

Covid-19 Legal Update

Starting from 9th to 23rd March 2020 the Albanian Government has increased the restrictive measures and extended the time in which country will remain under lockdown because of the COVID-19 virus.

STATE OF NATURAL DISASTER EMERGENCY

- Albanian Government has declared the State of Natural Disaster Emergency in Republic of Albania because of COVID-19 pandemic which may affect some constitutional rights such as inviolability of the residence; freedom to choose the place of residence and move freely, property and employment rights, etc.

MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE AND VEHICLES

- New restriction of movement has been announced by Albanian Government for public and private transportation as well as for the pedestrians as follows:
 - Movement of pedestrians is allowed only between 05:00-13:00 subject to administrative sanctions.
 - Travel even with a private vehicle without an authorization from the State Policy is forbidden [form can be found at <http://autorizime.asp.gov.al/apply>]

RESTRICTED AND ALLOWED ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

- Ministry of Health has issued an order detailing the list of allowed and prohibited commercial activities.
- Food wholesalers should hold stocks for a 3-month period or in accordance with product life expectancy.
- Export of drugs and medical supplies from the Republic of Albania without a specific authorization from the Ministry of Health are forbidden.
- Pharmaceutical companies, Pharmacies, Food wholesalers and retailers are obliged to continue their activity.

RESTRICTED CULTURAL AND SPORTIVE ACTIVITIES

- Closing to the public until 3rd of April of the premises offering night club services and indoor premises dedicated to the entertainment of children and youth, gyms, sports centers, swimming pools, internet centers, cultural centers and entertainment centers.
- Prohibition until 3rd of April of sports, social and cultural activities, educational excursions organized by school institutions inside the country or abroad, and competition procedures for hiring of staff, education and specialization competitions.

FLIGHTS AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION

- All terrestrial borders are closed (except for transport of goods). In addition, all flights from and into Albania, with the exception of flights to Istanbul are canceled.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

- Measures related to educational institution include suspension of educational institutions until 3rd of April. Education from home has continued through virtual classes and other means.

POSTAL SERVICES

- Courier companies 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.

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EMPLOYER

- In the public sector, the working hours will be between 08:00-13:00.
- All private employers are urged to find solutions for treatment of their employees with leave.
- 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.

OTHER HEALTH MEASURES

- 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.