

Your Residency During The Pandemic

Webinar #10 with a lawyer

Brno, 12th November 2020

State of Emergency

- Declared again 5 Oct for one month initially
- The Czech Republic applied various immigration measures in relation to the COVID-19 disease outbreak.
- It was extended to **20 November**.

General Immigration Measures

- All consular posts (embassies) of the Czech Republic **are still open** and working, but their operations are **limited**.
- The duration of immigration procedures **remains** the same.
- Generally, it is **forbidden to travel freely** from/to the Czech Republic, however there are many exemptions.
- **Immigration Authority (Moi) limited** its activities.

Entry to the CR

Immigration:

- All EU nationals and non-EU nationals are only allowed to travel with a **specific purpose**.
- It is forbidden to travel as a **tourist** or for a **visit**. See more at koronavirus.mzcr.cz/en

COVID-19 measures:

- The ability to travel is based on the **nationality** of the person (category of persons), and at the same time based on the country from **which the person enters** (where stayed longer than 12 hours in the last 14 days).
- **Red countries** - Public Health Passenger Locator Form + RT PCR Test + Informing competent Hygiene Station.
- **Orange countries** – RT PCR Test required for employees and students only.
- **Green countries** – No requirements.

Contact Mol (Ministry of Interior)

- All former **appointments stay valid**.
- You **cannot visit** Immigration Authority without an appointment.
- You can **arrange an appointment** for the following tasks only:
 - Registration upon arrival including collection of biometric data,
 - Issuance of biometric residence cards,
 - Issuance of the bridging visa due to urgency (it must be proven),
 - Long-term residence permit following long-term visa,
 - Long-term residence permit for new born baby.

Other kind of application **must be sent** via mail or via data-box only.

Renewal of permit

- All residence permits and long-term visas can be renewed **120 days** prior expiration at earliest and the **last day** of the validity at the latest.
- All renewal applications can be sent via **registered mail** or via **data-box**.
- It's very important to have **your name** on your **post box** and to inform authority about your current address of stay.
- Fiction of stay – **YES**
- Fiction of employment (Employee card, Blue card) – **YES**
- Duration of procedure (Brno): **3 months + 2 months** (for biometrics).

Change of job with an Employee Card

A **change of job** notification can be sent via mail and it requires:

- Free vacancy (test of the labour market 10/30 days)
 - Employment contract
 - Proof that the former employment still persists or was terminated
 - Diploma, qualification etc.
- Notification **must be filed 30 days** before the employment starts at the latest
 - Notification must be filed **within 60 days** after the termination of the previous job at the latest
 - Immigration Authority **will issue** a *Confirmation on change of employer* within 30 days. Only afterwards it's possible start working.
 - Now, it's even possible in the first 6 months from getting the first Employee card.
 - The above-mentioned is not required in case of **exceptions** (e.g. Czech diploma, new employer is supporting critical infrastructure).

Inviting family

- It's important to check the list of **open embassies**.
- Some embassies are accepting all kind of applications (e.g. Sydney, Soul, London, Brussels).
- Most of the embassies are providing **limited services**, in particular:
 - Work
 - Study
 - Family reunification (for spouses and minor children only)
- Their capacity is still not great. Embassies provide appointments in a several months time or based on a lottery (e.g. Ukraine).
- Sweetheart visa (from October 2020)

Useful links

- [Coronavirus - State of emergency - Information for foreign nationals](#)
- [List of green and orange countries](#)
- [Public Health Passenger Locator Form](#)
- [Covid-19 Testing centers \(in Czech only\)](#)
- [Information about change of operation of MOI](#)
- [Ministry of Health](#)
- [Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#)
- [List of open Czech embassies](#)
- [BEC's Expat's guide to the pandemic](#)
- [Covid Portal of Czech Government](#)