Covid-19 Legal Update

Considering the surge of new cases of Covid-19, starting from March 9, 2020 the Albanian Government enacted a number of restrictive measures in the attempt to stop, contain, control, delay and reduce the spread of the virus.

Below is a summary of the new measures that are already in force.

- Closure of all the public and private educational institutions up to March 23, 2020.

- Prohibition of all flights from and to the National Airport "Mother Teresa" and all Italian airports and prohibition of maritime transport of people from Albania to the North of Italy and with the Durres-Ancona-Durres, Durres-Triste-Durres, until further notice.

- In the public sector, the period from March 10, 2020 to March 23, 2020 should be given as paid leave for one of the employees (i.e. civil servants and other employees of public administration, central and local level, as well as other state institutions) that are foster parents of children, whether or not they attend nursery schools, preschool and basic education. Are excepted from this rule all parents who are healthcare personnel. During the aforementioned period, public sector employees are obliged to perform any functional tasks requested by the direct superior or the head of institution, which can be performed at home, by telephone communication or any other means of electronic communication.

- All private employers are urged to find solutions for treatment of their employees with leave, according to the abovementioned provisions applicable for the public sector.

- Public and private institutions must draft according to their area of responsibility a plan of measures to ensure the provision of priority services by prioritizing the category of services primarily through the provision of online service, working remotely and only in case of necessity to provide the service through physical contact. For services that require direct contact with the public, institutions should provide workers with protective work tools to safeguard their health. Public institutions providing reception services to the public at the help desk must take measures to maximize the use of online services and the e-Albania platform.
- **Closing to the public until April 3, 2020 of:**
  a. the premises offering night club services.
  b. indoor premises dedicated to the entertainment of children and youth, gyms, sports centers, swimming pools, internet centers, cultural centers and entertainment centers.

- **Prohibition until April 3, 2020 of:**
  a. sports, social and cultural activities.
  b. educational excursions organized by school institutions inside the country or abroad.
  c. competition procedures for hiring of staff, education and specialization competitions.

- During the day, the bars and restaurants activities must provide service to customers by observing the distance of at least two meters between the tables and in any case must guarantee at least one meter of distance from one person to another.

- For public services for which close contact with the public is required, institutions must provide staff with protective tools in order to protect their health.

- Postal service bodies must ensure continuity of service and develop a plan of measures to limit employee contact with the public and avoid crowding of the public at the help desks or other indoor facilities.

- All persons entering in Albania from epidemiological risk areas identified as such by the World Health Organization are required to complete the traveler file at the border entry points and to self-quarantine for a period of 14 days from the date of entry at the border, otherwise, they may be subject to fines.