

Q&A: Russia's Anti-Coronavirus Measures

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Sergei Kiselyov / Moskva News Agency

As the coronavirus continues to sweep across the globe on an unprecedented scale, countries are closing their borders and putting once-vibrant towns and cities under near-total lockdown.

Here's a quick guide to the measures Russia has taken so far:

Q: Can I still go to Russia?

A: Starting March 18, all foreign nationals and stateless citizens will be barred from entering Russia. Diplomats, airplane crew members and some other categories of people will be exempt.

Q: Will I be placed in quarantine when I arrive?

A: Individuals who have recently visited the following countries will be ordered to self-isolate for 14 days upon entering the country: China, South Korea, Iran, France, Germany, Italy and

Spain. People living with those who self-isolate must do the same.

Citizens entering Russia from the United States, Britain, the European Union, Ukraine, Belarus and all other non-EU countries in Europe — as well as those who live with them — are also required to self-isolate for 14 days upon arrival, Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyenin [said](#).

Anyone found to have violated their self-isolation order faces a prison sentence of up to five years.

Additionally, anyone suspected of being infected with the coronavirus will be placed in hospital quarantine.

Q: Are schools and universities closed?

A: From March 21 to April 12, all schools and universities in Moscow will be closed, Mayor Sergei Sobyenin [said](#).

In the city of Lipetsk, all schools have been closed.

Several universities in central Russia have also [announced](#) their switch to online courses.

Q: Are bars and restaurants closed?

A: Not yet, but Moscow authorities say they have prepared a plan to shut down the city if the epidemic gets out of control.

Lipetsk has ordered that all public gathering spaces including theaters and sporting arenas shut down.

Q: What other restrictions should I know about?

A: Moscow has [barred](#) visitors from visiting patients in hospitals and state-run nursing homes.

Moscow has [banned](#) all public events larger than 50 people from now until April 10. All theaters, movie theaters and concert halls are also [closed](#) until then.

Moscow residents have also been warned to avoid public transport during rush hour.

Q: Is the government planning any other measures?

A: Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin's cabinet [plans](#) to unveil a slew of new economic and regulatory measures to reduce the coronavirus' impact on Wednesday. The [Vedomosti](#) and [Kommersant](#) business dailies have reported on some of the cabinet's new measures — some of which were later confirmed by officials.

Here's a look at the list of proposals so far:

- Create an anti-crisis fund of 300 billion rubles (\$4.05 billion) to support Russian citizens and the Russian economy
- Compensate quarantined citizens, including freelancers and the self-employed, for lost

income

- Set aside federal budget funds for unemployment payments
- Pay pensions and other public benefits in advance
- Limit or ban events with more than 1,000 attendees across all of Russia, including international athletic events
- Extend school vacations or make school attendance voluntary
- Allow delivery options for over-the-counter medicines purchased online
- Create a prize fund to reward doctors working to fight the virus
- Provide for increased production of coronavirus tests
- Create an online alert system to provide coronavirus updates to the public
- Guarantee personal protection funds for individuals
- Cancel duties on imported medications and medical supplies
- Establish a tax holiday for businesses such as tour agencies and airlines
- Give small and mid-sized businesses a one-quarter deferment on paying their taxes
- Temporarily halt audits of small and mid-sized businesses
- Give state corporations an extension on paying out dividends
- Add the coronavirus to the list of acceptable force majeure circumstances on government contracts
- Allocate government credits to regions that meet their economic development goals

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