

Dear students,

As I informed you on Friday the Government has severely restricted the free movement of people in the Czech Republic as of Monday, March 1, for three weeks to curb the coronavirus epidemic.

Please find here below the most important restrictions that have been tightened:

Face masks policy

As of March 1, in the built-up area of cities, it will be mandatory to wear at least a medical mask, respirator FFP2 or other similarly effective protective device. Homemade textile masks are no longer sufficient. In the most risky places, such as shops or public transport. Also it will no longer be possible to replace the respirator with two medical masks.

Free movement limited to district

The government has drastically tightened free movement. From March 1, it will be forbidden to leave one's district of permanent residence or domicile (city of Pardubice in case you live at the dorms), without a fundamental reason, such as a trip to work or to a doctor. Prague counts as a district. People can do essential shopping within their districts only.

The tightening also applies to daytime movement. Only necessary trips, such as shopping, and trips to nature and sports, will be allowed. Walks and jogging will be possible only in the municipality where people live during the day and walking dogs within 500 meters of residence late in the evening. The night curfew between 9 p.m. and 5 a.m. is still valid.

More shops to close

The government has also reduced exemptions for retail shops and services. Only food stores, drugstores, pharmacies, opticians, and florists are allowed to remain open as of Monday. There are few exceptions as gas stations, car washes, and towing services as well as places issuing goods ordered from e-shops, phone and computer services, and taxis. Exceptions no longer include, for example, laundries and dry cleaners, car repair shops and spare parts shops, textile material and textile haberdashery shops, locksmith shops, stationery shops, and shops with weapons and ammunition.

The rules for restaurants and other catering establishments will not change and they will still be allowed to provide take-away sales.

Police will do random checks

Police will check the observance of the restrictions at random, including on trains and buses. Police forces will be reinforced by up to 5,000 soldiers for this purpose.

We would like to kindly ask you to not to gather in dormitory spaces.

Thank you for respecting the above indicated measures.

Please check our Facebook (International office and ESN), the university webpage as well as the intranet <https://studenti.upce.cz/en> . Please make sure to follow the updates of websites indicated below.

Ministry of Health - <https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/en/>

Ministry of Interior - <https://www.mvcr.cz/mvcren/article/coronavirus-information-of-moi.aspx>
<https://covid.gov.cz/en>