

Host Government Legislative Decree issued on 26 April 2020: summary of main provisions

A new decree has been issued by the Italian government on 26 April 2020 and will be in effect from 4 May to 17 May 2020.

Changes from previous measures are included in **bold** below.

Article 1 - Urgent containment measures across the entire national territory

- Only journeys for proven work needs, situations of need, health reasons, are allowed. **Journeys to meet with relatives are considered necessary as long as the prohibition of gatherings and an interpersonal distance of at least one meter are respected and masks are used. In any case, journeys outside one's present region are prohibited except for work, health, or other urgent needs.** Nevertheless, persons are always allowed to return to their own home.
- Persons with symptoms of a respiratory infection and fever (higher than 37.5 degrees C) **must** stay in their home, limit social contact to the utmost extent, and call their doctor
- Persons subject to quarantine or testing positive for COVID-19 are absolutely prohibited from leaving their home
- Gatherings of persons of any type in public or places open to the public is forbidden. **Mayors may temporarily close specific areas where it is not possible to ensure that this is respected**
- **Public access to parks, ville, playgrounds, public gardens is conditional upon being able to respect the prohibition of gatherings as well as an interpersonal distance of 1 meter. Mayors may temporarily close specific areas where it is not possible to ensure that this is respected. Children's playgrounds are closed.**
- Outdoor recreational activities are forbidden; individual exercise (**also in accompaniment of minors or persons who are otherwise dependent**) is allowed so long as **2 meters of interpersonal distance can be respected during sports activities** and 1 meter of interpersonal distance is respected for any other type of exercise activity
- All sports events and competitions of all types and disciplines are suspended, whether in public or private venues. **To allow sports activities to gradually resume, training sessions for athletes preparing for the Olympic games or national or international competitions are allowed for athletes of individual sports as long as they respect social distancing and do not involve gatherings**
- Organized demonstrations, events and shows of any kind **where an audience is present**, whether public or private, are suspended, including those of a cultural, recreational, sports, religious, or trade fair nature. Examples include **private and public parties - even those held in private residences, events of any type and size**, cinemas, theaters, pubs, dance schools, arcades, bingo halls, night clubs and similar venues; in these places, activities of any type are suspended. Places of worship may remain open on the condition that measures to prevent gatherings, taking into account the dimensions and characteristics of structures, and to guarantee that 1 meter interpersonal distance can be respected are adopted. Civil and religious ceremonies are suspended, **although funerals are allowed with only the presence of relatives and up to a maximum of 15 attendees and preferably outdoors, wearing masks, and strictly respecting an interpersonal distance of 1 meter.**
- Museums and other cultural institutions are closed
- In person teaching activities of schools of educational institutions of all grades and levels are suspended. Specific courses in medicine are exempt from suspension. To maintain social distancing, any alternative form of gathering is prohibited. Educational trips and exchanges are

suspended. Educational leaders are to put in place distance learning modalities for the entire period of the suspension of in person teaching activities, taking into account the specific needs of students with disabilities.

