

**BULGARIA COVID-19 TRACKER (last updated at 18:00 on 12 January 2022)**

Key legal measures affecting business in relation to COVID-19 in Bulgaria

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SECTOR	SUBJECT	LEGAL BASIS
<b>TODAY'S UPDATES</b>		
<b>GENERAL</b>	<p>Pursuant to the Order No. ПД-01-13 dated 11 January 2022, the mandatory isolation period for people with confirmed Covid-19 is reduced from 14 days to 10 days.</p> <p>Persons in contact with those infected with COVID-19 are placed under mandatory quarantine for 7 days as of the last contact with the infected person. The Director of the Regional Health Inspectorate may revoke the quarantine of the contact person if that person has received a booster dose of vaccine against Covid-19. This is on condition that the contact person provides the Regional Health Inspectorate with a negative result of a PCR test done after 72 hours from the start of the quarantine. The quarantine will be revoked within 24 hours after the test result is presented.</p>	<p>Order No. ПД-01-13 dated 11 January 2022 issued by the Minister of Health</p> <p><i>(Effective as of 11 January)</i></p>

No.	SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	LEGAL BASIS
<b>GENERAL MEASURES</b>			
1.	<b>General social distancing measures<sup>1</sup></b>	<p>The state of emergency in Bulgaria ended on 13 May 2020. On 14 May 2020, the Council of Ministers declared an emergency epidemic situation<sup>2</sup> for one month until 14 June 2020, which is further extended from time to time and is currently effective <b>until 31 March 2022</b>. Based on the emergency epidemic situation declared, the Minister of Health renewed and modified the following general restrictions<sup>3</sup> <b>by an order effective 1 December 2021</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All activities in day care centers and party halls for kids are suspended.</li> <li>• Team building and other organised group events of such nature are suspended.</li> <li>• In-person activities for children in language centers, educational centers, personal development centers and other training centers and schools are allowed observing a physical distance of at least 1.5 m, not more than 5 people in a room, wearing protective face masks, hand hygiene, regular ventilation and disinfection.</li> <li>• Indoor team sports are suspended except for training and competitions for</li> </ul>	<p>Order No. ПД-01-13 dated 11 January 2022 issued by the Minister of Health <i>(Effective as of 11 January)</i></p> <p>Order No. ПД-01-991 dated 02 December 2021 issued by the Minister of Health <i>(Effective 1 December 2021 until 31 March 2022)</i></p> <p>Order No. ПД-01-973 dated 26 November 2021 issued by the Minister of Health <i>(Effective 1 December 2021 until 31 March 2022)</i></p> <p>Order No. ПД-01-968 dated 26</p>

<sup>1</sup> Anti-epidemic measures can be introduced by the regional health authorities for individual regions of the country. Mayors of municipalities can also adopt further social distancing measures.

<sup>2</sup> “Emergency epidemic situation” is present in case of a disaster caused by a contagious disease, which leads to an epidemic with immediate danger to the life and health of people, the prevention and overcoming of which requires more than the usual activities related to protecting and preserving the life and health of people.

<sup>3</sup> Every Regional Crisis Management Headquarter could introduce additional measures. Other regional measures in the country may also apply.

No.	SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	LEGAL BASIS
		<p>professional athletes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Private gatherings (e.g., weddings) are allowed with no more than 15 persons indoors and 30 persons outdoors.</li> <li>• In-person classes at schools in all municipalities with a 14-day morbidity rate above 500 per 100,000 <b>are suspended</b>.</li> </ul> <p>50% of classes in schools in municipalities with a 14-day morbidity rate of between 250 and 500 per 100,000 <b>are suspended</b>. Attendance shall be on a schedule approved by the Minister of Education and Science.</p> <p>The above-mentioned anti-epidemic measure <b>may be waived</b>, and pupils may attend classes in the schools concerned if their parents agree in writing that their children can be tested for COVID-19 by rapid antigen tests once a week, except for those who have a valid certificate for vaccination, recovery from COVID-19, examination or for presence of antibodies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All staff members of healthcare establishments should be either vaccinated, recovered from Covid-19, or have a negative test result or presence of antibodies, evidenced by the relevant Covid-19 certificate (or similar document).</li> <li>• An EU digital COVID certificate for an incomplete vaccination course with a <b>two-dose vaccine can be used from the 15th to the 30th day after the date of administration of the first dose</b>, and a certificate for a completed vaccination course <b>with a single-dose vaccine can be used from the 15th day</b> after the date of administration of the single-dose vaccine;</li> </ul> <p>Visits to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• conferences, symposiums, exhibitions, contests, including events in the exhibition industry, and other public events;</li> </ul>	<p>November 2021 issued by the Minister of Health</p> <p><i>(Effective 1 December 2021 until 31 March 2022)</i></p>

No.	SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	LEGAL BASIS
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• public events, such as music- and other types of festivals, fairs, etc.;</li> <li>• musical and dancing centers and schools;</li> <li>• in-person activities in educational and language centers and study halls for adults;</li> <li>• cultural and entertainment events – visits to cinemas, theatres, circus, concerts, museums, galleries, cultural centers, schools and other dance and music sites;</li> <li>• indoor and outdoor team sports events having competitive nature are allowed without audience;</li> <li>• fitness centers, gyms and clubs, swimming pools, SPA and wellness centers;</li> <li>• catering and entertainment establishments, gaming halls and casinos;</li> <li>• shopping malls and shops with a net sales area of over 300 sq m, except for shops offering mainly foodstuffs, pharmacies, drugstores, optician’s, pet shops, banks, postal and courier service providers, insurers, payment service providers and telecommunications operators, regardless of whether they are a separate site or are located in a shopping mall;</li> <li>• group tours (excursions) with organised transport and group visits to tourist sites;</li> <li>• in-person educational activities at the universities;</li> </ul> <p><b><u>are only allowed:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• if all staff members and external visitors have been vaccinated, recovered from Covid-19, have a negative test result or presence of antibodies before entry into the place, evidenced by the relevant Covid-19 certificate (or similar</li> </ul>	

No.	SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	LEGAL BASIS
		<p>document);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By decision of the facility manager or the event organizer, only for persons who have the relevant Covid-19 certificate (or similar document).</li> </ul> <p>The conditions in items 1) and 2) shall not apply to persons under 18 years of age.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wearing protective masks is mandatory in closed public places, including public transport, pharmacies, healthcare establishments, optician’s, national health centers, administrative institutions, other places where services are provided to the public or which the public has access to, railway and bus stations, airports, subway stations, commercial sites, churches, monasteries, temples, museums, etc.<sup>4</sup> Specific rules apply to students, teachers and other personnel in schools.</li> <li>• Wearing protective masks is mandatory in open public places when keeping 1.5 distance between individuals is not possible.</li> <li>• <u>Exception from the mandatory wearing of protective masks or face coverings applies to:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• customers of food premises, restaurants, bars, pubs, cafés, etc.;</li> <li>• individuals practicing indoor or outdoor sports – during the sports activity;</li> <li>• participants in TV shows;</li> <li>• participants in conference events, briefings, press conferences, seminars for the duration of their speeches;</li> <li>• kids under the age of 6;</li> </ul> </li> <li>• All persons, when in open public places, such as bus stations, parks, streets,</li> </ul>	

<sup>4</sup> Public places are freely accessible places or places intended for public use.

