

Immigration Update

30 April 2020



Applicable easing of Measures for the movement restrictions in Cyprus announced on 29th April

On 29 April, the Republic of Cyprus announced the first two phases of implementing strategy for the gradual lifting of restrictions on May 4, 2020, 21 May and June 1, 2020. According to the announced this measures will be depended and are completely intertwined with the epidemiological course.

A Phase - as of May 4

A. Economic Sector

- As of May 4, restrictions on the construction sector and all similar business activities supporting it will be lifted.
- All retail businesses reopen, except for shopping malls and department stores. It is understood that the operation of the stores will be governed by safety and health protocols, as determined by the relevant Ministries of Labor and Health.
- Public markets, street vendors and bazaars are reopened, always subject to the relevant instructions of the Ministry of Health.
- Tourist and travel agencies are reopening.

B. Public Sector

- From May 4, full operation of the Public and wider Public Sector, with the return of all employees to their jobs. The hours of attendance will be determined by the relevant Ministries. Excluded are those who fall into vulnerable groups as defined in the new revised list published by the Ministry of Health.
- Employees who are responsible for the care of children up to the age of 15 will be entitled to special leave until the reopening of public and private schools. It is understood that during their absence they are obliged to perform any duties assigned to them by the teleworking method.
- The same method will be used by people who belong to vulnerable groups and will not return to work.
- With the return of Public Sector Employees, the operation of courts is now feasible in accordance with decisions as taken by the Supreme Court.

C. Education

- Giving priority to the need for adequate preparation of graduates of public and private secondary schools, it was decided that they return to the school units from 11 May.
- The Minister of Education, Culture, Sports and Youth will make relevant announcements, as well as reports on all other levels of education. It is understood that until the full reopening of the schools, the tele-education will continue.

D. Public Health

- As part of the normalization of the operation of public and private hospitals, the restrictions have been partially lifted based on the instructions of the Ministry of Health and the dental centers are fully reopened.

E. Individual Freedom

With regard to individual liberties and the restrictive measures taken, the following were decided:

- Increase the number of movements to three per day by sending a text message to 8998 (SMS). A written declaration for the movement of citizens in exceptional cases, which falls within the provisions of Form B, shall be used only by persons over 65 years of age.
- Curfew remains in force to prohibit traffic from 10pm until 6am.
- Prayer in churches, mosques and other places of worship has been allowed since May 4, meaning that more than 10 people will not coexist at the same time. The decree on weddings, baptisms and funerals continues to apply.
- From June 1, ecclesiastical worship and other forms of religious worship will be allowed in churches, mosques and other religious sites, as health protocols such as the Ministry of Health will be strictly adhered to. The same measures will apply to weddings, baptisms and funerals.
- Parks and children 's areas remain close.

F. Sports and Activities

- From May 4, the use of open or outdoor sports facilities will open for high-performance athletes is included in the list of the Cyprus Olympic Committee.
- From the 18th of May, the training of team sports is allowed only in open spaces, based on the protocols that will be issued by the Ministry of Health.
- It is noted that for both categories of individual and team sports the use of locker rooms, gyms or other closed related infrastructure is not allowed.
- Exercise allowed in open areas, paths and swimming.

Phase B - as of May 21

Phase B

The measures decided for the second phase include the following and depend entirely on the epidemiological indicators and the recommendation of the scientific team:

- From 21 May, all restrictions on the movement of citizens will be lifted.
- The presence in parks, playgrounds in open spaces, squares, marinas, etc. will be free, provided that the gathered people will not exceed 10.
- Catering companies reopen only for outdoor areas, based on strict protocols to be issued by the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Health.
- From May 21, hairdressers, barbershops, beauty salons are reopening.

As from June 1

From June 1:

- It is allowed to operate and access the organized beaches.
- The ports shall be fully operational, with the exception of the disembarkation of passengers by cruise ships.
- Libraries, museums, archeological and historical sites will reopen.
- Betting agencies are reopening.

Phase 3 (June 9 - July 13, 2020): removal of all restrictions on traffic.

In addition all of the following will be available to the general public in accordance with the Healthy Rules:

- Shopping Malls / Shops
- Airports / Airlines - gradually and conditionally
- Ports, service and cruise ships
- Catering services, indoor and outdoor service
- Hotels
- Beaches: Prerequisite for maintaining a safe distance
- Open space theaters and cinemas
- Gyms
- Sports Championships (without fans)
- Summer programs of private higher education schools

Phase 4: July 14 onwards

For Phase 4, a special plan will be drawn up for the gradual reopening of all the above areas.

It is emphasized that the resumption of economic activities will be based on guidelines or protocols, as already mentioned.

- Indoor theaters and cinemas
- Festivals and Concerts
- Casino
- Playgrounds indoors and outdoors.

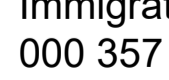
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