

Measures introduced in Member countries related to COVID-19

Country: Bulgaria

Date: 18/01/2021

Measure related to:	Restriction period		Temporary exemptions (e.g. weekend bans, driving and rest hours, etc.)	
	From	To	Type	Period
<p>Goods:</p> <p>Goods vehicle drivers engaged in the international carriage of goods are allowed to enter the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria in order to load /unload goods or transit the country, without being required to present evidence of a negative Covid-19 PCR test result or self-isolate.</p> <p>Transit is only allowed when immediate departure from Bulgarian territory is guaranteed.</p> <p>In case a goods vehicle driver carrying goods to a country other than Bulgaria is allowed to transit Bulgaria, but due to an entry ban imposed by a border country cannot leave Bulgaria, the vehicle and the driver must stay at a place designated by the Road Infrastructure Agency until the ban is lifted.</p>	24 December 2020	31 January 2021		
<p>Passengers:</p> <p>1. Temporary entry ban to all persons, irrespective of their nationality, through all border-crossing points, travelling by air, sea, railway and road transport.</p> <p>2. An exception to the entry ban is allowed for:</p>	24 December 2020	31 January 2021		

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| <p>(a) Bulgarian nationals, nationals of EU member states, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Schengen countries (incl. San Marino, Andorra, Monaco and the Vatican) and members of their families (incl. persons who are in a de facto cohabitation with them); nationals of the Commonwealth of Australia, Canada, Georgia, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Rwanda, the Republic of Korea, the Kingdom of Thailand, the Republic of Tunisia, the Eastern Republic of Uruguay, the United Arab Emirates, Ukraine, the Republic of North Macedonia, the Republic of Serbia, the Republic of Albania, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Israel, the State of Kuwait, the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Turkey; persons with permanent or long-term residence status on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria and members of their families, persons holding a Bulgarian long-term residence visa type “D” as well as persons holding a residence permit in an EU member state, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland or in a Schengen country (incl. San Marino, Andorra, Monaco and the Vatican) and members of their families <i>in case the starting point of their departure is not within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The latter restriction is in force from 24/12/2020 until 31/01/2021;</i></p> <p>(b) medical professionals, medical scientists, social workers and their managers, where the purpose of their journey is related to their job;</p> <p>(c) workers involved in the supply of medicinal products, medical devices and personal protective equipment, medical equipment, including its installation and maintenance;</p> <p>(d) transport personnel engaged in the international carriage of passengers and goods, crews of aircraft, persons engaged in aircraft servicing and other transport personnel as necessary, including vessel crews and persons engaged in vessel maintenance;</p> <p>(e) foreign officials (heads of state, members of governments, etc.) and members of their delegations as well as diplomats, administrative and technical personnel of foreign representations, officials of international organizations, military personnel, security and public order services’ officers and humanitarian</p> | | | | |
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workers when performing their duties as well as members of their families;

- (f) persons traveling for humanitarian reasons within the meaning of § 1 (16) of the additional provisions of the Law on Foreigners in the Republic of Bulgaria;
- (g) representatives of trade, economic and investment activities and persons directly involved in the construction, maintenance, operation and security of the strategic and critical infrastructure of the Republic of Bulgaria, implementation of projects certified under the Investment Promotion Act, analyses of potential investors' projects and other activities relevant to the country's economy, certified by a letter from the Minister of Economy or another minister responsible for the respective activity, as well as persons involved in shipbuilding and ship repair, as well as members of their families. The letter from the respective minister shall be presented to the border control authorities;
- (h) seasonal workers in tourism and agriculture;
- (i) frontier workers;
- (j) persons traveling for training purposes to carry out activities related to the completion of the 2019/2020 school year as well as for training during the 2020/2021 school year, as well as participants in examination commissions in case the exam cannot be taken online;
- (k) organisers and participants in international sports competitions – for the time of the respective sports event, foreign athletes coming to Bulgaria for a fixed trial period; foreign contestants and coaches entering the country for training camp purposes, family members of foreign athletes and coaches holding a Bulgarian long-term residence visa type “D”, certified by a letter from the Minister of Youth and Sports, in which the names of the persons and the place (address) of stay in Bulgaria are specified. The letter shall be presented to the border control authorities;
- (l) foreign nationals, who are to receive a decree under the Bulgarian Citizenship Act for acquiring Bulgarian citizenship, certified by a letter from the Minister of Justice;
- (m) organisers and participants in international cultural events – for the time of the respective cultural event, certified by a letter from the

Minister of Culture, in which the names of the persons and the place (address) of stay in Bulgaria are specified. The letter shall be presented to the border control authorities.

