

FAQs on the Italian Government's #ImStayingHome Decree

March 10, 2020

AREAS COVERED BY THE DECREE

1. Are there any differences between the regions?

No. The March 9 Decree, which entered into effect on March 10, and is valid until April 3, applies to the entire country.

2. Does the Decree provide for any special "red zones"?

No, there are no more "red zones". The restrictions provided in the previous March 1 Decree (establishing the "red zones") have been lifted. The March 9 Decree contains a single set of rules that apply to the entire population.

TRAVEL

1. What does "avoid all travel" mean? Are there any specific travel restrictions in place? Are people allowed to go out to work? Are people under quarantine allowed to travel?

People must stay at home. Travel is allowed solely for work requirements, health needs or reasons of necessity, such as shopping for food and other essentials. In any case, work requirements and health needs must be proven by way of a self-declaration, using the printed forms provided by law enforcement officers. The consistency of the information provided in the self-declarations shall be checked at a later stage and any persons found to have made untruthful statements shall be subject to criminal prosecution. It is advised to use smart working, where possible, or to take holiday entitlement or leave from work. People with no valid reasons to travel must stay at home, for their own and everybody else's safety.

People under quarantine or who have tested positive to Covid-19 are "strictly forbidden" from going out.

2. If I live in one town and work in another, may I commute?

Yes, in this case travel is justified for work reasons.

3. Are there travel restrictions for people showing respiratory infection symptoms and a temperature above 37,5?

In this case, people are strongly advised to stay at home, contact their GP and limit contact with other people, as far as possible.

4. What does "proven work requirements" mean? How can self-employed people prove their "work requirements"?

People are allowed to go out to work, although it is always advised to use smart working, where possible, or to take holiday entitlement or leave from work. "Proven" means that you need to be able to prove that you are travelling either to or from work, also on the basis of a binding self-declaration (see FAQ 1), or by providing other proof, with the warning that untruthful statements shall entail criminal prosecution. If a check is carried out, you will be required to prove your work requirements and the Authorities will look

into any declarations you make, to establish its consistency and, if found untruthful, you shall undergo criminal prosecution.

5. Are cross-border workers subject to any restrictions?

Cross-border workers may leave and re-enter the country for work reasons, which, however must be proven by any means (see the previous FAQ).

6. Will any checkpoints be put into place to enforce compliance with the measure?

Checks will be carried out although there will be no permanent checkpoints to prevent people from travelling, since the measures concern the entire country. Law enforcement officers will be required to supervise compliance of the rules as part of their routine law enforcement activities.

7. Will people who find themselves away from their home or place of residence be allowed to return there?

Yes, everyone will be allowed to return to their home or place of residence, but once they have done so they will be able to travel only for work requirements, health needs or reasons of necessity.

8. Will people be allowed to go out to buy food? Are food supplies guaranteed?

Yes, everyone may go out to buy food and there is no need to stockpile because food supplies will be guaranteed as always.

9. Will people be allowed to engage in physical exercise?

Yes, outdoor physical activity is allowed, although not in groups.

10. May people go out to buy goods other than food?

Yes, but only if strictly necessary (for example, to buy essentials such as light bulbs for the home).

11. May people go out to care for non-independent elderly loved ones?

Yes, this is one of the cases included among the reasons of necessity. Please remember though that elderly people are also the most vulnerable group and should be protected from all unnecessary contacts.

HAULAGE & PUBLIC TRANSPORT

1. Are there restrictions in place for hauliers?

There are no travel restrictions for hauliers. All goods (not just essential goods) may travel across the country. Haulage is considered a valid work requirement therefore hauliers are allowed to travel, albeit only for delivering or collecting goods.

2. Are goods couriers allowed to travel?

Yes, they are free to travel.

3. I work as a haulier. Do any restrictions apply to my job?

No, there are no restrictions to haulage travel and to the loading/unloading of goods.

4. Are there limitations on non-scheduled public transport?

No restrictions apply to non-scheduled public transport, nor to taxi and car leasing with driver services because they are considered work requirements.

PUBLIC OFFICES AND EMPLOYEES

1. Will public offices remain open?

Yes, nationwide. All government-related activities shall continue as usual. In any case, almost all services are available online. However, teaching and training activities are suspended in schools, kindergartens, museums and libraries.

2. The Decree provides that hand sanitisers must be made available to all staff members and members of the public in public offices nationwide. If such hand sanitisers are temporarily unavailable shall the office remain open?

Public offices shall remain open in all cases. The availability of hand sanitisers is an additional precautionary measure and its temporary unavailability shall not justify closing the office. Instead, all the necessary measures must be taken to ensure supplies.

3. If a public office staff member comes down with a temperature, will he/she be considered on ordinary sick leave or will the Decree apply and the sick days deducted from the overall sick leave entitlement?

