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Imposition of quarantine on persons diagnosed with the COVID-19 disease caused by the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 and on persons living with or permanently staying in the same place of residence as them

Passed 16.07.2020 No. 257

Under § 27 (3) of the Communicable Diseases Prevention and Control Act and considering the provisions of § 27 (1) 1) and 2) and § 27 (6) of the same, requirements for quarantine for the purpose of avoiding and preventing the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 causing the COVID-19 disease from spreading outside the focus of the disease are imposed as follows:

1. Persons diagnosed with the COVID-19 disease are prohibited from leaving their place of residence or permanent place of stay from the time they were diagnosed until their recovery. A place of residence or a permanent place of stay also means places where shelter services and safe house services are provided. Whether a person has made a recovery is decided by a physician.

2. The restriction set out in clause 1 does not apply when a person is given an order by a health care professional or a police officer to leave their place of residence or permanent place of stay, or in the event of an emergency that puts the person's life or health at risk.

3. A person living with or permanently staying in the same place of residence as a person referred to in clause 1 is prohibited from leaving, unless they are showing no symptoms of the COVID-19 disease and the following circumstances occur:

- 1) the person is a health care professional or a person performing public duties in order to perform their duties provided the person carefully monitors their health and complies with measures imposed by the Government of the Republic or the Health Board for preventing the possible spread of the communicable disease;
- 2) the person is getting the everyday essentials near their place of residence or place of stay because it is otherwise impossible and the person takes all measures for preventing the possible spread of the communicable disease;
- 3) any and all contact with the person diagnosed with the COVID-19 disease is eliminated in the place of residence and place of stay;
- 4) for being outdoors provided the person takes all measures for preventing the possible spread of the communicable disease;
- 5) the person is given an order referred to in clause 2.

4. Supervision over the requirements imposed by this Order is exercised by the Health Board, involving the Police and Border Guard Board by way of professional assistance, where necessary.

5. This Order shall be published by broadcasters.

6. This Order takes effect on 16 July 2020 and remains in effect until 30 September 2020.

This Order is issued considering the fact that under § 2 2) of the Communicable Diseases Prevention and Control Act the COVID-19 disease corresponds to the signs of a new dangerous communicable disease because COVID-19 is a disease with a high level of infectiousness which spreads rapidly and extensively and which may be serious or life-threatening. There is also no effective treatment or it is not available and the spread of the disease may exceed the hospital treatment capacity. The requirements, measures and restrictions imposed by this Order will clearly have a significant social and economic effect.

For the protection of the life and health of people and overriding public interest, this Order establishes quarantine requirements for preventing the spread of the communicable disease. The reasons and considerations are set out in the explanatory memorandum to the Order, which will be published on the website of the Government of the Republic.

Failure to duly comply with measures for preventing the spread of the communicable disease will prompt the application of the administrative coercive measures set out in § 28 (2) or (3) of the Law Enforcement Act. According to § 23 (4) of the Law Enforcement Act, the amount of penalty payment is 9600 euros. This penalty payment, which serves the purpose of enforcing the requirements, measures and restrictions imposed by this Order and preventing the spread of a communicable disease, may be imposed repeatedly.

This Order can be appealed against by filing a challenge to the Government of the Republic pursuant to the procedure provided by the Administrative Procedure Act within 30 days as of the day the relevant person became or should have become aware of the Order. This Order can also be appealed against by filing an action with the administrative court pursuant to the procedure provided for in the Code of Administrative Court Procedure within 30 days as of the day of announcement of this Order.

Jüri Ratas
Prime Minister

Taimar Peterkop
Secretary of State