No.	SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	LEGAL BASIS
		<p>etc., must keep a distance of not less than 1.5 meters from other persons. Exception applies to members of the same family.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Persons in contact with those infected with COVID-19 are placed under mandatory quarantine for 7 days as of the last contact with the infected person. The Director of the Regional Health Inspectorate may revoke the quarantine of the contact person if that person has received a booster dose of vaccine against Covid-19. This is on condition that the contact person provides the Regional Health Inspectorate with a negative result of a PCR test done after 72 hours from the start of the quarantine. The quarantine will be revoked within 24 hours after the test result is presented.</li> </ul>	
2.	<b>Entry restrictions for arriving passengers</b>	According to an assessment of the spread of COVID-19, the countries and the overseas territories are divided into three color zones – <b>green</b> <sup>5</sup> , <b>orange</b> <sup>6</sup> and <b>red</b> <sup>7</sup> . The assessment of the spread of COVID-19 comprises, among other things, a 14-days' sick rate, weekly positive laboratory tests, etc. The color zones are determined based on the criteria included in the assessment of the spread of COVID-19. For the period until 31 March 2022, persons can enter Bulgaria according to the assessment of the spread of COVID-19 in the respective country.	<p>Order No. ПД-01-977 dated 26 November 2021 issued by the Minister of Health</p> <p><i>(Effective 1 December 2021 until 31 March 2022)</i></p> <p>Order No. ПД-01-1036 dated 17 December 2021 issued by the</p>

<sup>5</sup> The Vatican City State, the Republic of Romania.

<sup>6</sup> All countries outside of the green and the red zone.

<sup>7</sup> The Republic of South Africa, Lesotho, Botswana, Eswatini, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Tanzania, Namibia, Zambia, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, the Kirghiz Autonomous Socialist Soviet Republic, Korea, Georgia, the Kingdom of Jordan, the Seychelles, Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Brazil, Paraguay, Bolivia, Suriname, Panama, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, the British Virgin Islands, Aruba, Curacao, the Bahamas, Cayman Islands, Saint Eustace, Saba, Turks and Caicos Islands, Bermuda, Cabo Verde, the United States of America, Canada, Australia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the isle of Man, Gibraltar, the Kingdom of Denmark, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Ireland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Finland, the Kingdom of Norway, the Kingdom of Sweden, the Netherlands, the Kingdom of Belgium, Germany, the Principality of Liechtenstein, the Swiss Confederation, Italy, San Marino, Monaco, France, the Kingdom of Spain, the Principality of Andorra, the Republic of Portugal, Slovenia, Croatia, the Slovak Republic, the Czech Republic, the Republic of Poland, Montenegro, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Greece.

No.	SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	LEGAL BASIS
		<p>Anti-epidemic measures for persons <b>arriving from:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Green zone countries:</b> the entry into the country is permitted upon presentation of a valid EU digital COVID-19 certificate for vaccination, for recovery from COVID-19 or for negative testing, or a similar document containing the same data as the EU digital COVID certificate.</li> </ul> <p>*In the absence of a valid EU digital COVID certificate or a similar document containing the same data as the EU digital COVID certificate, the person shall be quarantined for 10 days at home or with other accommodation. The quarantine may be lifted if a PCR or an antigen test is made no earlier than 72 hours as of the arrival in the country and the result is negative. The quarantine is deemed lifted as of the day following the day of the negative test result.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Orange zone countries:</b> please see the requirements for green zone countries.</li> </ul> <p>*In the absence of a valid EU digital COVID certificate or a similar document containing the same data as the EU digital COVID certificate, the person shall be quarantined for 10 days at home or with other accommodation. The quarantine may be lifted if a PCR or an antigen test is made no earlier than 72 hours as of the arrival in the country and the result is negative. The quarantine is deemed lifted as of the day following the day of the negative test result.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Red zone:</b> entry into the country is generally not permitted. Please see the exceptions in item 3 below.</li> </ul>	<p>Minister of Health</p> <p><i>(Effective 20 December 2021 until 31 March 2022)</i></p> <p>Order No. ПД-01-4 dated 05 January 2022 issued by the Minister of Health</p> <p><i>(Effective 07 January 2022 until 31 March 2022)</i></p>
3.	<b>Exceptions to the entry restrictions for passengers arriving from red zone countries</b>	<p>Exceptions apply to the categories of persons, set out below, arriving from red zone countries that are permitted to enter on the territory of the country upon presentation of a valid EU digital COVID certificate for vaccination or for recovery from COVID-19 or a similar document <b>and</b> a negative result of a PCR test made at least 72 hours prior to the arrival in the country:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bulgarian nationals, foreign nationals with permanent, temporary, or long-term</li> </ul>	<p>Order No. ПД-01-977 dated 26 November 2021 issued by the Minister of Health</p> <p><i>(Effective 1 December 2021 until 31 March 2022)</i></p> <p>Order No. ПД-01-4 dated 05</p>



No.	SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	LEGAL BASIS
		<p>residence in Bulgaria, and members of their families;</p> <p><u>*Bulgarian nationals, foreign nationals with permanent, temporary, or long-term residence in Bulgaria, and members of their families</u>, arriving from red zone countries, who do not provide to the border authorities any of the documents set out above, are to be placed under 10-day mandatory quarantine without a possibility for lifting of the quarantine.<sup>8</sup></p> <p><u>*Bulgarian nationals, foreign nationals with permanent, temporary, or long-term residence in Bulgaria, and members of their families</u>, arriving from red zone countries, who provide to the border authorities only one of the required documents (either for vaccination or recovery or for a negative PCR test result) set out above, are to be placed under 10-day mandatory quarantine. The quarantine may be lifted if a PCR test is made no earlier than 72 hours as of the arrival in the country and the result is negative. The quarantine is deemed lifted as of the day following the day of the negative test result.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- nationals of the EU, the EEA, Swiss Confederation, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and members of their families arriving from EU, EEA countries or from the Swiss Confederation and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;</li> <li>- Medical staff, medical investigators, and geriatric care specialists, in performance of their duties;</li> <li>- Diplomatic staff, foreign officials (Heads of States, members of governments) and members of their delegations, staff of international organizations, military and humanitarian personnel, in performance of their duties;</li> <li>- Persons travelling for humanitarian reasons;</li> <li>- Agricultural workers and workers in the field of tourism;</li> </ul>	<p>January 2022 issued by the Minister of Health</p> <p><i>(Effective 07 January 2022 until 31 March 2022)</i></p>

<sup>8</sup> Art. 355, Para. 2 of the Criminal Code provides for imprisonment of up to five years and a fine of BGN 10,000 to BGN 50,000 for failure to observe quarantine.

