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Restrictions on the freedom of movement and on holding public meetings and public events as necessary for preventing the spread of the COVID-19 disease

Passed 16.05.2020 No. 172
RT III, 17.05.2020, 5
Entry into force 18.05.2020

Amended by the following acts

Passed	Published	Entry into force
21.05.2020	RT III, 22.05.2020, 3	21.05.2020, partially 01.06.2020
28.05.2020	RT III, 28.05.2020, 2	28.05.2020
12.06.2020	RT III, 12.06.2020, 1	12.06.2020
18.06.2020	RT III, 19.06.2020, 6	19.06.2020
06.07.2020	RT III, 06.07.2020, 3	06.07.2020
09.07.2020	RT III, 10.07.2020, 2	15.07.2020
30.07.2020	RT III, 31.07.2020, 3	01.08.2020

Under § 28 (6) of the Communicable Diseases Prevention and Control Act and considering § 28 (5) 2) and 3) and § 28 (8) and (9) of the same, the following restrictions are imposed:

1.[Repealed – RT III, 19.06.2020, 6 – entry into force 19.06.2020]

1¹. A person who has crossed the state border for the purpose of entering Estonia shall remain in their place of residence or permanent place of stay for 14 calendar days after arrival in Estonia and they may leave there on the order of a health care professional or a police officer or in the event of an emergency that puts the person's life or health at risk or to receive health services or to buy food, essentials or medicine if getting these in another manner is impossible or unnecessarily difficult.
[RT III, 12.06.2020, 1 – entry into force 12.06.2020]

1². The restriction set out in clause 1¹ does not apply to asymptomatic persons as per clauses of the Government of the Republic Order No. 169 “Imposition of temporary restrictions on crossing the state border in order to prevent a new outbreak of the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 causing the COVID-19 disease” of 16 May 2020 in the following cases:

1) persons referred to in clauses 2 through 12 who were abroad and have arrived in Estonia for a purpose set out in clauses 3 through 10, and persons referred to in sub-clause 2) of clause 13;

2) persons referred to in clause 2 if a law enforcement agency has not applied the restriction set out in clause 1¹ of the Government of the Republic Order No. 172 “Restrictions on the freedom of movement and on holding public meetings and public events as necessary for preventing the spread of the COVID-19 disease” of 16 May 2020 to them upon crossing of the state border;

3) persons referred to in clauses 11 and 12;

4) persons referred to in clause 2 who arrived directly from the Republic of Latvia or the Republic of Lithuania;

5) persons referred to in clause 2 who arrived directly from the Republic of Finland and the purpose of their stay in Finland was work or performance of other contractual obligations, studies in an educational institution registered in Finland or urgent family reasons, above all meeting a close relative, a funeral, a wedding or cases of illness;

6) persons referred to in clause 2 who arrived directly from the Republic of Finland and who stayed in the territory of the Republic of Finland for at least 14 consecutive days immediately before arriving in the Republic of Estonia;

7) persons referred to in clauses 2 and 12¹ who have been in a Member State of the European Union or a Schengen Member State, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland or the Principality of

Andorra, the Principality of Monaco, the Republic of San Marino and the Vatican City State (Holy See) within the past 14 days, provided the cumulative number of positive tests for the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 causing the COVID-19 disease per 100,000 inhabitants in said country for the past 14 days is equal to or less than 16. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs publishes on its website a list of the countries referred to in this sub-clause and of countries where the cumulative number of positive tests for the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 causing the COVID-19 disease per 100,000 inhabitants for the past 14 days is greater than 16;

[RT III, 06.07.2020, 3 – entry into force 06.07.2020]

8) persons referred to in clause 12², unless they arrive from a country where the cumulative number of positive tests for the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 causing the COVID-19 disease per 100,000 inhabitants for the past 14 days is greater than 16;

[RT III, 06.07.2020, 3 – entry into force 06.07.2020]

9) persons referred to in clause 2 who arrive from a country referred to in clause 12², unless the cumulative number of positive tests for the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 causing the COVID-19 disease per 100,000 inhabitants in said country for the past 14 days is greater than 16;

[RT III, 06.07.2020, 3 – entry into force 06.07.2020]

10) persons referred to in clause 12³, unless in the country from where a person arrives and under whose laws the person is deemed to be its resident or is deemed to stay there legally the cumulative number of positive tests for the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 causing the COVID-19 disease per 100,000 inhabitants for the past 14 days is greater than 16 or unless the above information is not available for that country or there is a high risk of the virus spreading in that country, according to the conditions provided for in clause 1⁴.

