

This NL is based on the legislative framework in force on the date of its publication. TTA will update the information in this NL when necessary and if additional regulations are published on the measures to contain the spread of the new Coronavirus that is responsible for the COVID-19 pandemic.

MOZAMBIQUE

Global Vision, Local Experience.

21 APRIL 2021

CORONAVIRUS: SITUATION OF PUBLIC CALAMITY

As happened with the previous Decree 07/2021 of 5 March, proof of a negative Covid-19 test carried out in the country of origin in the last 72 hours before departure is valid for exemption from quarantine.

I. BACKGROUND:

The decree revising and, consequently, repealing the measures to contain the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic entered into force on 6 April of this year. The previous measures had been introduced by Decree 07/2021 of 5 March, which was in force for 30 days.

In this newsletter, we take a comparative approach, focusing only on the measures that have been changed.

II. CHANGES TO THE RULES:

■ The quarantine rules

The current legislation maintains the quarantine measures that were implemented in the already repealed Decrees 02/2021 of 4 February and 07/2021 of 5 March. In fact, as happened with the previous Decree 07/2021 of 5 March, proof of a negative Covid-19 test carried out in the country of origin in the last 72 hours before departure is valid for exemption from quarantine. In other words, only tests that were requested and received within a period of three days before travelling are accepted.

■ Use of masks or visors:

The obligation to wear a mask even when wearing a visor remains in force. This is because, although the visor can protect the eyes and the mouth, it does not prevent the dispersion of droplets of saliva and does not guarantee effective protection.

■ Lessons, public and private events and commercial leisure and similar establishments:

The authorisation for the gradual resumption of face-to-face classes in public and private primary, secondary, vocational technical and higher education institutions remains in force.

Some significant changes have been made to the rules on public and private events and commercial leisure and similar establishments.

The prohibition on holding social events remains in force for a period of 21 (twenty-one) days. However, this does not affect marriage registrations, which may continue to take place with strict observance of the measures to prevent and combat the COVID-19 pandemic, but limited to a maximum of 20 persons.

The resumption of training for the teams competing in the national football championship, called Moçambola, is authorised. However, actual games in the championship remain prohibited, as does the organisation of recreational and leisure games and sporting competitions of lower ranks and senior amateurs, even without the presence of the public. This is as established by the previous legislation.

The resumption of training is subject to weekly COVID-19 tests and athletes who test positive will be subject to compulsory quarantine.

The opening hours of supermarkets have been changed to 9 am to 7 pm from Monday to Saturday and 9 am to 4 pm on Sundays. Other establishments maintain their normal opening hours and the sale of alcoholic beverages in all establishments must respect the opening hours applied to bottle stores. Regardless of their location, bottle stores may only open from 9 am to 1 pm, and the consumption of alcoholic beverages on site and home delivery are prohibited.

Food stalls are open from 6 am to 5 pm and they may not sell alcoholic beverages.

Restaurant services continue to operate between 6 am and 8 pm, every day of the week.

All open door licences are cancelled and there is a suspension on the granting of new licences, the issuance of new bottle store licences, the sale of all types of alcoholic beverages, and catering services.

Given the increase in the rate of positive tests in recent weeks in the provinces, the curfew currently in force in the Metropolitan Area of Greater Maputo has been extended to all the provincial capitals. The curfew will be in force at the same time, between 10pm and 4am, for the next 21 days.

■ **Mandatory curfew:**

Given the increase in the rate of positive tests in recent weeks in the provinces of Gaza, Sofala, Manica, Tete, Cabo Delgado and Niassa, the curfew currently in force in the Metropolitan Area of Greater Maputo has been extended to all the provincial capitals. The curfew will be in force at the same time, between 10pm and 4am, for the next 21 days.

As there are situations of essential work and of force majeure, to avoid abuses and arbitrariness, the law lists the situations not covered by curfew:

- (a) workers whose type of professional activity cannot be interrupted, in pursuit of the public interest;
- (b) travel for reasons that cannot be postponed in order to obtain health care; and
- (c) other activities of a similar nature or for reasons of force majeure or imperative need, provided they are duly justified.

■ **Religious services and celebrations, funeral ceremonies, conferences and meetings:**

Places of worship will remain closed while this decree is in force.

For funeral ceremonies, the maximum number of 20 participants is maintained, for situations where the cause of death is not Covid-19 and, in the case of funeral ceremonies following deaths from Covid-19, the number must not exceed 10.

■ **The functioning of public and private institutions:**

The law now in force maintains the existing measures for the functioning of public and private institutions. In fact, for those cases where, due to the organisation of the institution itself, it is not possible to maintain the recommended social distancing, the system of rotation of teams must be adopted. This rule does not apply to officials and agents of the state who occupy positions of management, leadership and trust. This rotation mechanism should not be interpreted as a release from work, but mechanisms should be adopted to ensure the continuation of working from home, if the conditions to do so are in place.

Home working arrangements will be implemented at the discretion of each institution and State events must respect a maximum of 50 participants (or more, in cases of an imperative nature, duly justified).

■ **Other changes:**

- (a) Trade fairs for agricultural inputs and products must respect the opening hours of the markets, and they must strictly observe the measures to prevent and combat the Covid-19 pandemic. The fairs operate between 6 am and 5 pm.
- (a) Public and private urban transport of passengers follows the normal operating hours, except in areas where a curfew is in force.