won't be allowed until August 31.

# POLAND

*Updated on the 17 of April*

**The government set out on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April a framework for reopening the country and lifting restrictions related to COVID-19**

- **Security rules remain unchanged and they must become the basis of the new normal:**
  - Maintaining a 2-meter distance from others in a public space
  - Everyone will have to wear a mask, scarf or handkerchief *that covers both the mouth and nose when outdoors, starting from April 16.* The obligation applies to everyone who is on the streets, in offices, shops or places where services are provided and workplaces
  - Maintaining remote-work and distance education wherever possible
  - Strict compliance with sanitary rules in places where people are gathering (disinfection and keeping a proper distance)
  - Quarantine and isolation for infected or potentially infected persons.
- **FOUR-STAGE PLAN (the dates will be determined by the current situation - the new infection count, the situation in hospitals, implementation of sanitary guidelines by responsible entities).**
  - The Ministry of Health will carry out its weekly evaluation of changes that occur in security principles. This means that they will be able to either speed up the process of lifting restrictions or slow down the changes.
- **The 1<sup>st</sup> stage – from April 20, 2020**
  - **The opening of forests and parks**, free movement for recreational purposes while maintaining at least a two-metre distance and covering mouth and nose. Playgrounds will still be closed. Children over 13 years old will be able to move without adults supervision.
  - **In terms of trade regulations**, in stores up to 100 square metres space, no more than four people will be allowed to queue at each checkout. In turn, a person per 15 square metres will be allowed to enter the stores larger than the aforementioned. The latter rule will also apply to churches.
  - **Farmers** are exempt from the obligation to wear protective masks in public.
- **The 2<sup>nd</sup> stage**
  - Opening of DIY stores at weekends
  - Opening of hotels and other accommodation
  - Opening of libraries, museums and art galleries.
- **The 3<sup>rd</sup> stage**
  - Opening of stationary gastronomy (with certain restrictions included)



- Opening of stores in shopping malls (with significant restrictions)
- Opening of hairdressing and beauty salons
- Organisation of sporting events with the participation of up to 50 people in open space (without attendance)
- Organisation of childcare in crèches, kindergartens, primary school (grades 1-3, with maximum number of children in a class set out).

➤ **The 4<sup>th</sup> stage**

- Enabling gyms and fitness clubs activities
- Opening of massage salons and solariums
- Opening of theaters and cinemas in the new sanitary regime.

➤ **Additional information**

- **At least until Sunday, April 26, the following applies:**
  - Closing of schools and universities
  - Closing of international rail traffic
  - Ban on domestic and international passenger flights.
- **At least until Sunday, May 3, the following applies:**
  - Ban on entering the Republic of Poland. The ban does not apply to:
    - citizens of the Republic of Poland
    - foreigners who are spouses or children of citizens of the Republic of Poland or remain under permanent care of citizens of the Republic of Poland
    - holders of the Pole's Card
    - diplomats
    - persons who have the right of permanent or temporary residence in the Republic of Poland or a work permit
    - in duly justified cases, the voivode (province governor) competent for the voivodship (province) to which the foreign resident not listed in the preceding points intends to move may grant their consent for that foreigner to enter Poland
    - foreigners driving a vehicle intended for transporting goods.
  - Mandatory quarantine for persons coming to Poland from abroad.
  - Leaving the country by the road transport is allowed.



# SWITZERLAND

*Updated on the 22 of April*

Because the spread of the coronavirus has been slowed down and Swiss hospitals are not overburdened, the **Swiss Federal Council announced on 16<sup>th</sup> April that it strives for a relaxation of the existing measures in three stages as of 27<sup>th</sup> April:**

1. As a first step, providers of "personalised services" will be allowed to open their doors on **27<sup>th</sup> April**. In addition to hairdressers, these include beauty salons and nail studios. Restrictions on doctors' practices, hospitals, dentists, physiotherapy and medical massages will be lifted. DIY stores and garden centres as well as nurseries and flower shops may open. From 27<sup>th</sup> April, the restrictions on the range of products in grocery stores will also be lifted: If there are goods for daily use and other goods on the sales floor of the grocery stores, they may be sold.
2. Over the next two weeks, the Federal Council intends to monitor the progress of the epidemic. If the number of infections remains under control, classes in compulsory schools (primary education and secondary education I) can be resumed from **11<sup>th</sup> May** onwards. In addition, shops and markets will be allowed to open again. The Federal Council intends to take a decision on this on 29<sup>th</sup> April. The Federal Council also wants to have a protection concept for public transport by then, as more commuters are expected to return by 11<sup>th</sup> May at the latest.
3. In a third step, on **8<sup>th</sup> June**, secondary schools, vocational schools (secondary education II) and universities will again be allowed to hold face-to-face events. At the same time, entertainment and leisure facilities such as museums, libraries, botanical gardens and zoos are to be reopened and the ban on assembly relaxed (further details are not yet known). The Federal Council will decide the details of this stage on 27<sup>th</sup> May.