[RT III, 06.07.2020, 3 – entry into force 06.07.2020]

1³. The restriction provided for in clause 1¹ does also not apply to persons referred to in sub-clause 7) of clause 1² if the cumulative number of positive tests for the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 causing the COVID-19 disease per 100,000 inhabitants in that country for the past 14 days ranges from 16 to 17.6 and has not increased during two consecutive periods of 7 days. When publishing lists of countries referred to in sub-clause 7) of clause 1², the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is guided by the provisions of sub-clause 7) of clause 1² and this clause.

[RT III, 06.07.2020, 3 – entry into force 06.07.2020]

1⁴. A sponsor of a person referred to in sub-clause 10) of clause 1² shall ensure, in the event that in the country from where the person arrives and under whose laws the person is deemed to be its resident or is deemed to stay there legally the cumulative number of positive tests for the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 causing the COVID-19 disease per 100,000 inhabitants for the past 14 days is greater than 16 or if the above information is not available for that country or there is a high risk of the virus spreading in that country, in cooperation with that person that the latter can stay in their place of residence or permanent place of stay for 14 calendar days after arrival in Estonia and be tested for COVID-19 immediately after arrival in Estonia and re-tested no earlier than on the 14th day in Estonia.

[RT III, 06.07.2020, 3 – entry into force 06.07.2020]

2. In sales areas, including in service providers' service points and catering establishments' seating areas (hereinafter *sales area*) and in public rooms of shopping centres it is allowed to walk around if the following requirements are met:

1) the scattering of people is ensured and the possessor checks compliance therewith;

[RT III, 19.06.2020, 6 – entry into force 19.06.2020]

2) at least at the entrance to and exit from the sales area the possessor thereof has ensured the availability of disinfectants to employees and customers.

3. Until 31 May 2020 customers may be at catering establishments for the sole purpose of takeaway or provision of delivery and transport services from 22:00 until closing.

[RT III, 28.05.2020, 2 – entry into force 28.05.2020]

4. Until 30 June 2020 customers are subject to a total restriction on the freedom of movement (visitation prohibition) in nightclubs, hookah cafés and adult clubs.

[RT III, 19.06.2020, 6 – entry into force 19.06.2020]

4¹. As of 1 June 2020 customers may go to casinos and slot machine halls if the following requirements are met:

1) the service provider ensures the scattering of people;

[RT III, 19.06.2020, 6 – entry into force 19.06.2020]

2) the service provider ensures up to 50% customer capacity of the place of provision of service;

[RT III, 31.07.2020, 3 – entry into force 01.08.2020]

3) the service provider ensures compliance with the disinfection requirements according to instructions from the Health Board.

[RT III, 22.05.2020, 3 – entry into force 21.05.2020]

4². As of 1 July 2020 customers may go to nightclubs, hookah cafés and adult clubs if the following requirements are met:

1) the service provider ensures the scattering of people;

2) the service provider ensures up to 50% customer capacity of the place of provision of service;

3) the service provider ensures compliance with the disinfection requirements according to instructions from the Health Board.

[RT III, 31.07.2020, 3 – entry into force 01.08.2020]

5. Passengers are subject to a total restriction on the freedom of movement concerning going on a ferry sailing on the route Tallinn–Stockholm–Tallinn for the purpose of a pleasure trip.

6. Public meetings are allowed only if the following requirements are met:

1) the organiser of a meeting ensures the scattering of people;

[RT III, 19.06.2020, 6 – entry into force 19.06.2020]

2) the organiser of an indoor meeting ensures up to 50% attendance capacity and the number of attendees up to 10 people, as of 1 June 2020 up to 50% attendance capacity and the number of attendees up to 100 people, as of 1 July 2020 up to 50% attendance capacity and the number of attendees up to 500 people, and as of 15 July 2020 up to 50% attendance capacity and the number of attendees up to 1500 people;

[RT III, 10.07.2020, 2 – entry into force 15.07.2020]

3) the organiser of an outdoor meeting ensures the number of attendees up to 100 people, as of 1 July 2020 the number of attendees up to 1000 people, and as of 15 July 2020 the number of attendees up to 2000 people.

