

**What do you need to know regarding the state of emergency declared in Georgia due to COVID-19 as of 3 April, 2020**

3 April, 2020



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# Contents

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# Introduction



Georgia declared a state of emergency on 21 March 2020 in response to the continuing spread of the COVID-19 outbreak. It will last until 21 April 2020. Presidential Decree No. 1 sets out the key measures that must be taken during the state of emergency. On 23 March 2020, the Georgian government issued Ordinance No.181, which expands on these restrictions. Recently, new amendments have been made to the ordinance. The key highlights are provided on the following slides.

# Restrictions on gatherings

## Scope of the new restrictions

The following restrictions have become more stringent:

- The limit for gatherings in a public space has been lowered to three individuals. “Public space” refers to any space, indoors or outdoors, that is not a place of residence.
  - Social events (such as weddings) attended by more than three individuals are similarly prohibited.
  - Assemblies and demonstrations remain prohibited until the state of emergency is lifted.
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## Exceptions

These restrictions **do not apply** to:

- Gatherings in medical facilities and state bodies;
- Construction/infrastructure works if they are pre-approved by Operational Headquarters (a special state body responsible for management of the state of emergency).

Moreover, gatherings of more than three individuals are **exempt** as long as they (1) maintain a social distance of at least two meters and (2) comply with the recommendations of the Ministry of Health.

# Restrictions on free movement

## Scope of the new restrictions

**In addition to the restrictions already in force, several major new measures have been introduced:**



- All public transportation (both between and within municipalities) is suspended. This includes transportation by means of M2 and M3 category buses or the metro.
- Transportation of more than three persons (including the driver) per vehicle is prohibited. The recommendations of the Ministry of Health must be observed; these include, inter alia, seating passengers in the back seat when vehicle design allows.
- A mandatory curfew is now in place, requiring the population to remain indoors from 21:00 to 06:00.
- People aged 70 or older are now prohibited from leaving their place of residence/legal address (with only a few exceptions, i.e. to purchase food/medication or receive medical services that cannot be provided on site).
- All individuals must carry an identity document when traveling outside (on foot or otherwise).
- The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia and the Ministry of Defense of Georgia will set up checkpoints in Tbilisi, Batumi, Kutaisi, Rustavi, Poti, Zugdidi and Gori to control the municipal borders of these cities and stem the spread of Covid-19.

# Restrictions on businesses

**Under the new restrictions, certain activities are suspended during the state of emergency. All other (i.e. permitted) economic activities, regardless of their form or type, must comply with the recommendations of the Ministry of Health of Georgia.**

**Only the following economic activities are permitted during the state of emergency:**



- Activities at medical facilities;
- Retail of certain goods (food, animal feed, animal and plant products, personal hygiene products, veterinary drugs, pesticides and agrochemicals, seeds and planting equipment);
- Activities of mills, bakeries, and dairy processing plants;
- Production, transmission, distribution or supply of electricity, natural gas or water; supply of gasoline, diesel or liquefied gas; provision of services related to telecommunications, post or waste management;
- Activities of commercial banks, microfinance organisations and payment system operators;
- Activities of payment system providers and their agents that operate self-service kiosks;
- Activities required for the continuous operation of ATMs, self-service kiosks and POS terminals;
- Remote supply or sale of banking/finance services and products;

## Restrictions on businesses (continued)

- Production, distribution and sale of medical goods and pharmaceuticals;
- Activities related to agriculture and livestock/poultry;
- Transportation services using light vehicles (M1 category taxis);
- Food/medical/pharmaceutical delivery services;
- Private security services;
- Attorney services;
- Automobile repair services;
- News kiosk activities;
- Extraction and processing of oil and gas;
- Any economic activity that is carried out remotely (without leaving home).

**The ordinance defines remote work as work carried out at home or, in critical cases, from a work place, provided that no more than five people are present in one office.**

**The government is authorised to elaborate an additional list of non-restricted activities during the state of emergency. For instance, it has recently approved appendices No.2 and No.3 to the ordinance which additionally specify the permitted fields of economic activity. Furthermore, Appendix No. 1 lists specific business entities permitted to carry out economic activities.**

# Restrictions on property rights

**The restrictions state that, in specific cases, individuals and legal entities may be required to make their property or assets available to the state at the request of the Ministry of Economy and follow any relevant instructions. The obligations imposed under this restriction vary based on the field in which a company operates, as follows:**

- **Air transportation:** companies are required to provide charter flights to requested destinations to repatriate Georgian nationals and/or transport cargo to Georgia;
- **Road transportation:** companies are required to transport people and/or cargo to quarantine zones or the relevant destination (within Georgia);
- **Accommodation Facilities:** companies are required to provide hotels and/or similar accommodation facilities (including related services) and place people under mandatory quarantine by furnishing the appropriate conditions to prevent the spread of Covid-19.