No.	SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	LEGAL BASIS
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Workers engaged in the delivery of medicinal products, medical devices and personal protective equipment;</li> <li>- Foreign nationals for receiving documents related to acquisition of Bulgarian nationality if priorly certified by the Minister of Justice;</li> <li>- Certain persons with the prior approval by the Minister of Health due to important reasons.</li> <li>- Foreign citizens admitted to higher education institutions in the territory of Bulgaria, certified by a document from the respective higher education institution, as well as foreign students, holding a type “D” visa for long-term residence for education purposes.</li> <li>- Children from the age of 12 to 18 arriving from red zone countries, upon presenting of a negative result of a PCR test for COVID-19 conducted up to 72 hours before entering the country, certified by a valid EU digital COVID test certificate, or a similar document containing the same data as the EU digital COVID test certificate<sup>9</sup>.</li> </ul> <p>Persons arriving from the Republic of <u>Mozambique, Botswana, the Republic of South Africa, Lesotho, Eswatini, Namibia and Zimbabwe</u> are not allowed to enter the country. Exceptions apply <u>only</u> to Bulgarian nationals, foreign nationals with permanent, temporary, or long-term residence in Bulgaria, and members of their families. Those persons are to be placed under 10-day mandatory quarantine. Subsequently, they are obliged to present a PCR result to the health authorities made between the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 12<sup>th</sup> day as of the day of their arrival in the country.</p>	

<sup>9</sup> In case they do not present such a document, they are to be placed under 10-day mandatory quarantine. The Director of the respective Regional Health Inspectorate may revoke the recommendation for quarantine of children who are Bulgarian citizens or persons with a status of permanent, long-term or continuous residence on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria, if a document, showing a negative result from a PCR test conducted within 24 hours of entering the country, is submitted by e-mail. The recommendation shall be removed within 24 hours upon presentation of the document showing a negative test result.

No.	SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	LEGAL BASIS
		<p>The following persons are exempt from the above rules and can enter the country freely without presenting specific Covid-19 documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bus drivers and other crew members (if any), conducting international transport of passengers.</li> <li>- Truck drivers, conducting international transport of goods.</li> <li>- Members of ships' crews.</li> <li>- Border workers.</li> <li>- Aircraft crew members and personnel engaged in the technical servicing of the aircraft.</li> <li>- Students living in Greece, Turkey, Serbia, North Macedonia and Romania and travel every day or at least once a week to Bulgaria for education purposes, as well as students living in Bulgaria and travelling to the aforementioned countries every day or at least once a week.</li> <li>- Children up to 12 years old.</li> <li>- Transit travelers.</li> <li>- Persons arriving from countries with which the Republic of Bulgaria has achieved arrangement for free passage on a reciprocal basis.</li> <li>- Citizens of Greece, Romania, Turkey, Serbia and North Macedonia who have been admitted to higher education institutions on the territory of the country, certified by a document from the respective higher education institution.</li> </ul>	
4.	<b>Legislative moratorium on</b>	From 13 March to 13 July 2020, the effects of default on payments based on financial agreements, e.g., loans, leases, etc. of private persons and entities were suspended. <sup>10</sup>	State of Emergency Act, as

<sup>10</sup> For the period from 13 March 2020 until 8 April 2020, the general suspension of the effects of default on payments applies to all delayed payments of private persons and entities regardless of the type of the obligations, i.e., it is not necessary for them to be based on financial agreements for this period.

No.	SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	LEGAL BASIS
	<b>payments</b>	The payments affected by the suspension can be owed to financial institutions (banks, lease companies, etc.) or to third parties, in case of assignment of the receivable. Suspension of the effects of default on payments includes the accrual of interest and penalties for delay, acceleration, and the right to rescind a contract.	amended <i>(Effective 24 March 2020, retroactively from 13 March 2020)</i> <i>Amendment effective 9 April 2020</i> <i>Amendment effective 14 May 2020)</i>
5.	<b>Non-legislative (voluntary) moratorium on payment of financial loans</b>	In compliance with the <a href="#">Guidelines on legislative and non-legislative moratoria on loan repayments applied in the light of the COVID-19 crisis</a> of the European Banking Authority (“EBA”), the BNB approved local directions on terms and procedures of moratorium on payment of financial loans provided by banks and their subsidiaries as proposed by the Association of Banks in Bulgaria. The directions include various mechanisms of reliefs for the borrowers, e.g., temporarily postponement of capital and/or interest payments on the loan without further amending the terms and conditions. Eligibility criteria in respect of the borrowers apply.  <b>The term for applications expired on 23 March 2021 and was not further extended.</b>	Decision dated 10 April 2020 adopted by the Bulgarian National Bank (“BNB”), as amended <i>(Effective 10 April 2020 until the end of 2020)</i> Decision dated 09 July 2020 adopted by the BNB <i>(Effective 09 July 2020)</i> Decision dated 02 December 2020 adopted by the BNB <i>(Effective 02 December 2020)</i> Decision dated 11 December 2020 adopted by the BNB <i>(Effective 11 December 2020 until the end of 2021)</i>

No.	SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	LEGAL BASIS
<b>RETAIL, SERVICES, TRAVEL, LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY</b>			
6.	<b>Closing of public access to non-essential retail outlets and services</b>	<p>Visits to casinos, restaurants, fast food outlets, bars and pubs, cafés and other food and entertainment sites under Article 124 of the Tourism Act are only allowed under the terms, set out in item 1 above [Please see the General social distancing measures in item 1 above].</p> <p>Home deliveries are allowed without restrictions.</p> <p>Takeaway services are not affected.</p> <p>Online retail is not affected.</p> <p>All markets – indoors or outdoors – shall ensure one-way traffic of the visitors, 1.5 social distance between individuals and all employees and visitors shall wear a protective mask.</p>	<p>Order No. ПД-01-991 dated 02 December 2021 issued by the Minister of Health <i>(Effective 1 December 2021 until 31 March 2022)</i></p> <p>Order No. ПД-01-973 dated 26 November 2021 issued by the Minister of Health <i>(Effective 1 December 2021 until 31 March 2022)</i></p>
7.	<b>Sanitary requirements for retail outlets which remain in operation</b>	<p>Wearing a face mask is mandatory in case of immediate customer service with a distance of less than 1.5 meters and if there is no plastic or glass barrier subject to disinfection.</p> <p>Any natural persons and legal entities, who own or manage public facilities, commercial premises and other places where services to individuals are provided, and who organize mass public events must also introduce the following anti-epidemic measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- At least 1.5 meters distance between the individuals to whom they provide services;</li> <li>- Availability of a disinfectant at the entry of the site;</li> <li>- Access regime in order to avoid crowding;</li> </ul>	<p>Order No. ПД-01-973 dated 26 November 2021 issued by the Minister of Health <i>(Effective 1 December 2021 until 31 March 2022)</i></p> <p>Order No. ПД-01-968 dated 26 November 2021 issued by the Minister of Health <i>(Effective 1 December 2021 until 31 March 2022)</i></p>

