

Zagreb, 9th of May, 2020

Measures and recommendations of the Croatian Public Health Institute for citizens who cross the state border and enter the territory of Republic of Croatia

With the Decree of the temporary prohibition of crossing the state border of Republic of Croatia, („Narodnenovine“ 32/20 and 48/20), and Decree about changes and completion of the same decree of the 9th May 2020, the following is allowed:

1. Croatian citizens are allowed to enter Republic of Croatia and going abroad.
2. The return to the homecountries of the citizens of the EU countries, state members of the Schengen and states adjacentto the Schengen territory as well as to members of their families, and to citizens of the third countries who have long-term residency on the basis of Decree of the Assembly2003/109/EZ from 25th November of 2003,about the status of citizens of third countries with long term residency and persons who have the right of residency following other EU directives or national law or the ones who have national long term visas, and entrance to the Republic of Croatia under the specific circumstances.
3. In the same Decree are listed the exceptions of the above rules, and these are the following:
 - health workers, health researchers and collaborators, experts of theelderly guardianship and persons who require an urgent medical treatment,
 - cross border workers,
 - transporters of the goods and other transport workers in the measures it is necessary,
 - diplomats, police workers in completing their jobs, services and teams of Civil defence, personnel of the international organizations and international military personnel in completing their duties,
 - travellers in transit,

and also:

- persons with business reason or with some other economic interest,
- persons who travel because of the urgent personal reasons (i.e. real estate owners in Republic of Croatia or some other urgent personal reason).

Entrance to Republic of Croatia for Croatian citizens.

For Croatian citizens from the article II of the Decree, the self-quarantine measure, which lasts 14 days, is not valid any more, but they are given the leaflet from the State Border Police, when they enter the Republic of Croatia. With the respective leaflet, they are obliged to respect the general and specific recommendations and measures of the Public Health Institute, and it is recommendable to limit the contacts with other persons from their surrounding and that, they leave homes only to complete urgent activities, during the 14 days from the day they enter the Republic of Croatia.

The above mentioned is valid also for foreign citizens to whom under the specific conditions the entrance is allowed to Republic of Croatia.

Entrance to the Republic of Croatia for foreign citizens

If the foreign citizen has intent to cross the state border, he has to fulfil some of these conditions:

1. He is in possession of the documentation with which he proves the ownership of the real estate in Republic of Croatia or vessels (also lease – holders), or comes to funerary to Republic of Croatia (is in possession of the adequate documentation to prove that). After fulfilling the conditions, to these foreign citizens, the crossing of the state border is allowed, and they have to be put in evidence with the place/address where they will be staying, i.e. where the real estate or vessel is located, contact phone number and period of the stay, when they plan to leave the Republic of Croatia.
2. He is in possession of the documentation with which he can prove the invitation of the economic operator to come to Republic of Croatia, interest of the economic operator for their arrival to Republic of Croatia, or invitation to a business meeting. For those travellers it is necessary to evidence the place/address where they will be staying and contact phone number, period of the stay and when they plan to leave the Republic of Croatia.

3. All other citizens who have other business reasons, which in this moment are not possible to anticipate, and they don't have the adequate documentation, it is necessary to refer their aim to cross the state border (enter the Republic of Croatia) to uzg.covid@mup.hr and their request will be answered as soon as possible,

Epidemiological measures

All of the abovementioned, Croatian and foreign citizens have to be instructed regarding the epidemiological measures that they are obliged to adhere to, and they are as follows:

Persons from these categories are obliged to reduce contact with other persons to a minimum and adhere to instructions on reducing the risk of disease transmission (avoid physical contact, maintain a distance of at least 1.5 m during face-to-face contact; wash or disinfect hands often, e.g. handshakes; avoid touching face, and it is recommended that they wear a face mask or surgical mask indoors, or outside of their home or accommodation).

During the 14-day period from the date of entry into the Republic of Croatia, the persons measure their body temperature during the morning hours and if the body temperature reading is higher than 37.2 °C, if the person feels sick or has any signs of the disease, he should contact the chosen family physician, if he has one, or a territorially competent epidemiologist. The property owner or his representative or host, i.e. the organizer of their arrival, may assist the foreign nationals in contacting the epidemiological service.