- **In universities, institutions of higher educations, and public research institutions, exams, apprenticeships, and research activities may take place and the use of libraries is allowed as long as spaces and work are organized to reduce the risk of close contact and groups; prevention and protection measures are adopted suitable to the field of study, also taking into account the specific needs of persons with disabilities**
- Private competitive tender procedures shall be suspended except in cases where the assessment of candidates is carried out exclusively on the basis of CVs or remotely.
- Ordinary leave for health care and technical personnel is suspended, including personnel whose activities are deemed necessary to manage the required activities of crisis units at the regional level.
- Conventions, conferences, meetings, and social events involving health care personnel and personnel carrying out essential public services are suspended. Any other convention or conference activity is deferred to a date subsequent to the effective date of this decree
- In all possible cases, remote connection modalities will be adopted for meetings, particularly for health care facilities, public services, and the coordination of activities related to the COVID-19 emergency; nonetheless, measures guaranteeing that 1 meter of interpersonal distance can be respected shall be adopted.
- Gyms, sports centers, pools, swimming centers, wellness centers, spas, cultural centers, social centers, and recreational centers are closed
- Those accompanying patients to the hospital are not allowed to stay in emergency waiting rooms or ER reception areas, unless specifically directed by healthcare personnel
- **Relatives' and visitors' access to long-term care facilities, assisted living facilities, hospices, rehabilitation facilities, and residential facilities for the elderly (independent or not) is limited to cases indicated by the health management of the facility. Management is required to adopt measures to prevent possible transmission of the virus.**
- Local branches of the national health services shall provide support to the Ministry of Justice in the containment of COVID-19 with regard to new entries into prisons and juvenile penal institutions
- All commercial activities are suspended, with the exception those selling food goods and basic necessities identified in Annex 1 (**in addition to stores selling stationery, bookstores, and stores selling baby clothes, which were recently added, this list now includes stores selling flowers, plants, seeds, and fertilizers**), including neighborhood shops and medium and large retailers and shopping centers, so long as access remains solely to the aforementioned allowed activities. Regardless of the type of activity carried out, markets are closed, with the exception of stands aimed only at the sale of food. Newsstands, tobacco shops, and pharmacies shall remain open. In any case, 1 meter of interpersonal space must be guaranteed.
- Foodservice activities (including cafes, pubs, restaurants, gelaterie, and pastry shops) are suspended, excluding cafeterias and contracted catering services that guarantee an interpersonal distance of at least 1 meter. Foodservice activities are solely allowed to continue through delivery services that respect hygiene regulations both in terms of packaging and delivery, **as well as through take out as long as 1 meter interpersonal distance is respected; products may not be consumed inside the establishment and it is forbidden to remain nearby**
- Sale of food and beverages in rail, water transport, and fuel stations (excluding takeaway along freeways) is suspended. However, it may continue inside of hospitals and airports, so long as 1 meter of interpersonal distance can be respected.

- Personal services (including hairdressers, barbers, and beauticians) are suspended
- Commercial activities which are not suspended are required to ensure that besides an interpersonal distance of 1 meter, admission to the premises is strictly regulated and that persons do not stay inside the premises longer than the time necessary to complete purchases. It is recommended that they also apply the measures contained in Annex 5
- Banking, finance, and insurance services remain guaranteed, as well as the activities of the agricultural sector and corresponding supply chains.
- Regional presidents may regulate the provision of public transport services, including taxis, so as to guarantee only the minimum essential services; regulation must, however, prevent overcrowding during the periods of the day when they are most in demand. The Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport may also reduce, suspend, or restrict road, rail, air, and maritime transportation services, also by introducing specific requirements for users, crews, and carriers.
- Employers may adopt remote working modalities
- Employers are, in any case, encouraged to promote the use of annual leave
- With regard to professional activities it is recommended that:
 - teleworking modalities are applied to the maximum extent possible for activities that can be carried out remotely
 - paid leave is encouraged
 - Where it's not possible to respect 1 meter of interpersonal distance as a primary containment measure, personal protective equipment is used
 - they incentivize workplace sanitation, also creating social buffers for this purpose

Article 2 concerns industrial and commercial productive activities, the highlights of which are:

- Industrial and commercial production activities are suspended, with the exception of those listed in Annex 3 (**which now includes construction, the manufacturing industry -allowing the automotive and furniture sectors to resume, telecommunications, software production, legal and accounting services, marketing, hotels and similar structures**); the list may be modified by decree of the Ministry of Economic Development in consultation with the Ministry of Economy and Finance
- The suspended productive activities may continue if they employ remote working.
- Activities that provide public services, including essential services, are allowed (not including museums, cultural, and educational institutions).
- Activities related to the production, transport, sale, and delivery of medicines, health technology, and medical devices as well as food goods are always allowed. Any activity aimed at combating the emergency is also allowed.
- The activities of facilities with a continuous production cycle are also permitted, subject to notification to the Prefect of the province where the production activity is located, where the interruption would cause serious damage to the facility itself or a hazard for accidents
- **Businesses which will resume activity from 4 May 2020 may undertake preparatory activities from 27 April 2020. In any cases, all businesses which are not suspended must comply with prescribed protocols for containment and prevention measures in the workplace**
- **In order to allow productive activities to safely take place, regions must monitor the evolution of the epidemiological situation daily and accordingly, the capacity of the regional health care system. Monitoring data must be communicated daily to the Ministry of Health, the *Istituto Superiore di Sanità*, and the Scientific Committee of the Civil Protection Department. In the event that increased health risks emerge from the monitoring, the president of the concerned region**

must present in a timely manner the necessary and urgent restrictive measures for productive activities specifically affected by the worsening situation.