No.	SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	LEGAL BASIS
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Wearing protective masks within the premises;</li> <li>- Placing of information notices on the need to keep social distance and personal hygiene, and to wear personal protective equipment, etc.</li> <li>- Not more than 1 person per 8 sq. m.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, the Ministry of Tourism, in co-ordination with the Ministry of Health, adopted Instructions on the Operation of Places for Accommodation and Food and Entertainment Premises in the Conditions of COVID-19. The Instructions specify the sanitary requirements set out above, considering the nature of the hotel and restaurant business in view of the last summer season. They refer to safety of the employees, safety of the customers and to the requirements and actions in case of doubt that certain employees/customers are infected with COVID-19.<sup>11</sup></p> <p>[See also general social distancing measures in item 1 above.]</p>	
8.	<b>VAT reduction due for various services</b>	<p>VAT is reduced to 9% from 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2022 for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Printed or E-books;</li> <li>– Restaurant or catering services, including for food delivery;</li> <li>– Food and hygiene materials for babies and toddlers;</li> <li>– Tour operators, tourism agents, transport related to tourism services;</li> <li>– Sports activities, including providers of fitness services.</li> </ul> <p>Vat due for COVID-19 vaccines and the services related to it and for other diagnostic</p>	<p>Act to Amend and Supplement the VAT Act <i>(Effective 1 January 2022)</i></p>

<sup>11</sup> The Bulgarian Food Safety Agency also adopted requirements on the work in outdoor areas of the restaurants, fast food outlets, bars and pubs, and coffee-houses observing anti-epidemic measures. The requirements specify the anti-epidemic measures ordered by the Minister of Health, e.g., placing information tables for keeping distance between the visitors, measures on preventing crowds in the common areas, granting access only for customers, etc.

No.	SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	LEGAL BASIS
		medical devices is reduced to 0% until 31 December 2022.	
9.	<b>Refund offered by the companies providing tourism services for cancelled travel</b>	Companies providing tourism services (tour operators) can offer a voucher instead of refunding the amount paid for travel, which is cancelled until 31 December 2020. If the traveler does not accept the voucher, the tour operator must refund the amount within 12 months as of the date of cancelation of the travel.	State of Emergency Act, as amended <i>(Effective 9 April 2020)</i> <i>Amendment effective 14 May 2020,</i> <i>Amendment effective 11 August 2020)</i>
10.	<b>State aid for tour operators</b>	According to the Emergency Act, tour operators can apply for state aid amounting up to 15% of their annual turnover for 2019 without VAT. The state aid is to be used for refund to clients as described in point 9 above. The deadline for payment of the refunds to the clients was 30 November 2021.	State of Emergency Act, as amended <i>(Effective 07 December 2020,</i> <i>Effective 06 April 2021)</i> Decree No. 197 dated 15 June 2021 of the Council of Ministers, as amended <i>(Effective 18 June 2021)</i> Decree No. 313 dated 6 October 2021 of the Council of Ministers, as amended <i>(Effective 08 October 2021)</i>
11.	<b>Exemption from rental payments to public authorities</b>	The respective authority, in its capacity as a lessor, is entitled to reduce the rental price or to exempt from the entire rental price, or part of it, the lessees, whose work was suspended or restricted due to the state of emergency or the emergency epidemic	State of Emergency Act, as amended

No.	SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	LEGAL BASIS
		<p>situation. The suspension or the restriction of the work due to the state of emergency needs to be evidenced by financial or other relevant documents and the application shall be submitted within 2 months after the end of the state of emergency, respectively the emergency epidemic situation.</p>	<p><i>(Effective 9 April 2020, Amendment effective 14 May 2020, Amendment effective 22 December 2020, Amendment effective 17 February 2021)</i></p>
12.	<p><b>State aid for air carriers</b></p>	<p>For a period of two years after the end of the state of emergency, i.e., until 13 May 2022, tour operators using Bulgarian air carriers having a valid operating license to carry out charter flights to Bulgaria, will receive a state grant amounting to 35 EUR per seat of the maximum capacity of the aircraft. The state aid is granted only in respect of flights having at least 100 seats.</p>	<p>State of Emergency Act, as amended</p> <p><i>(Effective 14 May 2020, Amendment effective 16 September 2021)</i></p>



No.	SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	LEGAL BASIS
<b>TRANSPORT<sup>12</sup></b>			
13.	<b>Measures for aircraft crew members</b>	If a passenger on an aircraft landing in the territory Bulgaria shows symptoms of COVID-19, the cabin crew who took part in the particular flight must not plan their next flight and must be put under mandatory 10-day quarantine, as per the instructions of the state health authorities.	Order No. ПД-01-977 dated 26 November 2021 issued by the Minister of Health <i>(Effective 1 December 2021 until 31 March 2022)</i>
14.	<b>Sanitary requirements for air travel</b>	Airport and ground handling operators, companies providing aircraft technical services and all air carriers transporting passengers, cargo and mail from and to the airports within the country must take strict sanitary measures according to <a href="#">COVID-19 Aviation Health Safety Protocol</a> dated 30 June 2020 issued by The European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) and European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).	Order No. 45-01-281 dated 01 July 2020 issued by the Director General of DG CAA, as amended <i>(Effective 01 July 2020)</i>

<sup>12</sup> On 1 April 2020, the Council of Ministers defined the border points on Bulgarian territory through which unobstructed transit of goods will be ensured, i.e., so-called “green corridors”.