The ordinary sick leave rules shall apply. If it is found, later on, that the employee has to be placed in quarantine or has been infected with Covid-19, the sick days shall not be deducted from the sick leave entitlement.

4. I'm a public employee and would like to use smart working. Which tools do I have?

The new measures seek to incentivise smart working by streamlining eligibility. It is up to each employer to identify the necessary measures for allowing the largest possible number of employees to use smart working tools. Employees may make a request to this effect, which will be accepted or not depending on the available facilities.

EATING OUT

1. Will it be business as usual for bars and restaurants?

Bars and restaurants are allowed to open from 6 am to 6 pm, provided that a safety distance between people of at least one metre can be enforced. Violation of this rule shall entail the closing down of the establishment.

2. Will the home delivery of food and beverages be allowed?

The 6 am to 6 pm limit only applies to premises open to the public. During closing hours home delivery services are allowed and it is up to the delivery service - whether an outlet or an online platform - to ensure that there is no personal contact at delivery.

3. I own a pub. Will I be allowed to continue operating?

Under the Decree pubs will be allowed to only serve food and beverages. All other activities are banned, such as games and other activities conducive to gatherings of people and crowds (such as, for example, live music shows, screenings or other similar activities).

The same opening hours apply as in the case of bars and restaurants (from 6 am to 6 pm), as well as the obligation to enforce a safety distance between people of at least one metre.

4. Will theatres, cinemas, museums, archives, libraries and other cultural institutions be allowed to open?

No, they shall remain closed nationwide.

SCHOOLS

1. What does the Decree provide for schools?

School attendance is suspended at all schools until April 3, 2020. Online and distance learning will be possible, taking into account the specific needs, in particular, of disabled students.

UNIVERSITIES

1. What does the decree provide for universities?

Until April 3, 2020, attendance of all institutes of higher education, including universities and other arts and music institutions, vocational courses, master programmes and university programmes for elderly people is suspended. Online and distance learning will be possible, taking into account the specific needs, in particular, of disabled students. Research activities shall not be affected and shall continue as usual.

2. Will it be possible to hold ordinary and graduation exams?

Yes, although the use of teleconferencing systems should be preferred and, in any case, by adopting the health and safety and organisational precautions set out in the March 4 Decree; if teleconferencing systems are used the necessary measures must be adopted to ensure adequate publicity.

3. Will it be possible to hold student-teacher meetings and carry out other teaching-related activities?

Yes. Doctoral programmes, student-teacher meetings, access tests, laboratory work, etc. may continue, provided that the necessary precautionary health and safety measures are put into place, or preferably by way of teleconferencing systems. Here too it shall be necessary to take into account the needs of disabled students.

4. Are there any provisions regarding medical specialisation activities?

The suspension of teaching activities does not include postgraduate programmes for medical and healthcare professionals, including specialisation programmes and traineeships for the healthcare and medical professions. Research activities shall not be affected and shall continue as usual.

5. How does the Decree affect Erasmus+ students?

Regarding the Erasmus+ projects, reference should be made to the instructions issued by the competent European institutions, and Erasmus students will continue to receive all useful information.

CEREMONIES AND EVENTS

1. What does the Decree provide for ceremonies and entertainment and other events?

All events and shows are suspended nationwide, whether in public or private spaces and venues, regardless of their nature, whether cultural, games, sports, religious or trade fairs, including those carried out in indoor venues open to the public (such as, for example, cinemas, theatres, pubs, dance schools, betting shops and bingo halls, dance clubs and similar venues).

2. Is it allowed to enter churches or other places of worship? Will religious services be held?

Until April 3, all civil and religious services and ceremonies are suspended, including funerals. Therefore, religious services and other rites, such as Friday morning prayer for the Islamic community, are suspended.

Churches and other places of worship may open to the public, provided that this does not create crowds and that the safety distance of at least one metre between persons is enforced.

TOURISM

1. What does the Decree provide for tourism travel?

All tourism travel must be strictly avoided nationwide. Italian and foreign tourists still on holiday in the country should travel solely to return to their place of residence or home.

Tourists are able to return home because all airports and railway stations shall remain open, although it is advised to check for information about flights and other transport schedules on the website of the airline, ferry or rail company.

2. How will the restrictions relating to bars and restaurants apply to accommodation establishments?

Accommodation establishments will be allowed to provide food and beverages also between 6 pm and 6 am, albeit exclusively to their clients and in accordance with the health and safety requirements set out in the March 8 Decree.

3. Should accommodation establishments check a guest's reasons for travelling?

Accommodation facilities are not responsible for checking compliance with the travel rules.

AGRICULTURE

1. Is the transport of live animals, animal feed and agri-food and fishery products subject to any restrictions?

No restrictions apply to this sector.

2. Are farmers and farm workers, including seasonal workers, subject to any work restrictions?

No, they are not.