**The transition from one stage to the next will take place if there is no significant increase in Covid-19 cases.** Enough time must elapse between the individual stages in order to be able to observe the effects of the relaxation. The criteria are the number of new infections, hospital admissions and deaths, as well as the hospitalisation figures.

All sectors are required to develop protection concepts before opening (e.g. anyone wishing to open shops would have to present a concept for protecting themselves and their customers). It is essential to prevent a second wave, which is why the population should continue to adhere to hygiene and social distancing measures despite the relaxation.

The Federal Council has not yet taken any decisions on further stages. In particular, it does not comment on the relaxation of the rules in the catering sector. It will decide in one of its next meetings when major events will be possible again. Measures affecting the aviation industry are still under examination.



# LITHUANIA

*Updated on the 23 of April*

On the 15th of April, Lithuanian Government approved the first stage of the quarantine exit plan, allowing activities of shops selling other than food products, with a strict limitation to those with separate entrance from outside and possibility to adjust the flow of buyers as well as to provide services with short contact with a client. All the market and services places will have to comply with additional safety regulations determined by the Ministry of Health of Lithuania.

*Quarantine was prolonged until the 11th of May.*

Stage	Sectors of economic activity	Launch date
I stage (short social contact activities)	Non-grocery shops with individual entrance from outside (not inside super market stores) - Providers of household and repair services (haberdashery, repair of footwear and other products, repair of bicycles, laundries, dry cleaners, automotive services, rental salons, services for animals, etc.)	15 April
II stage (longer social contact, greater coverage of non-essential activities)	Activities of cultural institutions (libraries, museums, etc.) - Health services with limited contact with patients (planned procedures, health services, etc.) - Beauty services (hairdressers, cosmetology rooms, etc.) - Catering establishments (cafes, restaurants) outdoors - Specialized training that cannot take place at a distance (driving, aviation, etc.) - Activities (services) provided outdoors (golf, tennis courts, etc.) - Shopping and entertainment centers, markets (by restricting access), zoo parks	2 weeks after the previous stage – considering the epidemiological situation (27 April)
III stage (after quarantine)	Catering establishments - Health services (dentistry, examinations, vaccinations) - Sports and entertainment services (sports clubs, amusement parks, etc.) - Nurseries, kindergartens, schools, day care centers for disabled children and adults	Upon cancellation of quarantine – considering the epidemiological situation
IV stage	Massive events (theatres, movie theatres, conferences, exhibitions, concerts, etc.)	Indefinite, considered separately



# CROATIA

*Updated on the 24 of April*

The government on Thursday (23 April 2020.) adopted a conclusion on measures to relaunch economic and other activities in the context of the COVID-19 epidemic, which regulates the gradual relaxation of restrictions as of Monday, 27 April.

The measures would be relaxed in **three turns** - on April 27, May 4 and May 11.

- **The first phase, starting on Monday, 27 April,** will enable the opening of **all retail entities** apart from those in shopping centres, the exception being those stores that have been operating in shopping centres the entire time since the introduction of restrictions.

**Services too** will be able to operate except those that require close contact with clients, on the condition physical distance is respected. This refers to tailors, key cutters, cobblers, tourist agencies and the like.

**Public city and suburban lines** as well as fast speed lines to islands that are not connected with ferry lines will start operating again. Libraries, museums, galleries, second-hand and regular book shops too will be allowed to open.

Athletes will be allowed to recommence training in individual sports as will those competing in senior team sports.

State public servant examinations will also be conducted.

- **The second phase would follow on May 4 if the first phase proves to be successful and the epidemiological situation does not deteriorate.** Relaxation of restrictions in that phase would refer to the public health system, which would fully restore its services, with certain exceptions, and to private clinics.

**Other services** requiring close contact with clients would be allowed to operate as well if they comply with special measures in force, and this refers to cosmetic salons, pedicurists, barbers and hairdressers.

- **The third phase, starting on May 11,** would enable up to ten people to gather in the same place on the condition of physical distancing and **shopping centres** would be allowed to reopen as would **kindergartens and elementary schools** from Grades 1 to 4. Special classes for disabled children who have personal assistants would be restored as well, and students would be allowed to attend laboratory, art and clinical practical classes in small groups.

As of May 11, **inter-city bus routes and domestic air traffic** would be relaunched, and **hospitality premises** would be allowed to open but exclusively providing their services in outside terraces in compliance with epidemiological measures.



**Hospitality services in accommodation premises** would be allowed as well but only to staying guests, national and nature parks would be allowed to reopen and conditions for e-passes would be expanded.

**All three phases imply maintaining physical distancing** and the highest hygienic standards and for premises to be disinfected.

- **Employers** are forced to provide **working conditions according to epidemiological measures** and where possible to allow work from home and organise virtual meetings. Any worker with a temperature or respiratory symptoms will be banned from going to work.

Public events and large gathering will still not be permitted.

High school exit exams will be held June 8 to 29 and religious gatherings will be allowed as of May 2.