No.	SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	LEGAL BASIS
<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>			
15.	<b>Remote work. Sanitary measures at the workplace</b>	<p>All employers must ensure the introduction of increased anti-epidemic measures in the working areas, including disinfection, ventilation, instructions to staff on personal hygiene, provision of personal protective equipment (masks, gloves, etc.) for the employees considering the type of work and the risk assessment at the workplace (including when the workplace is outdoors), social distancing of at least 1.5 meters between the employees (if not possible – wearing of protective mask), they must not allow access for employees or visitors having symptoms of acute contagious diseases and are instructed to transfer their employees and management bodies to remote work wherever possible or to introduce flexible working hours or work in shifts. Not more of 50% of the employees may work in person in the working place, if possible. The employers can also apply other preventive measures and working methods, depending on the specific work activity, including limiting non-essential contacts at the workplace. All anti-epidemic measures must conform to the instructions adopted by the Minister of Health.</p> <p>Also, as of 20 August 2021, the employers and the heads of all state administrations are obliged to organise varying working hours, with the working day starting between 7:30am and 10:00am, while – if possible – arranging for at least 50 per cent of the staff to work remotely.</p>	<p>Order No. ПД-01-968 dated 26 November 2021 issued by the Minister of Health <i>(Effective 1 December 2021 until 31 March 2022)</i></p> <p>Order No. ПД-01-973 dated 26 November 2021 issued by the Minister of Health <i>(Effective 1 December 2021 until 31 March 2022)</i></p>
16.	<b>Remote and home-based work</b>	<p>For the period of the state of emergency and the emergency epidemic situation, employers are allowed (depending on the nature of the work and possibility for remote work or work from home) to assign to employees, <b><u>without their consent</u></b>, remote work or work from home.</p> <p>Any employee who is in close contact with a person having a laboratory-confirmed Covid-19, shall switch to remote work or work from home, if possible, by declaring</p>	<p>State of Emergency Act, as amended <i>(Effective 24 March 2020, retroactively from 13 March 2020,</i> <i>Amendment effective 14 May</i></p>

No.	SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	LEGAL BASIS
		such circumstances to the employer.	2020, <i>Amendment effective 21 November 2020)</i> Labor Code, as amended
17.	<b>Unilateral right of employer to grant the use of the annual paid leave</b>	<p>For the period of the state of emergency or the emergency epidemic situation the employer may unilaterally order its employees (including employees having less than 8 months of employment), without their consent, to use their annual paid leave, if the work of (i) the enterprise, (ii) part of the enterprise or (iii) certain employees has been suspended based on an order of the employer or an order of the authorities.</p> <p>Also, for the period of the state of emergency or the emergency epidemic situation, employers are obliged to grant the annual paid or unpaid leave to certain categories of employees, e.g., pregnant employees, employees in advanced stage of in vitro treatment, etc. All categories of employees are listed in Article 173a of the Labor Code.</p>	Labor Code, as amended
18.	<b>State aid for partially covering salaries of employees</b>	<p>According to Decrees of the Council of Ministers, there is a state support for partial co-payment of salaries for the period until 28 February 2022.</p> <p>Employers may be eligible to receive funding in order to maintain employment after the period of the state of emergency and epidemic emergency for employees whose work was suspended, who had to switch to a part-time work, who took paid leave or whose employment was kept after a notice for mass dismissals during the period from 13 March to 31 December 2020 due to a decision of a government authority, as well as for the employees, who are socially insured in certain economic sectors.</p> <p>The financial support for each employee amounts to 50% of the monthly insurance income for October 2021 and the social insurance contributions, if the employer has declared decrease in sales revenue of not less than 30% and to 60% of the monthly insurance income for October 2021 and the social insurance contributions if the employer has declared a decrease in sales revenue of not less than 40%. The decrease</p>	<p>Decree No. 151 of the Council of Ministers on the conditions and procedure for paying compensations to employers for maintaining employment of employees after the period of state of emergency declared by the National Assembly on 13 March 2020, as amended</p> <p><i>(Effective 01 July 2020)</i></p> <p>Decree No. 482 dated 30 December 2021 of the Council of Ministers for amendment of the</p>

No.	SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	LEGAL BASIS
		in the sales revenue is calculated based on criteria set out in the Decree.	Decree on the conditions and procedure for paying compensations to employers for maintaining employment of employees after the period of state of emergency declared by the National Assembly on 13 March 2020 <i>(Effective 01 January 2022)</i>
19.	<b>Compensations for employees whose work was suspended</b>	<p>According to the Decree of the Council of Ministers, employees insured in economic activities, where temporary restrictions are imposed and whose work was suspended on the basis of a government authority decision in relation to the state of emergency or the emergency epidemic situation are allowed to claim financial support for the days of used unpaid leave.</p> <p>The employers are obliged to keep those people in employment for a period equal to the period of the financial support received.</p> <p>The financial support amounts to 75% of the insurable earnings for July 2021. The insurable earnings are further calculated based on the criteria set out in the Decree.</p> <p>The amounts for paid compensations are allowed until 31 December 2021.</p>	Decree No. 328 of the Council of Ministers on the conditions and procedure for paying compensations to employees insured in economic activities, where temporary restrictions are imposed by a government authority in relation the state of emergency or the emergency epidemic situation <i>(Effective 7 September 2021)</i>
20.	<b>Obligation for the employers to pay PCR tests of the employees by business trips abroad</b>	According to Decision of the Council of Ministers dated 3 February 2021, the Ordinance on Business Trips and Specializations Abroad has been amended and employers will be obliged to pay for PCR tests of their employees, if the entry into the respective country requires such test.	Decision of the Council of Ministers dated 3 February 2021 to Amend and Supplement the Ordinance on Business Trips and Specializations Abroad <i>(Effective 12 February 2021)</i>

No.	SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	LEGAL BASIS
21.	<b>Social-security and work length of service in 2021</b>	<p>According to the latest amendments in the State of Emergency Act, any unpaid leave of up to 90 days (instead of 60 days) under Art. 160, Para. 1 of the Labor Code will be deemed social-security and work length of service in 2021.</p> <p>Also, within two months after the end of the emergency epidemic situation, precautionary measures should not be imposed, and enforcement actions should not be carried out on compensations paid to employees based on an act of the Council of Ministers in relation to overcoming the COVID-19 crisis. Other enforcement actions are also restricted within two months after the end of the emergency epidemic situation. This supporting measure for the employees is laid down in the newly adopted Art. 5, para. 5 of the State of Emergency Act.</p>	<p>State of Emergency Act, as amended</p> <p><i>(Effective 17 February 2021)</i></p>

No.	SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	LEGAL BASIS
<b>PHARMACEUTICALS</b>			
22.	<b>Possible ban for exports of medicinal products</b>	The Minister of Health may prohibit exports of medicinal products until the end of the state of emergency or the emergency epidemic situation and 3 months thereafter. <sup>13</sup>	State of Emergency Act, as amended <i>(Effective 24 March 2020, retroactively from 13 March 2020)</i>  <i>Amendment effective 14 May 2020)</i>  Amendments to the Medicinal Products in Human Medicine Act <i>(Effective 11 December 2020)</i>
23.	<b>Extension of validity of TELK and NELK decisions</b>	The validity of the decisions of TELK (Expert Labor Medical Commission) and NELK (National Expert Medical Commission) for determining long-term disability and its level is extended for the period of the state of emergency and the emergency epidemic situation and additional three months after that.	State of Emergency Act, as amended <i>(Effective 24 March 2020, retroactively from 13 March 2020,</i>  <i>Amendment effective 18 July 2020)</i>
24.	<b>Issuance of electronic referrals</b>	Based on the latest amendments to the Ordinance for the Right of Access to Medical Treatment, the issuance of electronic referrals and prescriptions is made possible	Decree No. 374 dated 17 December 2020 of the Council of Ministers to amend the Ordinance

