

New COVID-19 Measures in Austria As Of March 30

At a press conference on Monday morning, March 30, the Austrian government announced further measures to slow the spread of the coronavirus. Chancellor Sebastian Kurz repeated his analogy that the struggle against the disease is a „marathon“. Given the current rate of the spread, he warned Austria was currently „in a period of calm before the storm.“

People living in Austria will be **required to wear facemasks while shopping at supermarkets and grocery stores**. The distribution of such facemasks will be handled by supermarkets and grocery stores, who will start implementing the new measure as early as **Wednesday**. Additionally, floor markings will help customers keep **a distance of 1 meter between each other** while queuing. Additional measures may be taken by store managers to ensure that only a certain number of customers are present at one time (queuing outside, for example). Everybody may be required to use a cart in order to ensure the appropriate distance of 1m. Those exact rules will be further developed over the coming days, however rules set by the stores need to be followed at all time!

Police will be patrolling increasingly to make sure that people keep the minimum distance of 1 meter between each person outside their homes. High fines will be issued to those who do not follow the rules. Please **ALWAYS respect** the social distancing measures and see it as your personal responsibility, which saves lives.

The second government priority is **to protect so called „high risk“ groups**. That means older people as well as people with serious underlying and/or pre-existing medical conditions as well as people with impaired immune systems. They are now obliged to stay at home from work and need to be given the option of home office or leave of absence by their employers. In the latter case, the government will compensate the wages of the worker.

We will update you as soon as there are any new developments.

Additional information about the current situation compiled by the City of Innsbruck can be found here:



The official measures put into place by the Austrian National Assembly are valid until April 13th 2020 or until further notice. The region of Tyrol has been put under extra strict measures.



We are asked to stay at home, to avoid public places and to avoid other human beings wherever possible. There are a few exceptions to the rule. Whenever **your health** or **your life** or that **of people or animals entrusted to you** depend on your leaving.



You are allowed to buy essential groceries for your family, the people you live with, neighbors, and people in need.



You are allowed to go to the pharmacy, the doctor, the post office, and the bank.



You are allowed to care for your pet in the appropriate way (eg. taking your dog out for a short walk) and you are allowed to go to the pet-food-shop. When walking your dog avoid crowded paths and areas, evade rush hours - take the situation seriously.



You are allowed to go to and return from work and you are allowed to move freely if professionally necessary. But you have to be able to keep a minimal personal distance of one meter.



You are allowed to take public transport, if necessary. Keep your distance and consider walking or riding a bicycle instead of using facilities of mass transportation.



It is allowed to go for a walk on your own or with people of your household. This is in keeping with the Tyrolean more restrictive view concerning free movement.



You are **NOT** allowed to go for a hike or a ski-tour in the mountains, climbing, mountain biking etc. as it might jeopardize our efforts by binding important emergency-forces in the mountains when we desperately need them to fight the Corona-Virus.



Do not forget to keep a healthy distance of at least one meter.



Expect to be stopped by police. Follow the orders of police and public security forces. Accept refusal of entry.