# Liability for non-compliance



**Presidential decree No.1 establishes the liability for non-compliance with the decree and relevant governmental ordinances:**

**First-time offenders face administrative liability—**

- **Individuals:** a fine of GEL 3,000;
- **Legal entities:** a fine of GEL 15,000.

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Re-offenders face **criminal liability—**

- **Individuals:** detention of up to 3 years;
  - **Legal entities:** a fine; or prohibition of business activities; or a fine and liquidation.
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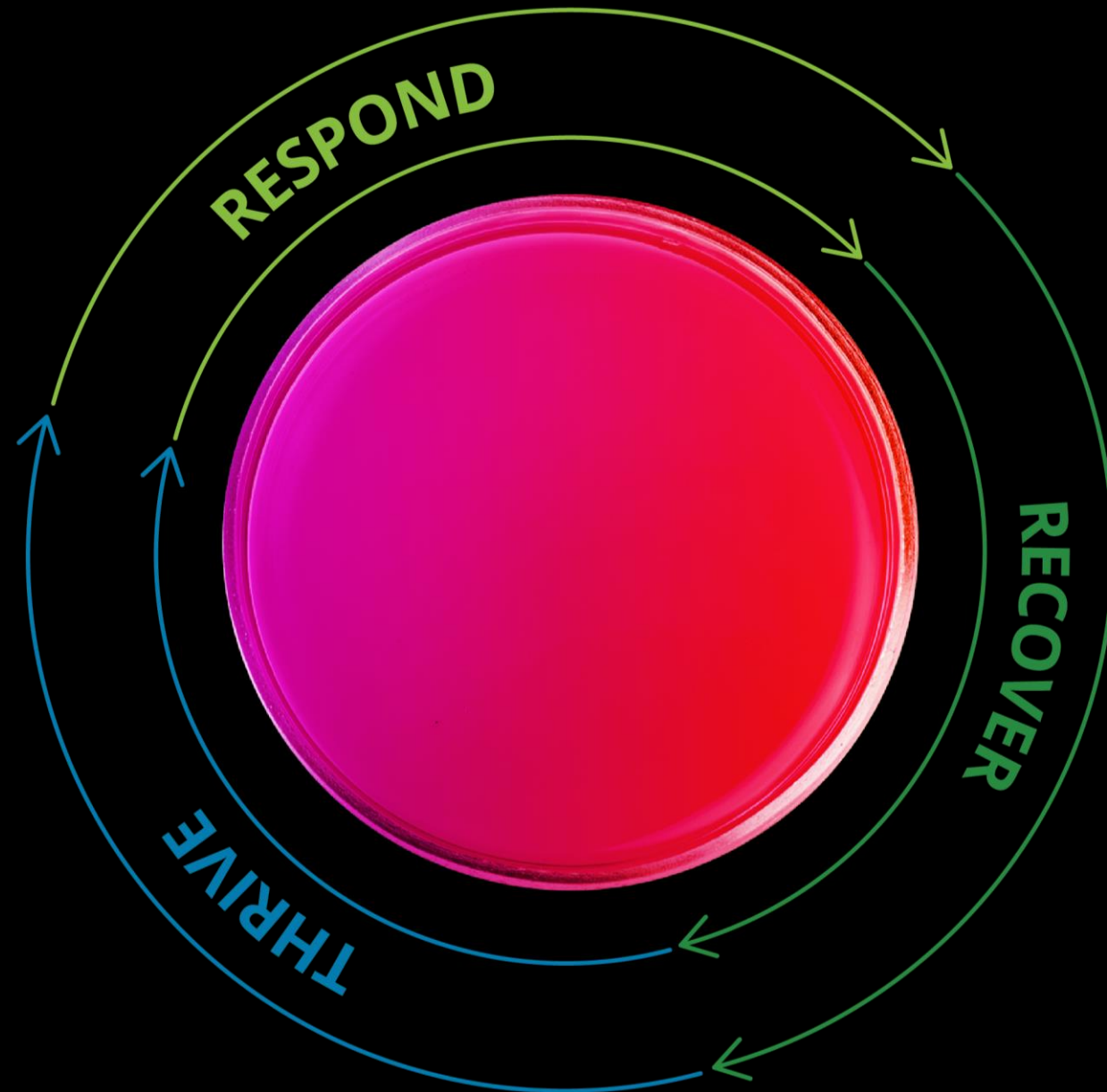
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