



Hungarian Helsinki Committee

# HUNGARIAN HELSINKI COMMITTEE

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## Who can enter Hungary during the epidemic preparedness?

### Information leaflet of the Hungarian Helsinki Committee

*Last update: 14 September 2020*

This leaflet summarises the new travel restrictions which entered into force on 1 September 2020.

#### Who can enter Hungary?

According to the Government's decree, the following people can enter:

- **Hungarian citizens;**
- **those who can prove** when crossing the border that they **contracted and then recovered from coronavirus in the past 6 months prior to coming to Hungary** (this can be proven e.g. by a Hungarian or English document containing the test results of a positive and a negative PCR coronavirus test)
- those entitled to a **permanent residence in Hungary and their family members if they can prove** this right by **their documents** (e.g. permanent residence card, EC permanent residence permit);
- holders of **permits** allowing **longer than 90 days stay in Hungary** if they can prove their right to stay in Hungary by their documents (e.g. residence permit for the purpose of study, residence permit for EEA nationals etc.);
- **competitors and experts of Hungarian sport associations**, if they come to Hungary following a sport event held abroad;
- **people delegated by Hungarian sport associations** to a sport event held abroad, if they come to Hungary following the sport event held abroad;
- **employees of Hungarian cultural institutions** if they attended a cultural event held abroad as presenters or members of technical staff;
- **refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection** if their status was given by Hungary;
- **employees or managers** of firms concerned in **affiliated companies**;
- **commuters** living in neighboring countries if they come to Hungary for no longer than 24 hours and they stay within the area of 30 km from the border line;



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- those coming to Hungary for **business or economic purposes**, if they can verify this purpose by an official [certificate](#);
- **spectators** of international sport events or cultural events held in Hungary, if they already bought tickets and can prove by a Hungarian or English document that they have a negative COVID test (PCR test) from no longer than 3 days before coming to Hungary, and they do not show symptoms of the virus at the medical check when they enter the country and lastly, they do not spend more than 72 hours in Hungary;
- **foreign citizens if they just want to cross Hungary, if**
  - they do not show symptoms of the virus at the medical check when they enter Hungary, and
  - only want to cross the country in order to enter a neighboring country, and
  - hold those documents which are necessary to enter Hungary and the neighboring country, and
  - use only those routes which are designated by the police for this purpose and they only stop for medical or technical reasons, and
  - leave the territory of Hungary within 24 hours;
- **Czech, Polish or Slovak citizens**, if they have a booking in Hungary for at least one night in September which was made before 1 September, and they can prove with a Hungarian or English document that they have a negative COVID test (PCR test) from no longer than 5 days before coming to Hungary.

It is important that you have all those documents on you which prove that you belong to some of the groups listed above (e.g. IDs, permanent residence card, document on COVID test result etc.).

If you belong to the groups mentioned here, the police cannot ban you from entering Hungary. If it still does so, you can turn to court to appeal the police's decision.

## What can you do if you cannot enter Hungary?

If you are a foreign citizen who cannot enter Hungary, you can ask the Police **to make an exemption**. You have to explain to the Police why exactly you should get this exemption.. If you wish to submit such request, please read our [information leaflet](#) on this.

## Do I have to quarantine after entering Hungary?

You may undergo a **medical check upon entering** the country.



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**If you are suspected to have contracted** coronavirus after the medical examination, you have to **quarantine in a place chosen for you by the authority (e.g. a hospital)**, or, if no epidemic risk arises, you have to **quarantine at home**.

**If you are not suspected to have contracted** coronavirus after the medical examination, you have to **quarantine at home for 14 days**. Over this period you cannot leave home. If you do not have a place to stay in Hungary, you have to spend this time at a place chosen for you by the authorities (e.g. a hospital).

If you are in quarantine, you **can ask the authorities to test you for COVID-19. They will take two test**, the second one within **5 days** following the first one but no sooner than **48** hours after the first test. If **both tests are negative**, the authority will give an **exemption from quarantine**.