[RT III, 10.07.2020, 2 – entry into force 15.07.2020]

7. Until 31 May 2020 customers are subject to a restriction on the freedom of movement (visitation prohibition) in public saunas, spas, swimming pools and water parks. Engaging in sports or training in said places is subject to the requirements provided for in clauses 19 through 23.

8. As of 1 June 2020 customers may use public saunas, spas, swimming pools and water parks if the following requirements are met:

1) the service provider ensures the scattering of people;

[RT III, 19.06.2020, 6 – entry into force 19.06.2020]

2) the service provider ensures up to 50% customer capacity of the place of provision of service;

3) the service provider ensures compliance with the disinfection requirements according to instructions from the Health Board.

Engaging in sports or training in said places is subject to the requirements provided for in clauses 19 through 23.

9. Until 31 May 2020 customers, except for customers for training purposes, are subject to a restriction on the freedom of movement (visitation prohibition) in places for the provision of entertainment services, including bowling alleys, billiard halls and children's playrooms.

10. As of 1 June 2020 customers may be in places for the provision of entertainment services, including bowling alleys, billiard halls and children's playrooms if the following requirements are met:

1) the service provider ensures up to 50% customer capacity and the scattering of people;

[RT III, 19.06.2020, 6 – entry into force 19.06.2020]

2) the service provider ensures the availability of disinfectants;

3) the service provider ensures compliance with the disinfection requirements according to instructions from the Health Board.

11. Until 31 May 2020 public events are allowed if the spectators are in their car and the following requirements are met:

1) outside cars, the organiser of the event ensures compliance with the requirements provided for in clause 1;

2) the organiser of the event ensures that no one gets out of their car during the event without an urgent need;

3) upon organising the parking of cars the organiser of the event ensures an adequate distance between cars;

4) the organiser of the event ensures the availability of disinfectants, where necessary.

[RT III, 22.05.2020, 3 – entry into force 21.05.2020]

11¹. As of 1 June 2020 public events are allowed if the following requirements are met:

1) the organiser of an event ensures the scattering of people;

[RT III, 19.06.2020, 6 – entry into force 19.06.2020]

2) the organiser of an indoor event ensures up to 50% attendance capacity but no more than 100 people;

[RT III, 28.05.2020, 2 – entry into force 28.05.2020]

3) the organiser of an outdoor event ensures the number of attendees up to 100 people;

4) sports activities, training sessions and sports and exercise events are subject to the provisions of clauses 21 through 23.

[RT III, 22.05.2020, 3 – entry into force 21.05.2020]

12. As of 1 July 2020 public events are allowed if the following requirements are met:

1) the organiser of an event ensures the scattering of people;

[RT III, 19.06.2020, 6 – entry into force 19.06.2020]

2) the organiser of an indoor event ensures up to 50% attendance capacity but no more than 500 people;

3) the organiser of an outdoor event ensures the number of attendees up to 1000 people;

4) sports activities, training sessions and sports and exercise events are subject to the provisions of clauses 21 through 23.

[RT III, 22.05.2020, 3 – entry into force 21.05.2020]

12¹. As of 15 July 2020 public events are allowed if the following requirements are met:

- 1) the organiser of an event ensures the scattering of people;
- 2) the organiser of an indoor event ensures up to 50% attendance capacity but no more than 1500 people;
- 3) the organiser of an outdoor event ensures the number of attendees up to 2000 people;
- 4) sports activities, training sessions and sports and exercise events are subject to the provisions of clauses 20, 21² and 23.

[RT III, 10.07.2020, 2 – entry into force 15.07.2020]

13. Public religious services and other public religious rites are allowed if the requirement for the scattering of people is complied with and the availability of disinfectants is ensured.

[RT III, 19.06.2020, 6 – entry into force 19.06.2020]

14. In organising the activities of basic schools, upper secondary schools, vocational educational institutions and institutions of higher education, except in organising research and development activities in universities and research institutions, also in organising the activities of institutions providing refresher training, recreational activities and hobby education and the activities of youth centres the following must be complied with:

- 1) the scattering of people is ensured;
- 2) there are up to ten persons in a study group, except for examinations;
- 3) when organising examinations, students taking an examination are scattered in the examination room;
- 4) movements of groups of students in the building of the relevant educational institution and in the territory used for the provision of education are scattered;
- 5) shared items in the building of the relevant educational institution and in the territory used for the provision of education are disinfected after use.

