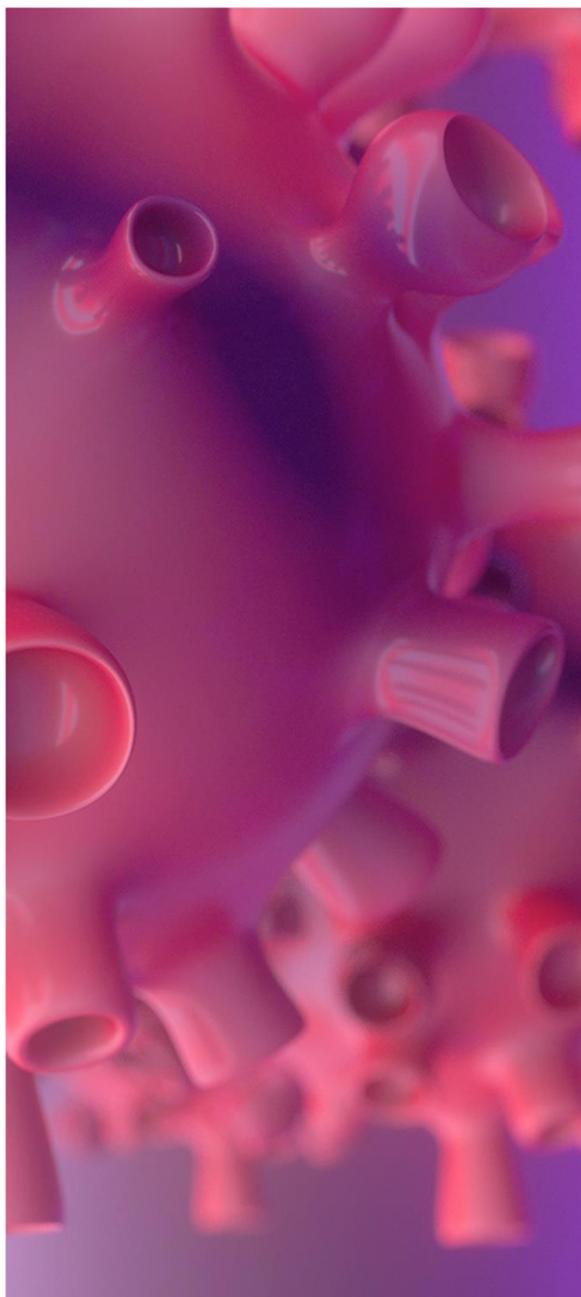

COVID-19 (No. 27)

Legal Flash | Portugal

August 3, 2020



- **End of the declaration of the situation of calamity and renewal of the situation of contingency and alert during the COVID-19 pandemic - Resolution of the Council of Ministers no. 55-A/2020 of July 31**



End of the declaration of the situation of calamity and extension of the situation of contingency and alert during the COVID-19 pandemic - Resolution of the Council of Ministers no. 55-A/2020 of July 31

As the measures adopted in Portugal to prevent, contain and mitigate the spread of infection clearly worked, the Portuguese government decided to continue the process of “de-confinement” that started on April 30, 2020, and, for reasons of public health, to keep in place the need to observe rules about occupancy, length of stay and social distancing, as well as certain hygiene rules.

In recent weeks, there has been a general decline in the number of new COVID-19 cases throughout the country, including in the 19 districts (*freguesias*) in the Lisbon Metropolitan Area that had been covered by the declaration of a state of calamity. However, there are still higher rates of infection in Lisbon and the Tejo Valley than in the rest of the country.

Therefore, the government decided to continue the situation of contingency for the Lisbon Metropolitan Area, which is still subject to stricter measures than those applicable to the rest of the country, but to change the directive for the 19 districts (*freguesias*) that had previously been subject to a situation of calamity so they too would now be covered by a situation of contingency and subject to the same rules and restrictions as those of the rest of the Lisbon Metropolitan Area.

Accordingly, under the Resolution of the Council of Ministers no. 55-A/2020 of July 31, the government ordered:

- a) a situation of contingency for the Lisbon Metropolitan Area;
- b) a situation of alarm for the rest of mainland Portugal.

This declaration was effective from midnight on August 1, 2020, and it will remain effective until 11:59 p.m. on August 14, 2020.

During this new period, the government has kept in place most of the previously approved restrictive measures that applied to the area covered by the situation of contingency and alert regarding (i) freedom to meet in public places and thoroughfares, (ii) opening and closing times for commercial premises and service establishments, and (iii) the ban on selling alcoholic drinks. You can read about this in [COVID-19 Legal Flash no. 23 \(06/29\)](#) and [COVID-19 Legal Flash no. 25 \(07/14\)](#).

Since risk levels are lower than those leading to the state of emergency, autonomous regions are subject to the systems imposed by their respective governments at any given time. As it stands, the government of the Autonomous Region of Madeira has extended the situation of calamity



throughout the region until 11:59 p.m. on August 31, while the government of the Autonomous Region of the Azores has extended the declaration of a situation of calamity for the islands of Santa Maria, São Miguel, Terceira, Pico and Faial, and the declaration of a situation of alert for the islands of Graciosa, São Jorge, Flores, and Corvo, until midnight on August 15. In addition to the rules and restrictions the Portuguese government has established, which apply throughout the country, each autonomous government can set other restrictive measures that apply at a regional level.

> **Measures that apply to the Lisbon Metropolitan Area**

As explained above, most of the **rules governing commercial activities that were applied under the previous declaration of a situation of contingency remain in effect**. The rule under which all commercial premises must close by 8 p.m. (including those in shopping malls) remains in effect, with the exemptions indicated in previous legal flashes.

The limits and restrictions on the sale and consumption of alcohol in the Lisbon Metropolitan Area also remain in place during this period.

> **New measures that apply to the areas subject to the declaration of alarm (i.e., mainland Portugal)**

Restaurants and similar establishments can now close at 1 a.m. and admit new customers up to midnight (in the previous stage of de-confinement, new customers could only be admitted up to 11 p.m. and there was no set closing time).

Bars and other premises selling drinks that do not offer entertainment or that have dance floors must remain closed. However, these types of premises can now operate as cafes or coffee shops without needing to change their economic classification, provided (i) they observe the rules and guidance issued by the Directorate-General of Health, and (ii) dance floors and similar areas are not used for this purpose and either remain unusable or are equipped with tables for customers.

Public and private national, regional and municipal caves can now open to the general public, as can all sports facilities that were previously closed, such as indoor halls and venues, indoor futsal, basketball, handball, volleyball, roller hockey and similar facilities, indoor skating and ice hockey rinks and similar, boxing and martial arts rings and similar, and indoor athletics tracks.

Each of these facilities must observe all the hygiene rules that apply to other premises that are open to the public, adapted as necessary.



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Cuatrecasas has set up a Coronavirus Task Force, a multidisciplinary team that constantly analyses the situation emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic. For additional information, please contact our Task Force by email TFcoronavirusPT@cuatrecasas.com or through your usual contact at Cuatrecasas. You can read our publications or attend our webinars on our [website](#).

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