ORDER

No РД-01-183 of 6 April 2020

Pursuant to Article 61(2) and Article 63(1), (3), (5), (6) and (7) of the Health Act, Article 73 of the Administrative Procedure Code and Article 29 of Regulation No 21/2005 on the Procedure for Registering, Notifying and Reporting on Communicable Diseases, in connection with the increasingly complex epidemiological situation due to the spread of COVID-19 on the territory of Bulgaria and the Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria to declare a state of emergency dated 13 March 2020 and in connection with the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council and the Council COVID-19: Temporary Restriction on Non-Essential Travel to the EU dated 16 March 2020, COM(2020) 115, the guidelines and practical guidance of the Commission dated 16 March 2020 and 30 March 2020 relevant to the spread of COVID-19, and in view of the recommendations of the National Operational Headquarters established under Order No Р-37 of 26 February 2020 of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria,

I hereby ORDER:

1. A temporary ban on entry in the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria with the following parameters shall be imposed:

   1. A temporary ban on entry in the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria shall be imposed on all third-country nationals using any and all border crossing points and any and all means of transport (air, marine, railway or road transport).

   2. A temporary ban on entry in the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria shall be imposed on all persons arriving from the following EU Member States or Schengen countries involving a high risk of spreading COVID-19, regardless of their nationality: Italy, Spain, France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Austria, Belgium, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Luxembourg. This ban shall apply to the use of any and all border crossing points and any and all means of transport (air, marine, railway or road transport).

   3. The bans referred to in points 1 and 2 shall not apply to:

      (a) Bulgarian nationals, their families, persons having Bulgaria as the country of their permanent, long-term or extended residence and the families of the latter;

      (b) medical professionals, medical researchers and social workers, where the purposes of their travel relate to the discharge of their professional obligations;

      (c) transport staff engaged in the haulage sector, crew on aircraft transporting goods and cargo and, where necessary, other transport staff;

      (d) foreign officials (heads of state, government ministers, etc.) and the members of their delegations, as well as diplomats, international organisation officials, military personnel and humanitarian workers in the course of discharging their professional obligations;

      (e) persons travelling for humanitarian purposes;

      (f) nationals of EU Member States and Schengen countries (including San Marino, Andorra, Monaco and the Vatican) and third-country nationals engaged in the construction, maintenance and use of the strategic and critical infrastructure of the Republic of Bulgaria and ensuring its safety;

      (g) workers in border regions and seasonal workers employed in agriculture.
4. Transit across the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria shall be allowed to:
   (a) nationals of EU Member States and Schengen countries (including San Marino, Andorra, Monaco and the Vatican) and their family members wishing to return to their country of residence;
   (b) third country nationals holding a long-term residence permit issued for another EU Member State or Schengen country (including San Marino, Andorra, Monaco and the Vatican) and their family members wishing to return to their country of residence;
   (c) Serbian, North Macedonian, Montenegrin and Turkish nationals wishing to return to their country of residence;
   (d) the persons referred to in point 3(c), to whom the special provisions apply.

5. Transit shall only be allowed where immediate departure from the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria can be guaranteed. Foreign nationals allowed to transit across the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria, barring the persons referred to in point 3(c), shall be obliged to submit a prior notification to their diplomatic mission or consulate accredited for the Republic of Bulgaria before transit takes place. Said mission or consulate shall liaise with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to have a transit route coordinated with the Ministry of Interior.

II. The following procedure for placement in quarantine shall be implemented:

1. Any person entering the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria shall be placed in quarantine for a period of 14 days either in their place of residence or in the accommodation facilities in which said person has stated that they would reside using a standard instruction (Annex No 1) issued by border health control authorities.

2. Derogations from the provision of point 1 shall be allowed only for the persons referred to in point I(3)(b) and (d).

3. The special provisions under point III shall apply to the persons referred to in point I(3)(c).

4. General practitioners shall conduct the medical monitoring of all persons on their patient lists placed in quarantine for a period of 14 days.