[RT III, 19.06.2020, 6 – entry into force 19.06.2020]

14¹. As of 1 June 2020, the requirements provided for in sub-clauses 1) through 4) of clause 11¹ are applied in basic schools, upper secondary schools, vocational educational institutions and institutions of higher education, except in organising research and development activities in universities and research institutions, and also in organising the activities of institutions providing refresher training and the activities of youth centres.

[RT III, 28.05.2020, 2 – entry into force 28.05.2020]

14². As of 1 July 2020, the requirements provided for in sub-clauses 1) through 4) of clause 12 are applied in basic schools, upper secondary schools, vocational educational institutions and institutions of higher education, except in organising research and development activities in universities and research institutions, and also in organising the activities of institutions providing refresher training and the activities of hobby schools, providers of hobby education and youth centres.

[RT III, 28.05.2020, 2 – entry into force 28.05.2020]

15. In institutions providing refresher training where training of drivers of power-driven vehicles, driver training and training of drivers carrying dangerous goods are organised, except if training of drivers of power-driven vehicles, driver training, training of drivers carrying dangerous goods or emergency vehicle driver training is provided to a serviceman or if emergency vehicle driver training is provided to a police officer, a rescue servant, an assistant police officer or a voluntary rescuer, such training shall be provided as follows:

- 1) [repealed – RT III, 19.06.2020, 6 – entry into force 19.06.2020]
- 2) the availability of disinfectants must be ensured in the vehicle for driving practice;
- 3) [repealed – RT III, 22.05.2020, 3 – entry into force 21.05.2020]
- 4) after each driving lesson the organiser of the training organises the cleaning of the surfaces that the learner touched.

16. As of 1 June 2020 recreational activities and provision of hobby education, except for activities set out in clauses 19 through 23, shall be organised as follows:

- 1) the organiser ensures the scattering of people;
- 2) the organiser ensures up to 50% capacity indoors;
- 3) the organiser ensures the number of participants up to 100 people outdoors.

[RT III, 19.06.2020, 6 – entry into force 19.06.2020]

16¹. As of 1 August 2020 recreational activities and provision of hobby education, except for activities set out in clauses 20, 21² and 23, shall be organised as follows:

- 1) the organiser ensures the scattering of people;
- 2) the organiser ensures up to 50% customer capacity of the place of provision of service;
- 3) the organiser ensures the availability of disinfectants.

[RT III, 31.07.2020, 3 – entry into force 01.08.2020]

17. Until 11 June 2020 the activities of youth camps and student work camps are suspended for participants.

18. As of 12 June 2020 the activities of youth camps and student work camps shall take place as follows:

- 1) the scattering of people is ensured;

[RT III, 19.06.2020, 6 – entry into force 19.06.2020]

- 2) youth camps and student work camps have up to 300 participants;
- 3) there are up to 20 persons in one group;
- 4) the organiser of the activity ensures the availability of disinfectants.

19. Until 31 May 2020 it is allowed to engage in sports, train and carry out sports and exercise events outdoors if compliance with the requirement provided for in clause 1 is ensured and if there are up to 10 participants in a group and the organiser of the activity ensures the availability of disinfectants. This restriction does not apply to sports teams if requirements arising from the international competition rules for the sport are complied with, or to training of candidates for Estonian adult sports teams and championship league teams.

20. As of 1 June 2020 it is allowed to engage in sports, train and carry out sports and exercise events outdoors if the scattering of people is ensured and the organiser of the activity ensures the availability of disinfectants. This restriction does not apply to sports teams if requirements arising from the international competition rules for the sport are complied with, or to training of candidates for Estonian adult sports teams and championship league teams.