3. Persons under point 2 including those arriving from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland are allowed to transit the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria.

4. Transit is only allowed when immediate departure from Bulgarian territory is guaranteed.

5. All persons who are allowed to enter the country under point 2 and who arrive from a starting-point of departure in an EU member state, a Schengen country (incl. San Marino, Andorra, Monaco and the Vatican), the Commonwealth of Australia, Canada, Georgia, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Rwanda, the Republic of Korea, the Kingdom of Thailand, the Republic of Tunisia, the Eastern Republic of Uruguay, the United Arab Emirates, the Republic of Serbia, the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Turkey shall be admitted to the territory of the country without been required to present evidence of a negative Covid-19 PCR test result.

6. All persons who are allowed to enter the country under point 2 and who arrive from a starting-point of departure in any third country other than those referred to in point 5 shall be admitted to the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria upon presenting evidence of a negative Covid-19 PCR test result carried out within 72 hours prior to their entry into the country. An exception to this requirement is allowed for:

- (a) Bulgarian nationals and nationals of other EU member states and Schengen countries (incl. San Marino, Andorra, Monaco and the Vatican) who are persons under item 2 (f) and (g);
- (b) bus and coach drivers performing international passenger transport;
- (c) goods vehicle drivers carrying out or completing an international transport operation of goods upon entry to Bulgarian territory;
- (d) members of vessel crews who are Bulgarian nationals;
- (e) persons under item 2(b),(c),(e) and (i) irrespective of their nationality;

- (f) Bulgarian state administration officials posted for a short duration under the Regulation on posting and specializations abroad when performing their duties;
- (g) crew members of aircrafts that carry out flights to and from public-use airports within the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria and persons engaged in aircraft servicing;
- (h) persons transiting Bulgarian territory.

7. From 1 January 2021, all persons who are allowed to enter the country under point 2 and who arrive from a starting-point of departure in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland shall be admitted to the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria upon presenting evidence of a negative Covid-19 PCR test result carried out within 72 hours prior to their entry into the country. An exception to this requirement is allowed for:

- (a) officials (heads of state, members of governments, etc.) and members of their delegations;
- (b) goods vehicle drivers transiting the country or entering it in order to load/unload goods as part of an international transport operation;
- (c) crew members of vessels in case they do not leave the vessel for the duration of their stay;
- (d) crew members of aircrafts that carry out flights to and from public-use airports within the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria and persons engaged in aircraft servicing in case they do not leave the aircraft unless for compulsory pre-flight preparation when the duration of their stay until the next scheduled flight does not exceed 12 hours.

8. The document under points 6 and 7 (i.e. the evidence of a negative Covid-19 PCR test result) must contain the full name of the person in accordance with the ID they are travelling with, data about the laboratory, which carried out the test (name, address or other contact details), date when the test was carried out, method of testing (PCR) and negative result (Negative) written in Latin letters allowing for the document to be interpreted.

<p>9. A country from which a person arrives shall mean the country that is the starting-point of their departure, regardless of any stay related to their transit through other countries along their journey.</p> <p>10. Bulgarian nationals and persons with permanent or long-term residence status on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria and members of their families under points 6 and 7 that fail to present evidence of a negative Covid-19 PCR test result carried out up to 72 hours prior to their entry into the country are subject to 10-day quarantine either at home or at a place of residence designated by them under directions issued by the Director of the respective regional health inspectorate or a duly authorized deputy director.</p> <p>11. The Director of the respective regional health inspectorate may revoke the issued directions for quarantine to the persons under point 10 upon presentation of evidence of a negative Covid-19 PCR test result carried out within 24 hours from their entry into the country. The directions shall be revoked within 24 hours as of the submission of the evidence of the negative Covid-19 PCR test result.</p>				
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<p>Contact: gvladimirova@rta.government.bg</p>				