<sup>13</sup> For instance, please see [Order ПД-01-742 dated 30 August 2021.](#)

No.	SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	LEGAL BASIS
	<b>and prescriptions</b>	<p>through a specific medical software.</p> <p>The latest amendments to Ordinance No. 4 dated 4 March 2009 on the Conditions and Procedure for Prescription and Dispensing of Medicinal Products also provide that medicinal products, including those paid by the NHIF, should be prescribed by means of an electronic prescription as from 1 June 2021. Certain exceptions apply.</p>	<p>for the Right of Access to Medical Treatment (Effective 18 December 2020)</p> <p>Ordinance to Amend and Supplement Ordinance No. 4 dated 4 March 2009 on the Conditions and Procedure for Prescription and Dispensing of Medicinal Products (Effective 7 May 2021)</p>
25.	<b>Ban for export of medicinal products based on quinine</b>	<p>The export of medicinal products having <i>quinine</i> as raw material is prohibited.</p> <p>The ban does not apply to the medicinal product ANALGIN-CHININ (Metamizole sodium 200 mg Chinin hydrochlorid 50 mg). (Effective 24 April 2020).</p>	<p>Order No. ПД-01-141 dated 20 March 2020 issued by the Minister of Health, as amended (Effective 20 March 2020)</p> <p>Order No. ПД-01-237 dated 24 April 2020 issued by the Minister of Health (Amendment effective 24 April 2020)</p>
26.	<b>Ban for export of vaccines against SARS-related coronavirus</b>	<p>All export of <b>vaccines against SARS-related coronavirus</b> is prohibited without prior authorization under Regulation (EU) 2021/111 of 29 January 2021 issued by the Minister of Health or an authorized person.</p>	<p>Regulation (EU) 2021/111 of 29 January 2021 (Effective 31 January 2021)</p>
27.	<b>Exceptions from the mechanism under</b>	<p>In 2021 and during the state of emergency or emergency epidemic situation, the mechanism under Art. 45, para. 31 of the Health Insurance Act for ensuring the</p>	<p>Amendments to the Health</p>

No.	SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	LEGAL BASIS
	<b>Art. 45, para. 31 of the Health Insurance Act</b>	predictability and sustainability of the NHIF budget, adopted each year with a decision of the NHIF Supervisory Board, shall not apply to medicinal products derived from human blood or plasma included in the Positive Drug List referred to in Article 262(6), items 1 and 2 of the Medicinal Products in Human Medicine Act and paid by the NHIF in the conditions of home care and hospital medical care outside the value of the medical services provided.	Insurance Act <i>(Effective 12 March 2021)</i>
28.	<b>Relief from import duties and VAT exemption on importation granted for goods needed to combat the effects of COVID-19</b>	Based on <a href="#">Commission Decision (EU) 2020/1101 of 23 July</a> , the Council of Ministers adopted national rules on relief from import duties and VAT exemption on importation granted for goods, including vaccines, needed to combat the effects of COVID-19. An Annex to the Decree specifies the medical products, medical protective equipment and other medical devices exempted from import duties and VAT. The relief from import duties and VAT exemption applies solely to public authorities and refers to goods imported within the period from 30 January 2020 until 31 December 2021 (previously 31 August 2021).	Decree No. 75 dated 6 April 2007 by the Council of Ministers, as amended <i>(Effective 28 April 2020)</i> Decree No. 80 of the Council of Ministers for amendment of Decree No. 75 dated 6 April 2007
29.	<b>Payments to healthcare providers within the state of emergency</b>	<p>During the state of emergency, respectively the emergency epidemic situation, and three months after its end, the National Health Insurance Fund and the Bulgarian Medical and Dental Associations can conclude an Annex to the respective National Framework Agreements, in order to determine terms and conditions for payments to the medical healthcare providers.<sup>14</sup></p> <p>During the state of emergency, respectively the emergency epidemic situation, the Ministry of Health can provide additional payments to the workers in the healthcare field following the procedure specified in an order to be adopted by the Minister of Health.</p>	State of Emergency Act, as amended <i>(Effective 9 April 2020)</i> <i>(Amendment effective 14 May 2020,</i> <i>Amendment effective 01 January 2021)</i>

<sup>14</sup> According to Agreement No. ПД-НС-01-4-3 dated 28 April 2020 to Amend and Supplement the National Framework Agreement between the National Health Insurance Fund (“NHIF”) and the Bulgarian Medical Associations, healthcare establishments providing specific COVID-19 testing can apply for conclusion of an additional agreement with the NHIF, in order to stipulate the payments related to this COVID-19 testing. Subsequent agreements have also been concluded.



No.	SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	LEGAL BASIS
<b>JUDICIAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND ENFORCEMENT PROCEEDINGS</b>			
30.	<b>General suspension of procedural time limits and deadlines</b>	Procedural time limits within pending litigation, arbitration and enforcement procedures, which were suspended during the period of the state of emergency and were not exempted from the suspension, continued to run again from 21 May 2020.	State of Emergency Act, as amended <i>(Effective 24 March 2020, retroactively from 13 March 2020)</i> <i>Amendment effective 9 April 2020</i> <i>Amendment effective 14 May 2020)</i>
31.	<b>General suspension of limitation periods</b>	All limitation periods, whose expiry extinguishes or creates rights for private persons and entities, which were suspended during the period of the state of emergency, continued to run again from 21 May 2020.	State of Emergency Act, as amended <i>(Effective 24 March 2020, retroactively from 13 March 2020.</i> <i>Amendment effective 9 April 2020</i> <i>Amendment effective 14 May 2020))</i>
32.	<b>Extension of time periods, established by law, for private persons and entities</b>	All other time periods, established by law, which have expired during the period of the state of emergency, <b><u>which were not suspended</u></b> as per the above, and are related to the exercise of rights or the fulfillment of obligations by private persons and entities, were <b><u>extended until one month after the end of the state of emergency, i.e., until 13 June 2020.</u></b> Time limits for certain procedures, e.g., under the Public Procurement Act, the	State of Emergency Act, as amended <i>(Effective 24 March 2020, retroactively from 13 March 2020.</i> <i>Amendment effective 17 April</i>