[RT III, 31.07.2020, 3 – entry into force 01.08.2020]

21. Until 30 June 2020 sports competitions are allowed if the organiser ensures compliance with the following requirements:

- 1) the organiser of an event ensures the scattering of people;
[RT III, 19.06.2020, 6 – entry into force 19.06.2020]
- 2) indoor sports competitions have no spectators and there are no more than 100 participants;
- 3) the organiser of an outdoor event ensures that the number of participants, including spectators is up to 100 people;
- 4) the organiser of the event ensures the availability of disinfectants.
[RT III, 28.05.2020, 2 – entry into force 28.05.2020]

21¹. As of 1 July 2020 sports competitions are allowed if the organiser ensures compliance with the following requirements:

- 1) the organiser of an event ensures the scattering of people;
[RT III, 19.06.2020, 6 – entry into force 19.06.2020]
- 2) the organiser of an indoor event ensures up to 50% attendance capacity but no more than 500 people;
- 3) the organiser of an outdoor event ensures the number of attendees up to 1000 people.
[RT III, 22.05.2020, 3 – entry into force 21.05.2020]

21². As of 15 July 2020 sports competitions are allowed if the organiser ensures compliance with the following requirements:

- 1) the organiser of an event ensures the scattering of people;
- 2) the organiser of an indoor event ensures up to 50% attendance capacity but no more than 1500 people;
- 3) the organiser of an outdoor event ensures the number of attendees up to 2000 people.
[RT III, 10.07.2020, 2 – entry into force 15.07.2020]

22. Until 31 May 2020 it is prohibited to engage in sports and train and carry out sports and exercise events in training groups indoors, unless the organiser ensures compliance with the requirement provided for in clause 1, up to 50% attendance capacity, the number of participants in a group up to 10 persons and the availability of disinfectants. The group requirements and capacity requirement do not apply to sports teams if requirements arising from the international competition rules for the sport are complied with, or to training of candidates for Estonian adult sports teams and championship league teams.

23. As of 1 June 2020 it is prohibited to engage in sports and train and carry out sports and exercise events, unless the organiser ensures the scattering of people and up to 50% attendance capacity and the availability of disinfectants. The group requirements and capacity requirement do not apply to sports teams if requirements arising from the international competition rules for the sport are complied with, or to training of candidates for Estonian adult sports teams and championship league teams.

[RT III, 19.06.2020, 6 – entry into force 19.06.2020]

24. Visiting museums and exhibitions is allowed considering the following requirements:

- 1) the service provider ensures the scattering of people;
[RT III, 19.06.2020, 6 – entry into force 19.06.2020]
- 2) [repealed – RT III, 22.05.2020, 3 – entry into force 01.06.2020]
- 3) the service provider ensures the availability of disinfectants;
- 4) in rooms open for the public, the service provider has ensured wet cleaning of surfaces subject to frequent touching after every 2 to 4 hours;
- 5) interactive displays are closed or the service provider has ensured their wet cleaning after each use or the service provider has made disposable gloves available to the visitors and has ensured the safe handling thereof after use;

6) if possible, the service provider replaces physical information materials handed out free of charge with digital ones;

7) no creative work or workshops with shared means of work are organised or disinfection is ensured after each user.

25. Under § 44 (1) of the Communicable Diseases Prevention and Control Act, supervision over the requirements imposed by this Order is exercised by the Health Board. The Health Board may involve the Police and Border Guard Board in the supervision, adhering to the requirements and procedure for professional assistance provided for in the Administrative Cooperation Act.

26. The restrictions and measures established by this Order shall apply until the date specified in this Order or until this Order is changed or repealed and the need for these restrictions and measures shall be assessed no later than after every two weeks.

27. This Order shall be published by broadcasters, on the website of the Government of the Republic and in the official gazette Riigi Teataja.

28. This Order takes effect on 18 May 2020.

This Order is issued considering the fact that under § 2 (2) of the Communicable Diseases Prevention and Control Act the COVID-19 disease caused by the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 corresponds to the signs of a new dangerous communicable disease because there is no effective treatment and the spread of the disease may exceed the hospital treatment capacity, and the requirements, measures and restrictions established by this Order clearly have a significant social and economic effect. The risk of the virus spreading is currently very high and therefore, in order to minimise the risk, it is proportional to restrict people's freedom of movement in the places referred to in the Order for the protection of the life and health of people and overriding public interest in order to prevent the spread of the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 causing the COVID-19 disease.

For the protection of the life and health of people and overriding public interest, including for the protection of the continuity of the state, this Order establishes requirements, measures and restrictions that are inevitably necessary for preventing the spread of the virus. 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 virus will prompt the application of the administrative coercive measures set out in § 28 (2) or (3) of the Law Enforcement Act. The maximum 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 the virus, may be imposed repeatedly.

This Order can be appealed against by filing a challenge with 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.