

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

COVID 19 | Rules of the new mandatory confinement in Portugal

Lisbon

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This Friday, 15th January, Portugal will enter the second mandatory general confinement since the Coronavirus outbreak began. The most significant difference in comparison with the rules applies in March and April is that schools will remain open. On the other hand, the Government decided to enforce the mandatory remote work by increasing the applicable fines.

The announcement came after the Government met in a Council of Ministers this Wednesday, and is a significant change following a spike in Covid-19 related deaths and cases. The Portuguese Prime Minister, António Costa, said that the current moment is both the most dangerous and one of greater hope, explaining the vaccine brings hope, but it has also caused "relaxation".

The new confinement will last one month, though the measures can be reviewed within 15 days. Below a summary of the key restrictions included in the [Decree Law](#) and the new support measures announced today by the Minister of State and Economy, Pedro Siza Vieira.

MEASURES IMPLEMENTED IN THE NEW CONFINEMENT:

- Mandatory curfew extended to weekdays. People can only travel due to work reasons, health issues, to buy essential groceries and products, to make short walks with pets or for exercising purposes.
- Remote work will remain mandatory for all eligible companies and the fines for infringement will increase. When remote work is not applicable, employers must assure different working schedules.
- Stores and shops will have to remain closed, with exceptions for food providers, supermarkets, grocery shops, home delivery or delivery of goods at the door of the store and pharmacies. Capacity is limited to 5 people per 100 square metres.
- In order to prevent discrimination in comparison with sectors that will have to close, supermarkets will be prevented of selling books, clothing, sports goods and decoration products. The measure is still being regulated to come into force early next week.

- Restaurants and coffeeshops can only function for take away and home delivery purposes.
- Bars remain closed. Hotel bars and restaurants will also be closed, except for room service or take-away.
- The sale of alcoholic beverages in service areas is prohibited and, from 20:00 onwards, in retail stores. The consumption of alcoholic beverages in open spaces and public roads is forbidden.
- Fairs and markets are allowed, with some restrictions, for food products access.
- Dentists, health clinics and non-emergency services will remain open.
- Public services will be available by appointment and courts will remain open.
- Schools and universities will remain open. Language schools and leisure centres will close.
- Gymnasiums and other sports facilities are closed. Individual exercise will be possible outdoors.
- Cultural and artistic activities, as well as recreational, leisure or entertainment are prohibited.
- All events are prohibited except for election campaigns and religious celebrations.
- Passengers of flights originating in countries to be defined must, at the time of departure, present proof of testing for SARS-CoV-2 infection with a negative result,

carried out within 72 hours prior to departure.

- An exception to the restrictions will be in place on the 24th of January, so Portuguese citizens can vote in the Presidential elections held on this day.

NEW ECONOMIC SUPPORT MEASURES FOR COMPANIES:

- Simplified lay off for companies and services that have to close.
- Commissions applied to restaurants by intermediary platforms for delivery cannot be higher than 20% and taxes for users of such platforms shall not increase.
- Companies that in the fourth quarter of 2020 have recorded turnover losses of more than 25% will be able to apply for support which will be paid twice as much as the amount foreseen in the Support Programme.

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For more information:

Tiago Vidal
Partner and Managing Director LLYC
Portugal
tvidal@llorentycuenca.com

Maria Eça
Client Manager
meca@llorentycuenca.com