



## Situation in Czech Republic in connection with COVID-19

**Update: 24.4.2020**

In the Czech Republic, the Government adopted sudden decision of 23.4. to release crisis measures. The curfew, which has hitherto applied, with the exception of travel to work, to the doctor, to shopping or to walk, has been lifted. Also, no more than two people, except families, were allowed to gather in public. Now people can associate in groups of up to ten. However, increased safety measures, such as wearing veils, continue to apply. It is now also possible to travel abroad, but upon return, everyone must prove that they are not infected with coronavirus or they must be quarantined for two weeks. Newly, commuters can travel regularly for work and have to prove every two weeks that they are not infected.

The Government has also significantly accelerated the schedule for opening shops and service outlets. For example, a hairdresser or restaurant will be able to open fourteen days earlier than planned.

The starter for the new Government decisions was the finding that the current development of the disease is very favourable and the fact that the administrative court ruled that measures taken in the past by the Ministry of Health were not in line with current legislation, and the Government had to issue its own measures. .

The hospitals return to normal regime, and routine operations and examinations will be performed. Increased hygiene measures, such as pre-operative testing of patients, continue.

Collective immunity testing has been launched in the Czech Republic. It takes place in six cities; anyone can get tested. Already on the first day, large queues formed at the sampling points, so not everybody who was interested was tested. Testing will run for one week.

To protect people in rental housing, the State has taken measures that those who cannot pay rent due to a drop in income cannot be evicted. It is also not possible to increase rents during crisis measures.

**It is not certain how many jobs will be saved by the „Kurzarbeit system“ in the Czech Republic called the Antivirus program. On April 23, the Minister of Labour stated that a contribution to support 76 thousand jobs had already been paid. As for employment, she also admits that by the end of the year there could be up to half a million unemployed.** Officials at employment offices, where applications for partial unemployment allowances are processed, are collapsing under the onslaught of work. It is thus necessary to supplement their numbers via relocations from other workplaces of the state administration.