



**TIMOR-LESTE**  
MANAGING THE  
IMPACTS OF  
COVID-19

## TIMOR-LESTE

### Implementation measures of the Declaration of the state of emergency

31 March 2020

Following the declaration of the state of emergency by the President of the Republic of Timor-Leste, on March 27, 2020, for a period of 30 days and effective from March 28, the Government of Timor-Leste approved the Decree no. 3/2020, of March 28 (“Decree”), which sets the implementation measures of the declaration of the state of emergency approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic no. 29/2020, throughout the national territory.

Among the approved provisions, we note the following:

#### INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY

1. Prohibition of entry of foreigners into national territory:
  - a) The prohibition shall not apply to foreign nationals who are already in national territory, the ones who were born in Timorese territory and habitually reside there and those who work on the oil platforms located in the Timor Sea;
  - b) In duly justified cases (namely, defense of national interest or convenience of service), the Prime Minister of Timor-Leste may authorize the entry of foreigners in national territory;
  - c) For the purpose of transportation or release of imported goods, foreign citizens are not subject to the authorization referred to in paragraph b) being, however, restricted to the international zones of sea ports, airports or land border posts and for the time strictly necessary for the completion of the procedures for delivery or release of goods (the definition of international zone is provided for in Law no. 11/2017 of May 24 on Migration and Asylum);
2. Mandatory submission of all individuals wishing to enter or leave the national territory to health control, under the terms of the International Health Regulations of the World Health Organization (approved in Timor-Leste by Government Resolution No. 6/2020, March 11);
3. Prohibition to board ships or aircrafts for all individuals with symptoms of Covid-19 or SARS-Cov2 infection, with the exception of cases of medical evacuation;
4. All individuals entering Timor-Leste are required to undergo medical examinations when they show symptoms of Covid-19 or of infection by SARS-Cov2:

- a) Individuals diagnosed with Covid-19 or SARS-Cov2 infection are required to undergo therapeutic isolation;
- b) The others shall be subject to prophylactic isolation for a minimum period of 14 days.

#### FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT WITHIN THE NATIONAL TERRITORY AND ESTABLISHING RESIDENCE

1. Compulsory confinement, in a health facility or at home, for all Covid-19 and SARS-Cov2 infected patients and for all individuals entering national territory or those under the surveillance of the health authorities of Timor-Leste;
  - a) For Covid-19 and SARS-Cov2 infected individuals, the period of mandatory confinement ceases with medical discharge;
  - b) For individuals entering national territory or those under surveillance of the health authorities, the containment period shall end after 14 days from the date of commencement of the containment period.
- 2) Voluntary confinement for those individuals who are not subject to compulsory confinement and who do not engage in any professional activity or are relieved of the duty to be present in the workplace (obligation to remain at home). These individuals should travel alone, observing a distance of at least 1 metre from other individuals and avoiding the formation of clusters of people.

#### MEETINGS, DEMONSTRATIONS AND RELIGIOUS CELEBRATIONS

1. Ban on meetings or demonstrations involving a crowd of more than 5 people;
2. Ban on social, cultural and sporting events involving a crowd of people;
3. Ban on any religious celebrations and other worship events involving the agglomeration of people, with the exception of funerals which are conditioned to the adoption of organizational measures preventing the transmission of SARS-Cov2 (and should not involve the presence of more than 10 people simultaneously).

#### RIGHT OF OWNERSHIP AND PRIVATE ECONOMIC INITIATIVE

1. Suspension of all collective passenger transport activities;
2. Imposition of rules on all individuals when accessing the premises of commercial or service establishments (and, with the necessary adaptations, to the locations where street markets operate):

- a) Use of mouth and nose protection masks;
- b) Hand washing before entering the premises; and
- c) Observing a distance of at least 1 metre from other individuals.

The individuals responsible for commercial and service establishments or markets are required to provide, at the entrance of their establishments, the conditions necessary for compliance with paragraph b) above. Entry to commercial or service establishments or markets is refused to individuals who do not comply with the provisions of paragraphs a) and b) above.

## **PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

1. The members of the Government and the executive bodies of public legal entities included in the indirect administration of the State shall identify the human resources strictly necessary to ensure the operation, under a minimum service regime, of the public services they control (minimum services are considered to be those whose provision is fundamental to ensure the functioning of the Public Administration and the provision, to citizens and companies, of goods and services of an urgent or unavoidable nature);
2. Public administration human resources who are relieved of their duty to attend their services shall remain available by telephone and shall attend the services where they habitually carry out their professional activity whenever they are called upon to do so by their superior. Non-attendance may generate disciplinary liability;
3. The members of the Government and the executive bodies of public legal entities included in the indirect administration of the State shall, whenever possible, allow their human resources to provide their professional activity in a non-presential regime and through the new communication and information technologies;
4. Imposition of rules on facilities where public services operate:
  - a) Observing a distance of at least 1 metre from other individuals inside the facilities and between individuals waiting for permission to enter the premises;
  - b) Provision, at the entrance of the facilities, of the necessary means so that the individuals who propose to enter can sanitise their hands.

5. The supply of basic goods or services - healthcare, security, water and sanitation, among others - cannot be interrupted. The total or partial waiving of tariffs may be determined by order of the members of the Government.

## **LICENSES AND PERMITS**

1. Until the end of the state of emergency, licenses, permits and other administrative acts and documents shall remain valid regardless of their period of validity, including visas and residence/stay permits granted to foreigners who are in Timor-Leste.

The decree came into force on March 29, 2020 and will expire upon the end of the state of emergency.

VdA will issue updated information on the measures as and when they are approved in Timor-Leste in the context of the epidemiological situation Covid-19.

VdA remains at your disposal for any further clarifications regarding this or other legislation that may be enacted and regarding the impacts of the measures adopted.

## CONTACTS

**Catarina Pinto Correia** | [cpc@vda.pt](mailto:cpc@vda.pt)

**José Melo Ribeiro** | [jmr@vda.pt](mailto:jmr@vda.pt)

