

Moscow to Spend \$3Bln on Coronavirus Fight, Mayor Says

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Mayor Sergei Sobyenin **Maxim Mishin / Mayor and the Government of Moscow Press Service**

The city of Moscow will end up spending a total of 250 billion rubles (\$3.1 billion) on fighting the coronavirus outbreak but will lose double that amount in revenue, Mayor Sergei Sobyenin said Thursday.

The epicenter of Russia's outbreak with over 40% of its 441,108 cases, Moscow allowed shops to reopen and residents to leave homes for short walks from Monday after nine weeks in lockdown. Combined with a sharp fall in oil prices, the lockdown measures that Sobyenin has extended until June 14 have badly hit Moscow's and Russia's economy.

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"According to preliminary estimates, the city has spent and will continue to spend a quarter-trillion rubles on problems related to the pandemic," Sobyenin [told](#) the state-run TASS news agency.

“City budget revenues will lose another half a trillion [rubles],” the mayor said.

His economic deputy previously [placed](#) the overall losses at 600 billion rubles with a 7% drop in revenue.

Before the coronavirus outbreak battered the economy, Moscow’s revenues were due to total 2.8 trillion rubles and expenditures 3.15 trillion rubles.

In the TASS interview, Sobyenin [forecast](#) the end of the outbreak by mid-2021 but warned that masks could remain mandatory until next February.

Russia’s prime minister introduced a 5-trillion-ruble (\$73 billion) recovery plan due to be put into action in July to offset economic damage from the pandemic.

The package — envisioning “stabilization” by the end of the year, “recovery” by mid-2021 and growth starting in late 2021 — is the largest yet announced by the Kremlin. It had faced criticism for steering clear of more ambitious spending plans.

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