Article 3 concerns information and prevention measures, the main points being:

- Health care personnel must comply with the appropriate containment measures prescribed by the regulations in force from the Ministry of Health on the basis of WHO recommendations. Health care facilities must comply with sanitation and disinfection recommendations from the Ministry of Health
- Elderly persons, those suffering from chronic illnesses or those who are otherwise immunocompromised are expressly recommended not to leave their homes except in cases of strict necessity.
- Public transportation providers must adopt extraordinary, frequent cleaning measures
- **Masks must be worn in confined spaces open to the public, including on public transport and in any case where it is not continuously possible to guarantee a minimum interpersonal distance of 1 meter. Children under the age of 6 and persons with disabilities incompatible with the continuous use of masks are exempt from this requirement.**
- **In order to comply with the previous bullet point, single-use and washable masks may be used, even if homemade, in multilayered materials suitable to providing an adequate barrier which at the same time guarantee comfort and breathability as well as a shape and fit that provide coverage from chin to nose.**
- **The use of masks is in addition to other established protection measures (including social distancing and constant and accurate hand hygiene), which remain unchanged and a priority**

Article 4 governs entry into Italy and remains unchanged.

- Persons entering Italy, whether by air, sea, lake, rail, or land, need to present a self-declaration to carriers and operators with the purpose of their trip, the complete address where the required period of health monitoring and isolation is to be observed, the means of transport by which it will be reached, and a telephone number through which to be contacted during isolation.
- Carriers and operators are required to check such passenger documentation and individuals' temperature prior to boarding, prohibiting anyone with a fever from boarding. They are furthermore required to adopt measures that allow a 1m interpersonal distance to be observed among all passengers; crew and passengers are recommended to wear personal protective equipment and to be given instructions regarding when it may temporarily be removed. Air carriers should provide personal protective equipment to any passengers that do not have it
- Persons arriving in Italy, even if asymptomatic, must communicate their arrival to local health authorities and will be subjected to a 14-day period of health monitoring and isolation at the previously indicated address. In case symptoms of COVID-19 develop, local health authorities must immediately be notified
- In the event that such persons cannot reach the indicated address for the period of health monitoring and isolation, the local health authority, together with the Civil Protection Department, shall determine the location where health monitoring and isolation shall be observed, at the subject's own expense. In case symptoms of COVID-19 develop, they must immediately notify local health authorities.
- Unless symptoms of COVID-19 develop, persons are always allowed to restart health monitoring and isolation in a new location as long as it is communicated to the competent health authorities.

- These measures do not apply to transport crews, travelers who work for companies with a legal headquarters in Italy, health care workers arriving in Italy to carry out health care activities, even if temporarily, or cross-border workers who travel back and forth for proven work reasons and to reach their own place of residence

Article 5 governs transit through Italy and brief stays in the country and remains unchanged.

- Persons entering Italy by air, sea, lake, rail, land, or by their own/private/public means of transport for a period of 3 days - unless an extension of an additional 48 hours for specific needs is justified - exclusively for proven work purposes, are required to provide a self-declaration to carriers and operators/ the competent authority with:
 - proven work reason for travel
 - complete address where staying in Italy and the means of transport by which it will be reached; in case of more than one address, these also need to be indicated as well as the means of transport by which they will be reached
 - phone number through which they can be reached
- Such persons are also obligated to:
 - immediately leave Italy at the end of the above indicated maximum length of stay, or otherwise begin the period of health monitoring and isolation for 14 days at the address indicated above
 - alert in a timely manner the Department of Prevention of the local health authorities in case symptoms of COVID-19 develop and subject themselves to quarantine.
- Carriers and operators are required to check such passenger documentation and individuals' temperature prior to boarding, prohibiting anyone with a fever from boarding. They are furthermore required to adopt measures that allow a 1m interpersonal distance to be observed among all passengers; crew and passengers are recommended to wear personal protective equipment and to be given instructions regarding when it may temporarily be removed. Air carriers should provide personal protective equipment to any passengers that do not have it
- Such persons who subsequently enter the Italian territory, even if asymptomatic, must communicate their arrival to local health authorities
- In case traveling by land through their own/private means of transport, persons are allowed to pass through Italy, also to reach another country as long as they immediately communicate their presence on the Italian national territory to the local health authorities at their point of entry. In case symptoms of COVID-19 develop, local health authorities must immediately be notified. Such persons may stay on the Italian national territory for a maximum of 24 hours, extendable by an additional 12 hours if specific needs justify. If the indicated length of stay is exceeded, they must alert health authorities and begin a period of health monitoring and isolation for 14 days at a place determined by the Civil Protection Department together with the competent local health authorities, at the person's own expense.
- In case of air transport, these conditions do not apply to persons passing through Italy with a final destination in a different country, although they are still required to alert in a timely manner the Department of Prevention of the local health authorities in case symptoms of COVID-19 develop and subject themselves to quarantine. Persons transiting through Italy by air are nonetheless required not to leave the specifically designated area for such passengers at the airport and to provide a self-declaration to carriers and operators on the travel leg to Italy with:
 - purpose of journey and length of stay in Italy
 - location of their final destination in Italy or in another country, ticket reference number and flight number for means of transport to reach their final destination