Occurrence of symptoms of the disease during the stay in the Republic of Croatia

If the persons cross the state border and develop symptoms of the disease after entering into the Republic of Croatia, they will stay in their accommodation and contact their host, i.e. organizer of their arrival, via telephone, who will notify the epidemiologist on standby or the competent primary healthcare physician. Outside of the working hours of the competent primary healthcare physician, the host of the foreign (official) person, who is exhibiting pronounced symptoms of the disease, calls the emergency medical services or contacts the closest COVID infirmary via telephone.

Entry into the Republic of Croatia for persons exhibiting signs of the disease

If a person is exhibiting signs of the disease when entering the Republic of Croatia, the border police shall inform the border sanitary inspector and / or the sanitary inspector of the Regional or Central Office of the State Inspectorate. Such persons are recommended not to enter the Republic of Croatia, and if they have to cross the state border due to urgent reasons, they are sent to the competent health institution for testing and treatment by the shortest possible route, that is, they are sent to be tested and undergo isolation.

Recommendation not to travel

Persons who have an elevated body temperature and/or acute respiratory infection symptoms should postpone their trip to the Republic of Croatia. Before traveling, foreign nationals are advised to measure their morning body temperature. If the person's body temperature, which was measured in the morning hours, is higher than 37.2 °C, if the person feels sick or is exhibiting any signs of the disease (relates to all symptoms and signs of the diseases, not just respiratory diseases), it is recommended that that person should not travel.

Recommendations and instructions by the Croatian Institute of Public Health

Croatian and foreign nationals who are entering the Republic of Croatia are obligated to adhere to these instructions for a duration of 14 days from the date of crossing the border, in the following manner:

- During the first 14 days after entering the Republic of Croatia, leaving the accommodation is limited to the following: for work, if the entry into the Republic of Croatia was due to business reasons, performing necessary activities while continuously adhering to hygienic measures.
- When leaving the accommodation due to necessary reasons, it is recommended to use a face mask or a nose and mouth cover, maintain physical distance from other people (no less than 1.5 m) and maintain hand hygiene.
- Wash hands as often as possible with warm water and soap, and/or use hand disinfectant, which should be thoroughly rubbed between the palms. Avoid touching the face, mouth, nose and eyes.

- Avoid using public transportation. In a means of transport, it is preferable for the person to be alone or exclusively with persons who are sharing the accommodation.
- Consistently avoid groups and public gatherings.
- Meet as few people as possible during business meetings, ensure a physical distance of 1.5 meters with disinfectant being readily available, avoid unnecessary meetings.
- During their stay at the accommodation, such persons prepare their own food, or use food and beverage delivery services.
- Payment is done by contactless payment or through on-line services.
- The body temperature has to be measured each morning, if it is higher than 37.2 C° it has to be measured again after 10 minutes, and if it is still higher than 37.2 C°, they should stay at home/accommodation and notify the chosen family physician, if they have one (Croatian citizens), or the territorially competent epidemiologist.
- In the event that symptoms of acute respiratory infection occur (cough, sore throat, elevated body temperature, shortness of breath/trouble breathing, loss of smell and taste) it is necessary to stay at home/accommodation and notify the chosen family physician, if they have one (Croatian citizens), or the territorially competent epidemiologist.
- In the event that severe, life-threatening symptoms suddenly occur, the person should contact the urgent medical services.

If you develop respiratory disease (elevated body temperature, cough, shortness of breath, trouble breathing, sore throat, weakness) call your chosen physician, who will evaluate the need for testing for the novel coronavirus on the basis of your health condition. If you require medical assistance for reasons other than respiratory diseases, call your chosen physician or have one of your household members contact him for a consultation and to arrange a house visit. Do not go to a healthcare facility alone without notifying them over the telephone beforehand. You can read more information about the coronavirus disease and measures for reducing the risk of spreading the disease on the CIPH website <https://www.hzjz.hr/sluzba-epidemiologija-zarazne-bolesti/koronavirus-najnovije-preporuke/>, as well as from your chosen doctor and territorially competent epidemiologist.

Croatian and foreign citizens can request additional information and clarification at the phone numbers 112 or 113

Urgent medical service 112

Institute for Public Health of Istria County +385 (0) 99 529 44 55