

INFORMATION REGARDING CORONA VIRUS **(UPDATE: 26TH MAY 2021)**

How does the Coronavirus affect foreigners living in Hungary?

The Government reordered the state of emergency due to the coronavirus epidemic (COVID-19). This means that we must continue to adhere to the measures ordered during epidemiological preparedness, but the government has also introduced and may further impose restrictions.

Based on this decision:

- From May 23, the government relaxed the rules**
 - the curfew has been lifted
 - it is not mandatory to wear a mask in public areas (streets, public spaces, markets)
 - shops can operate according to their original (pre-pandemic) opening hours
 - outdoor events, weddings, family gatherings can be held (more details in the following sections)
- Holders of an immunity certificate (who have either already been vaccinated against the coronavirus or were confirmed to have contracted the disease) and the children under their supervision can go to restaurants, hotels, sports and cultural events. Instead of the immunity certificate card, the official application can also be used (an application called "EESZT application" in the Google Play store and an application called "EESZT Lakossagi" in the App Store).**
- Shops may be reopened as of 7th April, but may only have a certain number of customers.**
 - A maximum of 1 customer in a store with a shopping area no larger than 10m²
 - In stores with a shopping area greater than 10 m², an additional customer per every 10 m² is allowed.

Children under the age of 14, an aide of a person over the age of 65 and a carer to a person with disability are not included in the calculation of the above number of customers.

Shops can be open until 11:00 pm. Inside the shop, customers must be provided with hand sanitizers, and baskets and shopping carts must be disinfected regularly.

The store manager is responsible for ensuring that people waiting in front of the store keep a distance of 1.5 m.

- Restaurants may be reopened, guests with an immunity certificate can be inside the restaurant without a mask. Guests with no immunity certificate can only stay in the restaurants until they receive the food and drink for take away. The restaurant operator may oblige the staff to wear masks but may not prohibit it.**

5. A mask must still be worn in shops and offices.
6. From 19 April, on-site attendance at lower primary schools resumed; and for upper primary schools and secondary schools, from 10th May. There is online education at universities, **but the Rector may decide to hold offline classes / exams**. Dormitories have also closed, the school principal or the rector of the university may allow foreign students to remain there. Kindergartens have reopened on April 19, and crèches remain open.
7. **From 23 May, private events for up to 50 people (eg. birthdays, family gatherings) can be held, weddings can be attended by 200 people. There are no restrictions for religious events. Music and dance events are still prohibited.**
8. **Gathering on the streets can be held for up to 500 people, events with more than 500 people can only be attended with an immunity card.**
9. Parks, forests, arboretums are open. Hotels have reopened to those with an immunity certificate and to children under their supervision.
10. Cinemas, theatres, museums, libraries, swimming pools, fitness rooms, zoos, adventure parks and sports and cultural events can only be visited by holders of an immunity certificate and their children.
11. These rules are monitored by the police. Anyone who violates these rules commits an offence and may be penalised. Both fines and closure of the establishment may be imposed.
12. If you can work from home, your workplace may recommend that you work remotely or in home office, but this must always be a joint agreement.
13. Authorities (public administration) also work in home office now. Don't worry if your residence permit, permanent residence permit, registration certificate, registration certificate, residence card, permanent residence card expires during the state of emergency (between 14th November 2020 and the end of the state of emergency), because its validity is automatically extended until the 30th day after the end of the state of emergency; so, you do not need to renew it now. The National Directorate-General for Aliens Policing accepts clients only by appointment, **- with the exception of customers who have already registered on Enter Hungary** - their opening hours have changed. They request clients to contact them by phone, e-mail or via Enter Hungary. You can read the OIF (NDGAP - National Directorate-General for Aliens Policing) information [here](#). You can submit your application for a residence permit electronically at the website Enter Hungary (www.enterhungary.gov.hu). If you handle administrative matters in person wear a mask and keep a distance of 1.5 meters. If you have any questions about this, please contact us!
14. The validity of all documents issued by the Hungarian authorities (including identity cards, address of residence cards, driving licenses issued to foreigners!), which are now expiring (between 14th November 2020 and the end of the state of emergency) or expired during the spring (first wave) epidemic (between 11 March and 17 June), will also be extended by 60 days after the end of the state of emergency; so, it is not necessary to go to government offices to extend them. **From May 25, you can handle administrative matters in person in government offices, and no longer with an**



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appointment only, but wear a mask and keep a distance of 1.5 meters.

15. Free parking has been discontinued since May 25th.

16. The rules for entering Hungary are as follows:

With a few exceptions, the same rules apply to all countries. As a rule, foreigners are not allowed to enter Hungary. Exceptions to this are as follows:

- Hungarian citizens and their family members
- holders of a permanent residence permit (residence, immigration permit or permanent residence card) and their family members (documents must be presented upon entry)
- holders of a valid residence permit or residence card issued by the immigration authority (documents must be presented upon entry)
- refugees and beneficiaries of international protection have the same rights as Hungarian citizens, therefore the ban does not apply to them either
- **those who have a Hungarian immunity certificate or an immunity certificate issued in a country accepted by Hungary**

Those in possession of an Immunity Certificate (either issued in Hungary or in a country accepted by Hungary) do not have to go to quarantine upon arrival in Hungary.

