

KAZAKHSTAN: SECOND EXTENSION OF EMERGENCY AND SOFTENING THE QUARANTINE REGIME

IMPORTANT!

As of March 16, a **state of emergency is in effect in Kazakhstan** that [restricts entry to and exit from country](#) by all means of transport with specific protocols for diplomatic passport holders, essential personnel and Kazakh citizens.

Links to government sites with relevant information regarding epidemiological situation, current state measures, travel restrictions/closure of borders/immigration restrictions:

[Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan](#)

[Ministry of healthcare of the Republic of Kazakhstan](#)

- **Extension of emergency.** On April 27, Kazakhstan declared a second extension of emergency in the country **until May 11, 2020**. It is expected that on the 11th of May, Kazakhstan will likely lift the quarantine regime, if there no new outbreaks of the coronavirus infection.
- **Softening the quarantine regime.** President Tokayev also signaled about gradual mitigation of the restrictive measures in the regions under quarantine conditions and the **step-by-step reopening of businesses** in Nur-Sultan and Almaty, which were the first Kazakhstani regions (17 in total) that were put under lockdown. In the first phase – from April 20, 2020, the work of industrial and construction enterprises, as well as certain sectors of the service was resumed. A prerequisite for their functioning is strict compliance with sanitary and epidemiological standards, as well as the social distance of employees at workplaces.

The State Commission approved the list of activities of business entities which will be allowed to resume work in all regions of Kazakhstan from April 27 and in Shymkent from May 1, while maintaining stringent sanitary and epidemiological requirements. The list includes industrial enterprises; companies in the construction and road construction industries, large construction stores; organizations in the fields of transport, warehousing, agricultural services, vehicle maintenance and certain types of services; banks and financial sector organizations.

In Nur-Sultan, work will additionally be resumed in organizations of the financial and insurance sectors; large stores of household appliances and summer wares.

In Almaty, the list of business entities authorized to resume operations also includes transport and warehousing, information and communication technologies; financial and insurance sectors; service industries (automobile service stations, tire fitting, repair of household and office equipment).

The akims of the regions, as well as of Nur-Sultan, Almaty and Shymkent were instructed to ensure from April 27, 2020, the public access to courtyards and summer cottages in accordance with the rules developed by regional headquarters.

However, shopping and entertainment centers, cinemas, restaurants, parks and other public places still will be closed. The universities, colleges and schools will keep on distance learning.

As previously reported, the Ministry of Internal Affairs has stated that during the State of Emergency, foreigners will not be held liable for violations of the terms of their visas, such as overstays or other timely departure issues. Visa services are expected to return to normal once the State of Emergency has been lifted.

- **Additional governmental anti-crisis measures and tax breaks introduced on April 20.** SMEs operating in [following](#) areas and large enterprises operating in [following](#) areas are exempt from personal income tax and social payments (social tax and insurance) for 6 months (April-September 2020). For the same period the 0% rate tax on property is applied for private notaries, private enforcement agents, lawyers, professional mediators and in respect of runways at aerodromes and airport terminals.
- **Domestic passenger flights restarts on May 1.** Limited air travel between Almaty and Nur-Sultan will be reopened on May 1. Starting May 4, additional flights will resume between Nur-Sultan and Almaty and Kyzylorda, Oskemen, Semey, and Petropavlovsk. All the passengers will be required to provide laboratory-confirmed negative result for 2019-nCoV (**medical clearance certificate**) issued within seven days of their flight. Flights will be carried out with lower frequency and fewer passengers, as well as with enhanced [travel safety measures](#) and sanitary standards.
- **International passenger flights are scheduled in May.** International passenger flights to Nur-Sultan and Almaty Airports are currently suspended, while international commercial flight options currently exist in Kazakhstan. We are aware of the following passenger [flights](#) out of Kazakhstan for Kazakhstani citizens and non-Kazakhstan residents: on May 6 and 13, there are flights scheduled on Air Astana from Uralsk to **Amsterdam**, on May 6, 7, 13, and 14 – from Atyrau to **Amsterdam**.

Air Astana will operate a special **flight for non-Kazakhstan residents** on Monday, May 11 for foreign nationals seeking to leave Kazakhstan. The flight will originate in Almaty and stop in Nur-Sultan to pick up additional passengers before departing for **Frankfurt**. Bookings must be made directly through Air Astana (at www.airastana.com or by calling 8727 2447777).

Many international airlines are also accepting flight reservations starting late-April and in May:

- Belavia is accepting reservations beginning May 2.
- Fly Dubai is accepting reservations beginning May 8.
- Air Astana is accepting reservations beginning May 15.
- Turkish Airlines intends to resume international flights May 20.
- Lufthansa plans to resume operations after June 1.
- Asiana Airlines is accepting reservations beginning June 1.
- Aeroflot anticipates resuming operations after August 1.

Please note that these flights are subject to change and may be cancelled at any time. A number of airlines previously accepting reservations starting May 1 have already pushed back their anticipated flight dates. The Aviation Administration of Kazakhstan has a 24-hour call system specifically to answer travel questions and to direct callers

to the best resource for their needs. The system numbers are: +7 (7172) 645-841 and +7 (7172) 645-840.

Should you have any additional questions in connection with this Legal Update, we would be happy to provide more detailed information.

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