

CORONAVIRUS: BELGIAN EXIT STRATEGY - 27.04.2020

Introduction

The National Security Council met on Friday 24 April to determine the exit strategy from the corona crisis.

It is important to emphasize that certain rules remain in force, such as:

1. Limiting contacts between people;
2. Respecting safe distances;
3. Good hygienic reflexes, also called "barrier gestures".

The use of public transport: gradual phasing out will inevitably lead to an increase in the use of public transport. In order to avoid crowds, it is advisable: **to travel by your own means** (walking, cycling, car, etc.) in order to give priority to those who need public transport most; and **to avoid rush hour**.

Links

- [Statement by the Prime minister](#)
- [Guide to good practice](#) (drafted by the authorities, in cooperation with the social partners and validated by them)
- [National Security Council presentation](#)

Exit timeline (non-exhaustive)

PHASE 1A - 4 MAY	INDUSTRY B2B SERVICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working from home is still the standard. If homeworking is not possible, the companies that cannot meet the physical distancing requirements will be able to compensate by following a series of health recommendations, such as wearing a mask.
	SHOPS HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The shops currently closed remain closed, except for the fabric shops (textile) which, given their important role in the production of mouth masks, are allowed to open their doors.
	DAILY LIFE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covering the mouth and nose (using a so-called comfort mask or an alternative means of protection such as a scarf or a bandana) is recommended in public places, mandatory on public transport for users aged 12 years and over. • Physical activity in the open air is allowed with a maximum of two people in addition to those living under the same roof, provided that physical distance is always respected.
	TRAVEL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only essential trips from/to Belgium remain permitted, including professional journeys/professional commuting (in possession employer's certificate or company document).

PHASE 1B - 11 MAY	SHOPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This phase allows all shops to reopen at the same time - without discrimination on the basis of size or industry; this will of course be subject to conditions. These will be determined in consultation with the industries and the social partners. There are <u>three types of conditions</u>, relating to: work organisation, welcoming in customers, and restricting access to shops to avoid hustle and bustle. • Carrying out so-called contact professions (such as hairdressing, for example) is NOT permitted at this stage.
	SPORT COMPETITION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarifications for sport competitions will be provided.

PHASE 2 - 18 MAY	SHOPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conditions for contact professions will be provided.
	CULTURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conditions for the opening of the museums will be considered (for example through a ticketing system).
	SPORT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team sports will be possible in the open air, but only in a club setting and subject to certain conditions.
	EDUCATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gradual opening but not all pupils/students will be able to go back to school immediately (universities remain closed). • Each Community will be responsible for implementing this decision on its own territory, in consultation with the education sector.
	DAILY LIFE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certain possibilities will be examined, such as: - the ability to hold private meetings at home.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the ability to admit more people at weddings and funerals. - allow more than two people to be active outdoors together - the possibility to organize day trips to certain regions of the country.
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PHASE 3 - From 8 June at the earliest	SHOPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From now until the 8 June discussions on how to organise the possible and gradual reopening of restaurants and, at a later stage, cafes, bars and the like; under strict conditions.
	DAILY LIFE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From now until the 8 June discussions on how to organise, if allowed (has to be decided by the end of May), various summer activities such as internships, smaller open-air events, ... <p>NB: The only certainty is that mass events such as festivals are NOT allowed before 31 August.</p>
	TRAVEL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From now until the 8 June discussions on how to organise the restart of non-essential trips from/to Belgium.

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