

Information on the measures taken to contain the spread of coronavirus infection COVID-19 in the Republic of Kazakhstan

1. The State of Emergency

The Government of Kazakhstan has declared a state of emergency to contain the coronavirus outbreak in view of the World Health Organization declaring COVID-19 a pandemic on 11 March 2020 and in the efforts to protect life and health of the citizens. The Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 285 dated 15 March 2020 has introduced a state of emergency throughout the country starting from 08:00 a.m. on 16 March 2020 up to 07:00 a.m. on 15 April 2020.

Kazakhstan is one of the few countries to establish the State Commission on ensuring the state of emergency.

Detailed information: https://www.inform.kz/en/president-tokayev-announces-one-month-state-of-emergency_a3625158

Quarantine in the cities of Kazakhstan as of 1 April 2020

The State Commission on ensuring the state of emergency under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan introduced the quarantine regime and implementation of the large-scale sanitary and anti-epidemic measures in the cities of Nur-Sultan and Almaty starting from 19 March 2020. The measures impose restrictions on the movement of people as well as the entry / exit of vehicles within quarantine zones.

From 12 p.m. on March 22, 2020, communication of all types of transport with the cities of Nur-Sultan and Almaty is suspended, this applies to air, rail, bus transportation. By order of the Head of State, up to 70% of employees of state organizations switched to remote work.

Detailed information: <https://primeminister.kz/en/news/goskomissiya-po-obespecheniyu-rezhima-chp-pri-prezidente-rk-vvela-rezhim-karantina-v-gorodah-nur-sultan-i-almaty-s-19-marta-tg-172930>

Additional measures have been introduced in Nur-Sultan and Almaty: the activities of various enterprises and organizations have been suspended from 12 am on March 30 to 5 April 2020.

Detailed information: <https://primeminister.kz/en/news/s-30-marta-po-5-aprelya-tg-v-nur-sultane-i-almaty-budet-priostanovlena-deyatelnost-predpriyatiy-i-organizatsiy-2725915>

Quarantine regime has been also introduced in Shymkent, Atyrau, Karaganda, Temirtau, Shakhtinsk, Saran and Abay. Special regime restricting the movement

of traffic and population has been introduced in Akmola, Mangystau, Aktobe and Kostanay regions.

Detailed information: <https://informburo.kz/stati/kakie-ogranicheniya-vveli-v-regionah-kazahstana-iz-za-koronavirusa.html>

Other measures to constrain the spread of infection throughout the country include:

- Sanitation, disinfection of bus stops, public transport, streets and other socially significant facilities have been strengthened in all regions.
- A decision was made from March 16 to April 6 to let schoolchildren go on vacation, all colleges and universities were transferred to distance learning.
- The internal affairs authorities have intensified control over the protection of public order and ensuring the safety of citizens.

2. Stimulus Plan for Businesses during the State of Emergency

Financial liabilities

- To support businessmen whose financial situation worsened due to the state of emergency, the government of Kazakhstan provided an exemption from payment of taxes until 31 December 2020 which were: property tax for legal entities and individual entrepreneurs at large retail facilities, trade entertainment centers, cinemas, theaters, exhibitions, and fitness and sports facilities, land tax on agricultural lands of agricultural producers, individual income tax of individual entrepreneurs working in the generally established taxation procedure (about 70 thousand entrepreneurs).
- Also, abolition of tax and other payments to the Wage Fund for SMEs in certain sectors of the economy, such as F&B, trade, transportation, consulting services, IT, hotel business, tourism (the list will be further expanded by the State Commission) for 6 months, from 1 April to 1 October 2020.
- Suspension of rental payments by SMEs from 20 March 2020 for a period of 3 months for properties owned by the Government, local executive bodies and quasi-public sector entities. **Detailed information:** <https://primeminister.kz/en/news/o-merah-podderzhki-vremenno-zakrytyh-obektov-rasskazal-r-dalenov>
- President Tokayev also suspended interest on unfulfilled tax liabilities until 15 August 2020 and postponed the deadline for submitting tax reports for the third quarter of 2020.

Custom duties and funds allocation

- Up to 400 mln tenge will be allocated in Kazakhstan for the program "Economy of simple things". Economy of simple things include manufacturing of products and provision of services that are daily used by the citizens of Kazakhstan and do not require significant investments and use of complex technologies. The development of the "economy of simple things" results in saturation of domestic market with domestic goods, stimulation of competitiveness of the manufacturing industry, and, above all, production of a wide range of consumer goods. **Detailed information:** <https://kaztag.kz/en/news/up-to-400-mln-tenge-to-be-allocated-for-economy-of-simple-things-program>
- To support the agro-industrial complex of Agrarian Credit Corporation JSC, a budget loan of 70 billion tenge was allocated from the republican budget, which is 10 billion more than usual practice. The interest rate for end borrowers will not exceed 5% per annum. The allocated funds will make it possible to finance 2,400 agribusiness entities covering 3 million ha of cultivated areas. **Detailed information:** <https://primeminister.kz/en/news/pravitelstvo-rassmotrelo-hod-podgotovki-k-vesenne-polevym-rabotam-172523>
- The government set a goal to reduce the price of diesel fuel for agricultural producers up to 165 tenge per liter, or 15% of the market price. About 390 thousand tons of diesel fuel will be allocated at a reduced price. **Detailed information:** <https://ru.sputniknews.kz/economy/20200331/13472500/Tokaev-poruchil-snizit-tsenu-na-benzin-na-15.html>
- Custom duties exemptions for goods to fight the epidemic (medicines, diagnostic tests)
- Reduction of custom duties on food products