However, if you already have a negative PCR test from the Schengen area (Switzerland, Norway, Lichtenstein, Iceland and EU countries with the exception of Bulgaria, Cyprus, Ireland, Croatia and Romania) Canada or the USA, and you get a second negative PCR test in Hungary within the time limits (no sooner than 48 hours but within 5 days), the authority will also let you out of quarantine. It is important to have a document of the first test result in English or Hungarian.

**If you come to Hungary from the Check Republic, Poland or Slovakia** and you had an accommodation booked in these countries before arriving to Hungary, if the booking was made before 1 September and if you are

- a Hungarian citizen or a foreign family member of a Hungarian citizen, or
- a person entitled to a permanent residence in Hungary and family member, or
- a holder of permit allowing longer than 90 days stay in Hungary, or
- a competitor or expert of a Hungarian sport association, if you come to Hungary following a sport event held abroad;
- a person delegated by a Hungarian sport association to a sport event held abroad, if you come to Hungary following the sport event held abroad;
- an employee of a Hungarian cultural institution, if you attended a cultural event held abroad as a presenter or member of technical staff

then **one coronavirus test with a negative test result is enough** to request the exemption from quarantine.

### **You do not have to quarantine, if**

- you **can prove** when crossing the border that you **contracted and then recovered from coronavirus in the past 6 months prior to coming to Hungary**;
- you are an employee or a manager of a firm concerned in **affiliated companies**;



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- you are a commuter as defined above or a Hungarian citizen living within 30 km from the border who returns from a neighbouring country and did not stay for more than 24 hours and no further than 30 km from the border in the neighbouring country;
  - you are coming to Hungary for **business or economic purpose** and you can verify this purpose;
  - you are a **spectator** of international sport events or cultural events held in Hungary as defined above;
  - you are a **foreign citizen** who
    - is an attendee of an international sport event held in Hungary, or
    - has an official invitation letter issued by the organizer of a sport event held in Hungary, or
    - a qualified competitor or sport expert arriving to Hungary for the invitation of a Hungarian sport association, or a person involved in the organization of the sport event, or
    - presenter or member of technical staff of a cultural event held in Hungary,
- and you have a document proving you were tested for coronavirus either once within 3 days or twice within 5 days before arriving to Hungary and the test result was negative;
- a **foreign citizen** who is only **crossing** Hungary as defined above;
  - **Czech, Polish or Slovak citizen**, if you have a booking in Hungary for at least one night in September and the booking was made before 1 September, and you can verify with a Hungarian or English document that you had a negative coronavirus test no longer than 5 days before coming to Hungary.

**If you are not exempted from quarantine, but you are a competitor or a sport expert of a Hungarian sport association or you were officially delegated abroad by a Hungarian sport association and you do not have a place to stay in Hungary**, then your place of quarantine will be the place of your sport activities. If you have a place to stay in Hungary, then both places – your home and the place of the sport association – will be designated as a place of quarantine. Commute between your place of stay and the place of your sport activities will be arranged by the sport association, so you can attend trainings. You can request a coronavirus test and exemption from quarantine in accordance with the rules described above, but the second test can already be conducted 24 hours following the first one.



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## Further information:

- Hungarian Helsinki Committee: [helsinki@helsinki.hu](mailto:helsinki@helsinki.hu)
- Contact the Consulate of Hungary in your country, and / or check the website of the Hungarian Consular Service – [HERE](#)
- Information published by the police - [HERE](#)
- Contact of the police – [HERE](#)

We constantly monitor the frequently changing rules and the practice of the authorities and update this information leaflet regularly. This information leaflet cannot be considered as legal advice.

## Relevant law:

- 48/2020. (VIII. 30.) Gov. Decree on travel restrictions during the epidemic preparedness
- 419/2020. (IX. 1.) Gov. Decree on traveling to Hungary from the territory of Czech Republic, Polish Republic and Slovak Republic