5. The medical monitoring of Bulgarian nationals who do not have a designated general practitioner shall be conducted by the Regional Health Inspectorate on whose territory they have been quarantined for a period of 14 days.

6. The medical monitoring of foreign nationals shall be conducted by the medical establishment with which their accommodation facility has concluded a medical service contract for a period of 14 days. Said medical establishment shall provide the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with information on any and all foreign nationals placed in quarantine (full name, date of birth, identity document number, nationality).

7. Following an instruction by their relevant Regional Health Inspectorate, any and all persons who have been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 (according to the current definition of a case) shall be placed in quarantine either in their place of residence or in other accommodation facilities and under medical monitoring for a period of 14 days following their last contact with said case.

8. Any and all persons placed in quarantine shall be obliged to remain in their place of residence or in the accommodation facilities in which they have stated they would reside for the period stated in the instruction, barring the persons referred to in point III(3).

9. Where said persons do not display symptoms of COVID-19 by the time the period stated in the instruction expires (according to the current definition of a case), the quarantine shall be considered lifted.
10. Where they display flu-like symptoms (high body temperature; cough; difficulty breathing; fever, etc.), said persons shall be obliged to telephone their general practitioner, the medical establishment providing medical services to their accommodation facilities or the relevant Regional Health Inspectorate in order to receive case-specific instructions.

III. The following special provisions shall apply to persons engaged in the provision of goods and services:

1. Bulgarian nationals in their capacity as heavy truck drivers arriving from a country with registered COVID-19 cases shall be placed in quarantine under the procedure set out in point II.

2. Control over the implementation of the measure under point 1 shall follow the arrangements set out in this Order and the relevant drivers shall be obliged to cooperate fully until they leave the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria.

3. To ensure the continuity of international transport operations, Bulgarian nationals in their capacity as heavy truck drivers shall be entitled to the following over the course of their quarantine period:
   (a) transit across the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria;
   (b) be located in the cab of their heavy truck;
   (c) drive their heavy truck;
   (d) carry out handling and loading;
   (e) leave the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria before their quarantine period expires.

4. The following procedures shall apply to heavy truck drivers who are not Bulgarian nationals but rather nationals of a country referred to in point I(1) and/or who arrive on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria from a country referred to in point I(2), or who have transited through the territory of such a country:
   (a) the drivers of heavy trucks transporting cargo and goods to be marketed in Bulgaria shall enter the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria, unload the goods and cargo transported and/or load up goods and cargo and immediately depart from the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria;
   (b) the drivers of heavy trucks transporting goods and cargo to be marketed in other countries shall be allowed to transit across the Republic of Bulgaria following a route published by the Bulgarian Road Infrastructure Agency.

5. The drivers referred to in points 3 and 4 arriving on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria shall be issued a standard instruction (Annex No 2) by the National Toll Management Unit of the Bulgarian Road Infrastructure Agency. Said instruction shall set out:
   (a) the date and time by which said drivers are to depart from the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria;
   (b) the border crossing point which they must use.

6. The time for departure from the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria referred to in point 5(a) shall fall not later than 24 (twenty-four) hours after the issuance of the instruction referred to in point 5.

7. Where drivers of heavy trucks transporting goods and cargo to be marketed in other countries are not allowed to transit across the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria but cannot leave its territory owing to a ban imposed by a country neighbouring Bulgaria, a place at which the heavy truck and its driver can stay until the relevant ban is lifted shall be designated. Once the ban is lifted, the heavy truck and the driver shall depart from Bulgaria under the procedure referred to in point 4(b).
8. The following authorities shall control the implementation of the instruction issued under point 5, in keeping with their respective functional competences:

(a) the authorities under the Ministry of Interior in the discharge of their statutory control competences;

(b) the officials of the National Toll Management Unit in the discharge of their control competences relevant to the payment of tolls.

9. Where they establish a violation of the instruction under point 5, the authorities referred to in point 8 shall notify the Head of the relevant Regional Directorate of the Ministry of Interior or the mayor of the relevant municipality.