No.	SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	LEGAL BASIS
		Concessions Act, the Spatial Development Act, the Protection of Competition Act, etc., and under the related secondary legislation, did not fall within the scope of this general suspension.	2020)
33.	<b>Extension of the validity of expiring acts of the administration</b>	The validity of all acts of the administration, which are time-limited, and expiring during the state of emergency, <b><u>was extended until one month after the end of the state of emergency, i.e., until 13 June 2020.</u></b>	State of Emergency Act, as amended <i>(Effective 24 March 2020, retroactively from 13 March 2020.)</i>
34.	<b>Court hearings and other procedural actions</b>	<p>During the emergency epidemic situation, the Chief Administrative Officials of the courts may postpone scheduled court hearings. The Chief Administrative Officials may also suspend the public court hearings for a certain period of time once, but for a period no longer than 14 days, and postpone the scheduled court hearings during such period. Exceptions apply for some court hearings.</p> <p>During the emergency epidemic situation, the court may postpone the court hearing if a party to the proceeding or its representative is ill, quarantined, etc. Respective evidence shall be provided before the court within 7 days after the reasons for the postponement no longer apply.</p> <p>Court hearings can be held by video conference. <i>(Based on the latest Amendments and Supplements to the Civil Procedure Code, Criminal Procedure Code and Administrative Procedure Code published in the State Gazette on 17 November 2020, court hearings and various procedural actions can be held by video conference. Specific rules apply for them).</i></p> <p>Court papers can be served and submitted electronically <i>(Based on the latest Amendments and Supplements to the Civil Procedure Code and Criminal Procedure Code published in the State Gazette on 29 December 2020).</i></p>	<p>State of Emergency Act, as amended <i>(Effective 24 March 2020, Amendment effective 14 May 2020, Amendment effective 21 November 2020)</i></p> <p>Decision dated 12 May 2020 adopted by the Supreme Judicial Council</p> <p>Rules and Measures on the Work of Courts in the Conditions of Pandemic</p>

No.	SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	LEGAL BASIS
35.	<b>Suspension of certain enforcement actions and notarial proceedings</b>	<p>Public enforcement sales and repossessions against natural persons were suspended until 13 July 2020. After that the relevant procedures were initiated anew.</p> <p>This general suspension of some enforcement actions applied until 13 July 2020.</p> <p>Notary certifications can be made without limitation, subject to the general measures in item 1 above.</p>	<p>State of Emergency Act, as amended</p> <p><i>(Effective 24 March 2020</i> <i>Amendment effective 14 May 2020)</i></p>
36.	<b>Holding of meetings via remote access or suspension of the meetings of some authorities</b>	<p>The State of Emergency Act permits public authorities, state agencies, commissions, etc. (which are not legal entities), to hold their meetings digitally via remote access and to adopt their decisions <i>in absentia</i> during the state of emergency, respectively the emergency epidemic situation, and two months after its end.</p> <p>The State of Emergency Act also permits public meetings, including the meetings of the Commission for Protection of Competition and the Commission for Protection against Discrimination, to be held digitally via remote access during the state of emergency, respectively the emergency epidemic situation, and two months after its end.</p> <p>Based on an Order of the Minister of Health, persons providing administrative and other type of services to the citizens shall use information and communication technology tools and, whenever possible, provide the services via electronic means.</p>	<p>State of Emergency Act, as amended</p> <p><i>(Effective 9 April 2020,</i> <i>Amendment effective 14 May 2020, Amendment effective 21 November 2020)</i></p> <p>Order No. ПД-01-968 dated 26 November 2021 issued by the Minister of Health</p> <p><i>(Effective 1 December 2021 until 31 March 2022)</i></p>

No.	SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	LEGAL BASIS
<b>PUBLIC PROCUREMENTS<sup>15</sup> AND STATE GRANTS</b>			
37.	<b>Public procurement exemption</b>	Purchasing of medical products and personal protection equipment necessary to support health measures in case of a state of emergency or emergency epidemic situation and three months after its end is permitted without following a public procurement procedure.	State of Emergency Act, as amended <i>(Effective 24 March 2020, retroactively from 13 March 2020, Amendment effective 14 May 2020, Amendment effective 18 July 2020)</i>
38.	<b>Public procurement exemption</b>	The following acquisitions are exempted from public procurement rules: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Purchasing of sanitary materials, disinfectants, medical devices and personal protection equipment, needed for anti-epidemic measures;</li> <li>2. Purchasing of medical devices, medical and laboratory equipment, needed for the diagnostics and treatment of infected patients, the consumables for them, as well as associated implementation activities;</li> <li>3. Utilization of pesticides and hospital waste under Ordinance No. 1 on the requirements for collection and treatment of waste on the territory of the healthcare establishments (<i>SG, Issue 13 of 2015, as amended</i>).</li> <li>4. Transport services related to medical devices, medical materials, etc. needed for anti-epidemic measures and for diagnostics and treatment of infected</li> </ol>	State of Emergency Act, as amended <i>(Effective 24 March 2020, retroactively from 13 March 2020, Amendment effective 14 May 2020, Amendment effective 18 July 2020)</i>

<sup>15</sup> See also [Joint Procurement Agreement to Procure Medical Countermeasures](#).

No.	SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	LEGAL BASIS
		patients. <i>(Effective 14 May 2020)</i>	
39.	<b>Exemption from the rules concerning procurement of medical devices</b>	Certain rules, applicable to the procurement of medical devices by the Ministry of Health, and healthcare establishments of state and municipal ownership, do not apply to purchases of medical devices needed for anti-epidemic measures, for treatment and diagnostics of infected patients during the state of emergency, the emergency epidemic situation and three months after its end	State of Emergency Act, as amended <i>(Effective 24 March 2020, retroactively from 13 March 2020, Amendment effective 18 July 2020)</i>
40.	<b>Direct award of grants by the state</b>	Grants can be awarded by the state, without prior invitation for collecting offers, under reduced time periods, with a simplified process for approval, until the end of the state of emergency, respectively the end of the emergency epidemic situation, and 9 months afterwards.  However, procedures for state aid granted by the European structural and investment funds may be suspended upon decision of the governing authority due to the state of emergency. <i>(Effective 21 April 2020)</i>	State of Emergency Act, as amended  Council of Ministers Decree No. 67 dated 13 April 2020 <i>(Effective 24 March 2020, retroactively from 13 March 2020)</i>
41.	<b>Financial support for the business through the Bulgarian Development Bank<sup>16</sup> and the Fund of Funds</b>	The Council of Ministers decided to increase the state's share capital in the Bulgarian Development Bank by BGN 700,000,000. The funds of the capital increase were part of the government measures to support the business in relation to the COVID-19 circumstances. The funds granted are to be used for issuance of portfolio guarantees in favor of commercial banks <sup>17</sup> . The timeframe for application was extended until 20 December 2021.	Decision dated 25 March 2020 adopted by the Council of Ministers <i>(Effective 25 March 2020)</i>  Decision dated 05 August 2021 adopted by the Council of

<sup>16</sup> In addition, the Bulgarian National Bank announced a set of measures amounting to 9.3 billion BGN in relation to COVID-19 crisis for supporting the sustainability and flexibility of the bank system.

<sup>17</sup> The measure was approved by the European Commission under EU state aid rules on 8 April 2020 (see the Decision [here](#)).

