

# Measures taken in France to tackle the Covid-19 outbreak

*Updated on Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021*

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# THE GOVERNMENT'S SANITARY STRATEGY

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- **On the 29<sup>th</sup> of April, the President of the Republic announced the following plan to ease measures across France:**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> of May: Reopening of secondary schools, lifting of inter-regional travel restrictions, and the end of daytime displacement certificates;
- 19<sup>th</sup> of May: Shops will be able to reopen, as well as terraces (6 people maximum to a table), and the curfew will be pushed to 9pm;
- 9<sup>th</sup> of June: The curfew will be pushed to 11pm, cafés, restaurants and gyms will be able to reopen (completely), and the rules on working from home will be relaxed;
- 30<sup>th</sup> of June: the curfew will be abolished and events with more than 1,000 people will be allowed.

- **This timetable is subject to adjustment depending on the local epidemiological situation, which will be measured on three indicators:**

- The number of new daily cases, the incidence rate (cumulative cases over the past 28 days per 100,000 population) and the number of new daily admissions in intensive care units (ICU).

- **The Covid-19 vaccine rollout was launched on December 27<sup>th</sup>:**

- The Government's strategy can be broken down into the following objectives: '10-20-30':
  - By mid-April, 10 million people, by mid-May, 20 million people and by mid-June, 30 million people;
  - Vaccination will be open without age limit as of May 12<sup>th</sup>.
- The French application for tracking Covid-19 patients, TousAntiCovid, will soon include a logbook that will make it possible to prove the positive or negative result of a COVID-19 test, and eventually "a certificate of vaccination", in digital form.



# SANITARY MEASURES

- Between 7 p.m. and 6 a.m a curfew remains, and it is thus compulsory to present a certificate of displacement;
- Gatherings of more than 6 people are not permitted:
  - The consumption of alcohol on the streets is prohibited;
  - By prefectural order, access to certain sites (quays, banks, squares, etc.) may be prohibited depending on local circumstances.
- Only shops selling essential goods and services are allowed to open, including bookshops, record shops, plant and flower shops, hairdressers, etc.
- Schools have re-opened with strict sanitary protocols, including self-testing for both staff and students and the shutdown of classrooms as soon as there is a case of contamination:
  - Secondary school students in the most affected areas and high school students remain in hybrid teaching with the implementation of half classes.
- Since January 31<sup>st</sup>, all entry into France and all exit to or from a country outside the EU is forbidden except for compelling reasons;
  - Since April 3<sup>rd</sup>, leaving the territory to a country in the European area must be justified by a compelling reason (and the presentation of a negative PCR test);
  - Since April 14<sup>th</sup>, all flights from Brazil are suspended and reinforced restrictions (including a quarantine on arrival) were put in place for travelers from Brazil, Argentina, Chile, South Africa, and India (the list is evolving).
- The Government still recommends to favor teleworking with one possible day of office per week.



# LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

April

**16/04:** The regional and departmental elections will be held next June. During a debate in the National Assembly, the government's proposal was supported by all parties, with the notable exception of the Modem, allied with the majority group.

**26/04:** The health crisis exit bill was presented in Council of Ministers by the Minister of Interior. The bill establishes a transitional regime for the exit from the health crisis from June 2<sup>nd</sup> to October 31<sup>st</sup> 2021. The National Assembly will examine it on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

**27/04:** Minister of Economy Bruno Le Maire presented the national recovery and resilience plan. The plan has been submitted to the European Commission and, just as all other national plan, it will have to get the green light from the Council.

# ECONOMIC MEASURES



- According to the Government, **the extension of the economic support measures should cost €32 billion in 2021**, with €18 billion for the solidarity fund, €11 billion for partial unemployment and about €4 billion for exemptions from social security contributions;
- The deadlines for social and tax payments have been extended for April (under certain conditions);
- Since March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021, an aid to cover the fixed costs of companies facing payment difficulties has been put in place;
- A decree enacted on April 10<sup>th</sup> modifies the arrangements under the solidarity fund set up to provide financial assistance to companies impacted by the Covid-19 crisis for the month of March 2021:



- It creates a new regime for companies that have been prohibited from receiving the public end March and modifies the regime for companies having a shop located in closed malls;
- Whatever option was chosen by a company for the calculation of the reference revenue will continue to apply and may not be changed.

- The short-time working scheme is still available for:



- Companies affected by administrative closure;
- Those facing a drop in activity and/or supply difficulties;
- Those for which it is impossible to respect the sanitary protocol.



- Minister of Economy Bruno Le Maire explained that the state-guaranteed loan scheme will remain in place until the end of the year;
- Minister Bruno Le Maire confirmed that €11 billion, out of the €20 billion planned, will be released at the beginning of May within the framework of participative loans to help companies restart after the health crisis and the lockdown.

# ECONOMIC MEASURES



- The €500 aid for the digitization of very small businesses has been extended until June 30<sup>th</sup> to all businesses with fewer than 11 employees, all sectors of activity included;
- Companies employing "recurring seasonal workers" will be able to place them in partial unemployment and benefit from the related aid until the end of June;



- No penalty, sanction or action in case of non-payment of professional or commercial rents with specific size and turnover loss conditions;
- The government is to compensate businesses in four sectors (clothing, footwear, leather goods and sports shops) that have been hit by unsold stock due to the pandemic:

- The average aid will be €6,000 and will go to establishments with fewer than 50 employees.



- At the end of April, Minister of Economy Bruno Le Maire announced the promise of a new aid system for SMEs to navigate debts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic:

- The system will contain an early warning system to identify companies facing financial difficulties and new adapted financial responses;

- The scheme should be finalised within a fortnight to three weeks' time.



- The 'Macron Grant' has been extended until 2022. The conditions remain the same, but the amount is increased to €2,000 if the employer has implemented a profit-sharing agreement. It remains fully exempt from charges and taxes:

- The government wants to give priority to workers in the so-called "second line", i.e., all those who, at the height of the crisis, continued to work;

- For these employees, the maximum may be raised to €2,000 if the company or branch formally commits to actions to enhance the value of these workers (method agreement at branch or company level committing to undertake actions in this regard).

FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
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