10. The following special procedure shall apply to crew members on aircrafts flying to and from public airports on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria:

(a) crew members on an aircraft servicing a flight from the Republic of Bulgaria to the territory of a country referred to in point I(1) and (2) which has not had a layover on the territory of said country, except when on the tarmac (the apron position and the jet bridge) and where said layover was for the purposes of mandatory pre-flight preparations, and landing again in the Republic of Bulgaria shall not be subject to quarantine;

(b) crew members on an aircraft servicing a flight to the Republic of Bulgaria from the territory of a country referred to in point I(1) and (2) shall be allowed on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria only where they do not leave the aircraft, except for the purposes of mandatory pre-flight preparations and where the time before their next planned flight does not exceed their flight duty period (FDP) and/or 12 hours;

(c) crew members on an aircraft servicing a flight to the Republic of Bulgaria to deliver said aircraft for the purposes of technical maintenance and its subsequent return, where said crew members are nationals of a country referred to in point I(1) and (2), shall be allowed on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria only where they do not leave the aircraft, except for the purposes of mandatory pre-flight preparations and where the time before their next planned flight does not exceed their flight duty period (FDP) and/or 12 hours;

(d) where a passenger aboard an aircraft that has landed on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria is established to display symptoms of COVID-19, the crew servicing said flight shall not be assigned to subsequent flights and shall be placed in mandatory quarantine for a period of 14 days according to instructions by the state health control authorities.


V. This Order shall be communicated to the Heads of Regional Health Inspectorates, who shall then notify the mayors of municipalities and the medical establishments on the territory of their respective regions.

VI. This Order shall be communicated to the Minister of Interior, the Minister of Transport, Information Technologies and Communications and the Minister of Foreign Affairs for the purposes of information and control over the implementation of the measures provided for herein.
Pursuant to Article 60(1) read in conjunction with Article 74 of the Administrative Procedure Code, this Order shall be subject to anticipatory enforcement to protect the lives and health of the public.

This Order is issued pursuant to Article 63 of the Health Act and in connection with the increasingly complex epidemiological situation due to the spread of COVID-19 on the territory of Bulgaria and the Decision of the National Assembly to declare a state of emergency dated 13 March 2020 (promulgated, SG No 22 of 13 March 2020).

COVID-19 is a communicable disease caused by the novel coronavirus, which was not discovered until December 2019. At the end of January 2020, in compliance with the International Health Regulations, the World Health Organisation declared the COVID-19 disease a public health emergency of international concern. Subsequently, due to the virtually ubiquitous global spread of the disease and the fact that it had affected a large number of people, COVID-19 was declared a pandemic.

From the start of 2020 until 6 April 2020, over 1,280,100 cases of COVID-19 have been reported worldwide and there have been 69,555 deaths owing to the disease. Over the past few weeks, the number of COVID-19 cases in the European Union/the European Economic Area and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has increased sharply, exceeding almost fivefold the rate at which the epidemic spread in China and surpassing the number of confirmed cases in the USA threefold. This suggests that Europe has been hit the hardest by the novel coronavirus. On the basis of data by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and its assessment of risks associated with the massive spread of COVID-19 over the course of this past week, the overall community risk is moderate but that relevant to risk groups (such as persons over the age of 60 and persons suffering from chronic disease) is considered very high.

The community risk will remain moderate only if strict and effective anti-epidemic measures are taken both at Member State level and at European Union level.

This Order therefore introduces anti-epidemic measures that must not be delayed to ensure the protection of the lives and health of the public. The measures referred to in this Order and their anticipatory enforcement aim to curb the COVID-19 epidemic, which constitutes a serious public health emergency both nationally and globally. This makes them measures of exceedingly high public interest.

The repercussions of any delays in implementing this Order or in taking the anti-epidemic measures would constitute causing considerable and almost, if not altogether, irreparable harm to the lives and health of the public.

[Signature]

[Round stamp reading ‘Ministry of Health, Sofia, Republic of Bulgaria, 2’]

Kiril Ananiev

Minister of Health