

Press Conference of the Austrian Government

April 6, 2020

On Monday, April 6, 2020, the Austrian government held a press conference, making new measures and regulations public that include the following:

The current measures of "Social Distancing" have been prolonged until at least the end of April. This means people are to leave the house only to go to work, go shopping for necessary items, to go to the doctors, for walks or other physical activities, and to help others. No "Easter gatherings", family dinners etc. are to be held or attended.

At the same time, the official quarantine of the whole region of Tyrol is lifted. Starting April 7, 2020 people living in the Tyrol are posed under the same measures as the rest of the Austria. Walks, hikes, sports etc. need to follow the distancing rules (1 meter) and are restricted by self responsibility. Authorities urge anybody to abstain from ski tours, mountain biking, climbing, or dangerous hikes. These activities may stretch rescue and emergency personnel in case of accidents. Please do refrain from such activities, but do enjoy your regular jog/run or outdoor workout - alone!

The plan for the upcoming months is a slow "opening" of all businesses:

- Starting April 14, small stores (< 400 square meters in size), DIY stores, and garden centers may reopen under certain restrictions (small number of customers at any time, facemasks, distance of 1 meter).
- Protection by facemask (or scarfs) will become mandatory on public transport from April 14, 2020.
- Austria's Bundesgärten (federal gardens) will open on April 14, 2020 with checkpoints at their entrances to prevent overcrowding.
- Starting May 1, all other stores, shopping malls, and hairdressers may reopen under certain restrictions (small number of customers at any time, facemasks, distance of 1 meter).
- Starting mid-May, restaurants, cafes and hotels may reopen under certain restrictions (small number of customers at any time, facemasks and other measures to be settled by the government by the end of April).
- All events will remain cancelled until the end of June 2020.
- Measures may (again) become more restrictive at any time (f.eg. if infection numbers start rising).
- Further measures will be evaluated at the end of April.
- A special press conference about schools and universities will be held by the respective minister. The University of Innsbruck will continuously provide students with information regarding the further course of this term.

Stay tuned and stay healthy!