Those excepted may be subjected to a medical examination on entry. If COVID-19 is suspected, they must be placed in official quarantine (regularly checked by the police), if they are not suspected of COVID-19, they must be quarantined at home for 10 days. From October 28, self-isolating will be automatically ordered upon entry, no separate home quarantine order is required. In order to check their compliance with the quarantine rules, those entering Hungary have to install the official COVID tracker app called Házi Karantén (<https://hazikaranten.hu/>) if they have a smartphone and can download it.

In addition, special rules apply to foreigners who can prove that they are coming to Hungary for business or economic reasons, to commuters from neighbouring countries and those travelling to sports competitions in Hungary or returning to Hungary from foreign sporting events, athletes and sports professionals, employees of Hungarian cultural institutions, those returning from foreign events, and foreign spectators traveling to sports and cultural events.

Those who do not fall under any of the exceptions can apply to the police for special consideration to enter if there is no suspicion of a coronavirus infection and go into quarantine. A separate electronic request form can be found on the police website (www.police.hu), which must be filled in and submitted in Hungarian or English, then printed out and presented to the border police officer

upon entry, together with documents supporting the reason for special consideration. Persons belonging to this group may also be subjected to a medical examination upon entry, and those suspected of having COVID-19 may not travel to Hungary. If COVID-19 is not suspected, they must be quarantined for 10 days.

From 5 September, the results of a COVID test carried out in the Schengen countries (not including the EU Member States Romania, Bulgaria, Malta, Cyprus and Ireland, as well as Norway, Iceland, Switzerland, Liechtenstein), Croatia, the USA and Canada (in English or Hungarian) can also be accepted as the first test by the Hungarian epidemiological authority, with this and another negative test performed in Hungary, the exemption can be requested. Anyone who does not take a test in these countries can only request a quarantine exemption with two negative COVID tests performed in Hungary. From October 28, the exemption will be granted by the local police station (in the respective city, or district in Budapest). The application can be submitted in Hungarian and English via the Government Gateway or on the website of the police (www.police.hu).

You cannot leave the apartment during quarantine unless instructed to do so by a doctor, in case of illness, a life-threatening situation or if you are taking a COVID test. In the latter case, an appointment must be made in advance and the date must be communicated to the police via the Government Gateway or the police website. Compliance with the quarantine rules is monitored by the police, and those breaching the home quarantine rules can be fined HUF 5,000-150,000. They may check more than once a day and fines can be levied more than once a day for violating the rules.

17. You can register for a coronavirus vaccination in English, here:

<https://vakcinainfo.gov.hu/registration?fbclid=IwARIVHoTVVq5uonofWDXLXgPSPcNOBf-HopoLq9L1xdD7rqpXyupgCyxrHdl>. You can also book an appointment after registration: <https://www.eeszt.gov.hu/hu/covid-oltas-idopontfoglalas>.

If you need help filling out the registration, or making an appointment contact us at Menedék!

18. The state will mail the immunity certificate 8-10 days after the first vaccination. Those who have already been confirmed to have been infected with the coronavirus can also receive an immunity certificate. In both cases, the card is issued free of charge and sent by the state ex officio, without request. The immunity card does not expire for vaccinated people, and for those who have had the disease, it is valid for 6 months. Those who have not had a proven case of the coronavirus can also apply for a immunity certificate at the government office; they must have a test (costs 11,000 HUF), the fee for their immunity certificate is 3,000 HUF, and it is valid for 4 months.
Those who have not received the immunity certificate, even though they would be entitled to it, can



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inquire at the government office or here: https://magyarorszag.hu/szuf_fooldal#ugyleiras.8f0db764-b551-4ea4-8b9f-3338f688df15

What should you do if you are ill?

If you are feverish ($\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$), or

Coughing/have difficulty breathing OR you have a sudden loss of taste and smell

AND

Have been in an infected area

Have been in close contact with an infected person (living together, or at work or elsewhere being closer than 2m for more than 15 minutes, or have shaken hands etc.)

It is important that you do not go to see a doctor but call your GP / health insurer's doctor! The doctor will ask you questions over the telephone.

If there is a suspicion of coronavirus infection, and if you have severe symptoms (such as difficulty breathing) or belong to a vulnerable group (such as being over 65 years of age or have a chronic illness) the doctor will call an ambulance to take you to hospital.

At the hospital they will run tests. If the examination confirms that you are infected with coronavirus, you will be quarantined and receive treatment. You cannot leave quarantine or receive visitors.

If you do not have severe symptoms, the doctor will call an ambulance, the paramedic will perform tests and the doctor will inform you of the result. During the illness you must stay at home in quarantine!

Even if you do not have a TAJ (Social Security) card, you will still be tested and receive treatment.

If you have been in close contact with an infected person but you have no symptoms and can do so, stay at home for 14 days! (If you work, talk to your boss over the phone!) If the Hungarian authorities ask you to do so, you must stay at home, you can only request exemption from this if you have two negative COVID tests of up to 5 days, with 48 hours between tests.

Healthcare providers (specialist clinics, hospitals, dentists, etc.) are operating differently; you must call your doctor before going to see him and ask for an appointment. When visiting your doctor, they might check first if you have caught the coronavirus (e.g. fever will be measured).

The general ban on visits to hospitals has been reintroduced.

Although there is **no longer curfew, only meet your friends if you are healthy!**



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Contact the Hungarian Civil Liberties Union TASZ (www.tasz.hu) for detailed quarantine rules and to learn about your rights.

Menedék - Hungarian Association for Migrants monitors developments, laws, and official communications, and keeps our clients informed of developments.

If you have questions or feel discriminated against as a foreigner, please contact us (www.menedek.hu and menedek@menedek.hu)!