



QUESTIONS &  
ANSWERS

# CORONAVIRUS & IMMIGRATION

## HOW THE CORONAVIRUS STATE AFFECTS IMMIGRATION PROCESS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

### **I submitted my application via the Ministry of Interior on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Is my application on hold now?**

The Ministry should still be processing any application already submitted. However, they are not accepting any new applications at the moment. Note, that due to the special situation, the ministry is also affected by the number of employees physically at work and therefore some delays in approval are likely to occur.

### **My permit is about to expire next week. What shall I do?**

All permits are now automatically extended. As the Ministry will probably be extremely busy once the situation is over, if allowed, we recommend sending the application via post. If you want to make sure you are sending the right documents, please contact us.

### **My first long-term visa application/ Employee card was approved recently but I have not managed to collect it yet. Is the embassy going to issue the transit /long-term visa for me?**

Czech Embassies abroad are not issuing any visas at this moment. You will have to wait until this situation is over with your move to the Czech Republic.

### **My husband is French and he is in France right now. He does not have any temporary residence permit although he is living in Prague for 2 years, can he come back?**

The law allows only Czech citizens or foreigners with temporary or permanent residence permits to enter the Czech Republic now. If your husband does not have one or the other,, he cannot enter the Czech republic for now.

### **I have applied for a visa for me and my family in February, what happened with our process now, is the 60 days still counting or we shall expect a delay in our approval?**

If the applications were submitted via the Czech Embassy abroad, they are now put on hold. If they were submitted via the offices of the Czech Ministry of Interior, their

process should continue without any pauses, but please expect delays due to the situation.

### **Can I still collect a bridge visa?**

Bridge visa is a type of visa issued to NON-EU foreigners whose visa application is pending right now to make their travels abroad smooth and easier. This is one of the limited agenda that the Ministry is still taking care of. Make sure you make an appointment and to bring proof of your planned travels as the Ministry will not issue it if you are not traveling anywhere.

### **Is the Ministry of Interior open?**

The Ministry of Interior is now operating in limited hours – every Monday and Wednesday. All appointments made for after March 16 are cancelled. The Ministry is only issuing biometrical cards and bridge visas.

### **My Employee Card extension was approved, can I apply for a biometric card already?**

Right now the Ministry is only issuing biometrical cards. Scheduling the appointment for biometrical card applying will have to wait.

### **I arrived to Czech Republic on March 13<sup>th</sup>, do I have to register myself at foreign police?**

The Foreign Police is also operating in very limited hours. The possible penalty for not reporting the arrival is maximum 3000 CZK. The risk of exposure to the virus might be larger than possible financial penalty and due to this reason we recommend to consider conducting the report after the situation in the country is stabilised.

### **Can I go back to my country and return once this is over?**

Foreigners with permanent or temporary residence permits for over 90 days should not leave the country now. If you are not a holder of any permit in the Czech Republic, you should be able to leave.