



Risks associated with failure to comply with measures taken to combat the epidemic in the Russian Federation

February and March of the calendar year are the months in which a large number of people plan their dream vacations. However, the coronavirus infection, that has seized the world in 2020, and the mainstream panic made the actions and behaviour of people still planning to travel abroad during this dangerous period highly uncertain.

The first phase of COVID-19 distribution was in February. Then all the doctors' recommendations for citizens of the Russian Federation served as guidelines, and many people were indifferent to those precautions. People relied on their strong immunity and went on holidays.

The second phase of the COVID-19 distribution coincided in time with the decree of Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyenin dated 5 March 2020 No 12-UM, in accordance with which citizens arriving from coronavirus insecure countries, such as China, South Korea, Italy, Iran, France, Germany and Spain shall comply with the isolation regime at home. Other constituent territories of the Russian Federation supported the practice, and on 13 March 2020, a similar government decree No 121 was adopted in St. Petersburg.

Until 18 March 2020, it had not been quite clear regarding those tourists who had arrived from countries not listed as 'dangerous'. Due to the gradually increasing panic around the world and the increase in the number of infected persons, the regulation of the Chief State Sanitary Doctor of the Russian Federation dated 18 March 2020 No 7 established the mandatory isolation of persons arriving from abroad. Within 14 days, these persons are also obliged to inform via hotline about their travelling outside the Russian Federation.

For failure to comply with the mandatory isolation, you may also be held liable. After calling a doctor at home and receiving a certificate of incapacity for work during a 14-day quarantine, the person signs documents on liability for violation of the quarantine.

A quarantined person, who has left the premises, may receive an administrative fine in the amount of 100 roubles to 1,000 roubles in accordance with:

- Part 1 of Article 19.4 of the Administrative Code of the Russian Federation (Failure to follow the lawful order of an official of a body exercising state supervision control), an official of an organisation authorised in accordance with federal laws to exercise state supervision, an official of a body exercising municipal control);
- Part 1 of Article 19.5 of the Administrative Code of the Russian Federation Failure to follow in due time a legitimate instruction (order, proposal, decision) of a body (official) exercising state supervision (control) of the entity authorised in accordance with federal laws to carry out the state supervision (official), body (official) exercising municipal control;
- Art. 6.3 Administrative Code of the Russian Federation Violation of law to ensure that the sanitary and epidemiological well-being of the population is guaranteed.

to hold specific posts for up to 3 years, compulsory community service for up to 360 hours or correctional labour for up to 1 year, restriction of freedom for up to a year;

- Violation of the sanitary and epidemiological rules that entailed the death of a person through negligence, is punishable by compulsory community service for a term of up to 480 hours, correctional labour for a term of 6 months to 2 years, or forced labour for a term of up to 5 years, or imprisonment for a term of up to 5 years.

On 25 March 2020, a draft law was introduced before the State Duma to toughen criminal liability (Article 236 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation) for the spread of coronavirus infection. If a person's actions negligently caused a massive disease of people, the punishment is a fine of up to 1 million roubles, or deprivation of the right to hold specific positions or engage in certain activities for up to 3 years, or imprisonment for up to 3 years. If the actions of an infected person entail, through negligence, the death of two or more persons, it is proposed to punish such an act with imprisonment for up to 7 years.

On 30 March 2020, the Government approved the draft law on amendments to the Code of Administrative Offenses, in accordance with which the fine for failure to comply with quarantine for citizens, whose actions during quarantine are dangerous for others, is from 15,000 to 40,000 roubles, for officials is from 50,000 to 150,000 roubles. If the actions of persons resulted in infection and the death of another person, the fine for citizens will be from 150,000 to 300,000 roubles, for officials is from 300,000 to 500,000 roubles. The maximum penalty for violation of quarantine measures is provided for legal entities in the amount of up to 1 million roubles. It is relevant for drinking establishments in the city of Moscow which hosted a 'royal night' on 27 March 2020 (if the legislator still waives the 'law does not have retroactive effect' rule).

Withholding the information about visiting foreign countries during the coronavirus infection pandemic may only complicate your situation, you just need to recall the example of the chief infectious disease specialist in the Stavropol Territory who became infected with coronavirus in Spain and then continued to lead a normal life.

Please take note of the above information and try to comply with quarantine measures to the maximum extent possible.

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