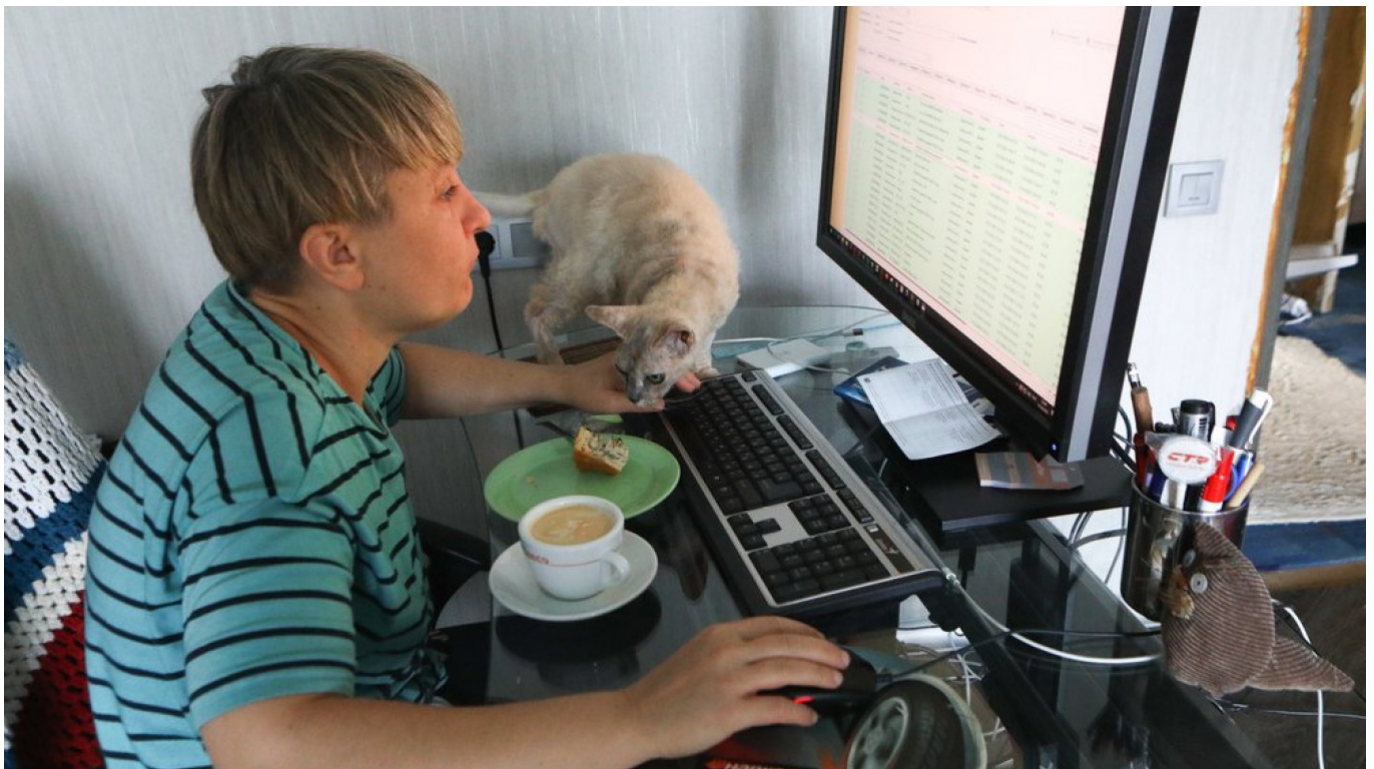


Russia Could Extend Putin's Nationwide Coronavirus Holiday – Kommersant

April 02, 2020



Senior officials have urged Putin to extend the non-working week, citing the virus' incubation period of up to 14 days. **Andrei Nikerichev / Moskva News Agency**

Russia could extend President Vladimir Putin's weeklong paid time off for another week as it looks to fight the deadly coronavirus outbreak, the Kommersant business daily [reported](#) Thursday.

Putin declared a "non-working week" from March 28 to April 5 to encourage Russians to stay home and slow the spread of coronavirus, which has infected 2,777 and killed 24 Russians as of Wednesday. Authorities in Moscow, which instituted strict lockdown procedures during the week, plan to enforce self-isolation using government-issued QR codes and other surveillance tools.

Related article: [Russians Risk Fines, Jail Time for Dodging Coronavirus Quarantine](#)

Kommersant, without citing sources, said it had obtained information that the "non-working

week” will roll over into the week of April 5–11.

“The situation is becoming more complicated in our country,” Putin [said](#) during a remote cabinet session Wednesday.

That day, he signed into law jail terms of up to seven years for violating quarantine rules and five years for spreading “fake news” surrounding coronavirus.

Senior government officials have urged Putin to extend the non-working week, citing the virus’ incubation period of up to 14 days.

“We believe these social-distancing measures should be extended,” Deputy Prime Minister Tatyana Golikova said at the remote session.

“But even 14 days is of course not enough,” Anna Popova, who heads Russia’s consumer protection watchdog, [said](#) at her briefing.

The Russian government has [allocated](#) \$18 billion to fight the pandemic and carry out anti-crisis measures, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin said.

A majority of Russian regions have, like Moscow, introduced partial lockdown measures to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Chechnya became the first Russian region to seal off its internal borders, a measure set to take effect this Sunday.

Meanwhile, Reuters [cited](#) three unnamed officials as saying Wednesday that Russia was considering declaring a nationwide state of emergency to introduce tougher measures.

The Kremlin denied discussing a state of emergency.

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