- phone number through which they can be reached while in Italy
- In case of air transport, persons passing through Italy with a final destination on the Italian national territory are required to comply with Article 4 above as soon as they reach their final destination

Article 6 concerns cruise ships and ships with foreign flags and remains unchanged.

- Cruise services aboard ships bearing the Italian flag are suspended
- Cruise ships with cruise services underway are prohibited from allowing passengers additional to those already on board to board
- Ensuring compliance with prevention measures in place by competent authorities, cruise services must disembark all passengers at the final port of call, unless they have already disembarked at a previous stop.
- When disembarking in Italian ports:
 - Passengers with a permanent residence in Italy are required to immediately communicate their arrival to local health authorities and must be subjected to health monitoring and isolation for 14 days at their permanent residence in Italy. In case symptoms of COVID-19 develop, they must immediately notify local health authorities.
 - Passengers who are Italian nationals with a permanent residence abroad are required to immediately communicate their arrival to local health authorities and must be subjected to health monitoring and isolation for 14 days at the location they indicate upon disembarkation; alternatively, they may ask to immediately be transferred to a foreign destination by air at the expense of the cruise operator. In case symptoms of COVID-19 develop, they must immediately notify health authorities.
 - Passengers who are foreign nationals and resident abroad will immediately be transferred to foreign destinations at the expense of the cruise operator.
- Passengers of the first two categories above may only reach their residence in Italy via private means of transport.
- Unless otherwise indicated by health authorities, where a ship has had at least one confirmed case of COVID-19, passengers having had close contact as defined by health authorities are required to be put under health monitoring and isolation at the location they indicate upon disembarkation; alternatively, they may immediately be transferred to a foreign destination through protected and dedicated means of transport at the expense of the cruise operator.
- These terms also apply to cruise ship crews in relation to their nationality. Crew members may, with the approval of health authorities, subject themselves to health monitoring and isolation aboard the cruise ship.
- Foreign-flagged cruise ships with scheduled stops in Italian ports are prohibited from entering such ports, even for the purpose of an idle stopover.
- In exceptional cases and exclusively in cases where there is a need to protect citizens abroad and to comply with international and European obligations, specific and temporary waivers to the measures in this article may be applied

Article 7 governs scheduled public transportation and is brand new

- **Scheduled public transport activities on land, sea, rail, air, lakes are executed in compliance with the 'Regulatory protocol to contain the spread of COVID-19 in the transport and logistics sector' signed on 20 March 2020 in Annex 8 and with the "Guidelines for user information and organizational modalities to contain the spread of COVID-19" in Annex 9**

- In relation to the new functional and organizational requirements, the Minister of Infrastructure and Transport may issue their own decrees modifying the aforementioned protocols and guidelines

Article 8 governs additional specific provisions for disabilities and is brand new

- Authorized social and socio-sanitary activities, including those provided within or by semi-residential centers for people with disabilities, whether of social assistance, socio-educational, multifunctional, socio-occupational, health or socio-sanitary nature, are reactivated according to territorial plans, ensuring compliance with containment measures and the protection of the health of both users and operators.