No.	SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	LEGAL BASIS
		Other financial instruments supporting business and freelancers (e.g., unsecured and interest-free loans) also apply.	Ministers
42.	<b>State aid for micro- and small enterprises through the Operational Programme Innovation and Competitiveness</b>	<p>Micro- and small enterprises could apply for state aid from BGN 3,000 up to BGN 10,000 based on set criteria. The entire amount of this state aid measure granted by the European Regional Development Fund is BGN 173,000,000.</p> <p>The state aid can be used, among others, for payment of salaries and social-security contributions of the employees, expenses to external vendors, expenses for purchasing of raw materials.</p> <p>The state aid procedure is now closed.</p>	<p>Decree No. 91 dated 11 May 2020 adopted by the Council of Ministers</p> <p>Management of Resources from the European Structural and Investment Funds Act</p>
43.	<b>State aid for medium-sized enterprises</b>	<p>Medium-sized enterprises could apply for state aid from BGN 30,000 up to BGN 150,000. In addition, the amount of the grant might not exceed 3% of the 2019 turnover of the companies. The state aid aims at mitigating the economic impact of COVID-19 on the medium-sized enterprises. Aid will be granted under the mechanism of national operational programme “Innovation and Competitiveness” 2014-2020.</p> <p>The state aid scheme was approved by the European Commission on 29 June 2020.</p> <p>The state aid is at the payout phase.</p>	Decision adopted by the Council of Ministers
44.	<b>State aid for companies in the most affected sectors through the Operational Programme “Human resources development”</b>	<p>Until 31 May 2021, companies in transport, tourism, hotel and restaurant sector that were affected by the COVID-19 crisis could receive compensation amounting to BGN 290 for maintaining the employment of each employee.</p> <p>The state aid is at the payout phase.</p>	<p>Decision dated 26 June 2020 of the Council of Ministers</p> <p>Decision dated 17 March 2021 of the Council of Ministers</p>

No.	SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	LEGAL BASIS
45.	<b>State aid for tour operators and travel agents</b>	Tour operators and travel agents could apply for financial support in the amount of 4% of their declared turnover without VAT for 2019 based on the conditions set out in an Ordinance of the Minister of Tourism <sup>18</sup> . The total amount of the financial support is BGN 51 million. The state aid was already paid out.	State of Emergency Act, as amended <i>(Effective 07 December 2020, Effective 06 April 2021)</i> Decision dated 16 December 2020 of the Council of Ministers
46.	<b>State aid for micro, small and medium-sized companies affected by the anti-epidemic measures introduced by the Minister of Health</b>	Companies from the sectors affected by the anti-epidemic measures introduced by the Minister of Health under Orders № ПД-01-173/18.03.2021, ПД-01-197/31.03.2021, ПД-01-220/08.04.2021, ПД-01-240/16.04.2021 and ПД-01-265/23.04.2021 for the period between 22.03.2021 and 30.04.2021 could apply for financial support through the National Revenue Agency. Further criteria apply based on a procedure adopted by the Council of Ministers. The state aid is laid down in Article 26b of the State of Emergency Act.  The total amount of the financial support is BGN 156 million and will be granted through the Operational Programme “Human resources development”.  The state aid procedure is now closed.	State of Emergency Act, as amended <i>(Effective 07 December 2020)</i> Decision dated 16 December 2020 of the Council of Ministers
47.	<b>State aid for small enterprises through the Operational Programme Innovation and Competitiveness</b>	Small enterprises can apply for state aid based on set criteria. The entire amount of this state aid measure granted by the European Regional Development Fund is BGN 78,233,200. The state aid is at the payout phase.	Decree dated 17 February 2021, adopted by the Council of Ministers
48.	<b>Guarantee scheme</b>	On 22 June 2021, a new business supporting measure was introduced. It constitutes a	

<sup>18</sup> Ordinance No. T-ПД-04-1 dated 22 January 2021 issued by the Minister of Tourism, effective as of 29 January 2021.

No.	SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	LEGAL BASIS
		guarantee scheme, where the state will cover 50% of the risk of the commercial banks in granting credits. Small and medium-sized companies can apply for up to 70% of their annual turnover in 2019 or 2020. No securities (e.g., mortgages, pledges, etc.) will be required.	



No.	SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	LEGAL BASIS
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>			
49.	<b>Access to telecoms data for the purposes of enforcing anti-epidemic measures</b>	Access to data kept by electronic communications operators for a period of 6 months under Art. 2516 of the Electronic Communications Act is granted to enforcement authorities also for the purposes of enforcing of the anti-epidemic measures, without the requirement for a court warrant.	State of Emergency Act, as amended <i>(Effective 24 March 2020)</i>
50.	<b>National plan for vaccination against COVID-19 vaccines</b>	On 04 December 2020 the Council of Ministers adopted a National plan for vaccination against COVID-19 which generally sets out the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The target population;</li> <li>• Vaccination delivery strategy;</li> <li>• Vaccine safety monitoring;</li> <li>• Immunization monitoring systems, etc.</li> </ul> The National plan for vaccination was subsequently amended by the authorities.	Decision dated 04 December 2020 adopted by the Council of Ministers
51.	<b>National operational plan for handling the Covid-19 pandemic</b>	On 14 July 2021 the Council of Ministers adopted the National operational plan for handling the Covid-19 pandemic which provides the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Depending on the 14-day morbidity per 100,000 people, the percentage of positive tests taken, the hospital beds occupied, etc., the plan defines four color zones: <b>green, orange, red and dark red.</b></li> <li>• According to the zone our country is in, a phased introduction of various anti-epidemic measures is envisaged, for example, if the country is in the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <b>Green zone:</b> visits to restaurants, fast food outlets, bars and pubs, cafés and other food and entertainment sites under Article 124 of the</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Decision dated 14 July 2021 adopted by the Council of Ministers

No.	SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	LEGAL BASIS
		<p>Tourism Act are allowed using no more than 50% of their capacity and having the staff wear protective masks. Home deliveries are allowed without restrictions;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <b>Orange zone:</b> visits to restaurants, fast food outlets, bars and pubs, cafés and other food and entertainment sites under Article 124 of the Tourism Act are allowed only between 6:00 and 23:00 using no more than 30% of their capacity, with no more than 6 persons per table and having the staff wear protective masks. Home deliveries are allowed without restrictions.</li> <li>– <b>Red zone:</b> visits to bars and pubs is forbidden; visits to restaurants, fast food outlets, cafés and other food sites are allowed only outdoors and between 07:00 and 22:00, with no more than 6 persons per table, with not less than 2 m distance between the chairs of the neighboring tables and having the staff wear protective masks. Home deliveries are allowed without restrictions;</li> <li>– <b>Dark red:</b> Only home deliveries are allowed.</li> </ul>	