Detailed information:

https://www.akorda.kz/ru/speeches/internal_political_affairs/in_statements_and_congratulations/zayavlenie-glavy-gosudarstva-kasym-zhomarta-tokaeva?fbclid=IwAR0vYbVvboPT5bVeJJZlOhdTK3meZlQ5yyV18iEyd-RqnXamimjoA6e3cc

Freight transportation

The state of emergency does not impose any restrictions on freight transportations. However, the sanitary-epidemiological regime has been strengthened at the border-crossing checkpoints, railway stations and airports.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan has been constantly taking measures to address the issues of domestic and foreign investors caused by the spread of coronavirus in the neighboring countries and globally. Despite the state of emergency, cargo transportation should be carried out in order to comply with the schedules of planned construction and installation as well as production activities of enterprises. As such, the MFA and KAZAKH INVEST assists investors experiencing difficulties with supply of raw materials, goods, equipment and components to the Republic of Kazakhstan.

3. Socio-Economic Measures for Citizens during the State of Emergency

Birgemiz Public Fund was established in order to support needy sectors of the population during the fight against coronavirus.

The representatives of large businesses have already accumulated *over \$40 million*, which will be aimed at targeted assistance to citizens from socially vulnerable sectors of the population.

Within the framework of the republican campaign “Biz Birgemiz!” provision of social assistance to various groups of the population began even before the establishment of the fund.

Thus, the Nur Otan party allocated *150 million tenge* to provide targeted assistance to single elderly people, people with disabilities and low-income large families in the capital and Almaty, where quarantine is declared. *Another 200 million tenge* to counteract the spread of coronavirus infection was also sent from the Foundation of the First President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

Detailed information: <https://primeminister.kz/en/news/obyavlen-sostav-popechitelskogo-soveta-obshchestvennogo-fonda-birgemiz-2422938>

Employment and support of unemployed citizens

- The Government has developed an Employment Roadmap for the implementation of which 300 billion tenge will be provided. The program will provide employment, as well as solve the most pressing infrastructure issues in the regions: reconstruction and repair of social, housing and communal facilities. **Detailed information:** <https://primeminister.kz/en/news/press/alihan-smailov-rasskazal-ob-osobom-poryadke-formirovaniya-byudzheta-v-period-chp-172100>
- Working citizens of Kazakhstan who lost income during a state of emergency due to being forced to leave their jobs without pay received financial support from the state social insurance fund. The amount of

social benefits per employee amounted to 42.5 thousand tenge per month. (3 million of people)

- The State Commission, as part of the execution of the order of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, approved the decision to establish a monthly fixed bonus to the salary of medical workers involved in anti-epidemic measures. **Detailed information:** <https://primeminister.kz/en/news/utverzhdenny-razmery-nadbavok-dlya-zadeystvovannyh-v-borbe-s-koronavirusom-medrabortnikov-3023819>
- President Tokayev instructed to index pensions and state benefits, including targeted social assistance, by 10% in annual terms. This means an increase in the income of the corresponding categories of citizens for a total of more than 200 billion tenge. **Detailed information:** https://www.akorda.kz/ru/speeches/internal_political_affairs/in_statements_and_congratulations/zayavlenie-glavy-gosudarstva-kasym-zhomarta-tokaeva?fbclid=IwAR0vYbVvboPT5bVeJJZlOhdTK3meZlQ5yyV18iEyd-RqnXamimjoA6e3cc

Financial liabilities

- A ban on calculating remuneration for delays of more than 90 days on consumer loans of individuals has been introduced in Kazakhstan. **Detailed information:** <https://primeminister.kz/en/news/v-rk-vvedut-zapret-na-nachislenie-voznagrazhdeniya-pri-prosrochke-svyshe-90-dney-po-potrebitelskim-zaymam-fizlic-m-abylkasymova-1723456>
- Housing Construction Savings Bank of Kazakhstan (a subsidiary of Baiterek Holding) will provide customers with temporary financial difficulties with a deferral of principal and interest for 90 days from March 16, 2020. The procedure will be carried out based on the client's application, indicating the reason for the delay. **Detailed information:** <https://primeminister.kz/en/news/zhilstroysberbank-soobshchil-o-7-shagah-navstrechu-klientu-v-rezhime-chrezvychaynogo-polozheniya-2621038>

Food and social security

- Over 32 billion tenge has been allocated in Kazakhstan to ensure food security

- 800 thousands of people will be receiving free food packages
- Extension of the right of uninsured citizens to receive medical care in the system of compulsory social health insurance from 1 April to 1 July.
- 360 thousand masks are produced daily in the country, of which 171 thousand are reusable, then in the near future the task is to increase volumes to 1 million. **Detailed information:**
<https://primeminister.kz/en/news/press/v-kazahstane-budet-vydeleno-bolee-32-mlrd-tg-dlya-obespecheniya-prodovolstvennoy-bezopasnosti-2021518>

The total cost of anti-crisis measures amounted to over 4 trillion tenge. These expenses were provided at the expense of the state budget in the amount of 2.1 trillion tenge, attraction of funds for infrastructure bonds, guaranteed transfer from the National Fund for 1.8 trillion tenge.