



REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

MINISTRY OF TOURISM

**RULES FOR IMPLEMENTING ANTI-EPIDEMIC MEASURES IN CARRYING OUT
TOURIST ACTIVITIES DURING THE WINTER SEASON 2021/2022**

Bulgaria – share your winter story!

The measures for the winter tourist season 2021/2022 are in accordance with the anti-epidemic measures introduced by the orders of the Minister of Health and are mandatory for implementation by all persons operating in tourist sites that are public facilities within the meaning of the Health Act, commercial sites or other sites.

During the winter tourist season 2021/2022, the Guidelines for the functioning of accommodation and food and entertainment establishments in the conditions of an emergency epidemic situation regarding to COVID-19 in Bulgaria, of the Ministry of Tourism, which are in accordance with the orders of the Minister of Health, with guidance and recommendations from the World Health Organization (WHO), the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control and Commission Communication COVID-19: EU Guidelines for the gradual resumption of tourism services and sanitary protocols in the hospitality sector and restaurant business from 13.05.2020, are observed.

The measures are observed in the conduct of all types of tourism and the provision of thematically oriented additional tourist services in the field of winter (ski), sea, cultural, culinary, health (balneo, SPA, wellness, medical), mountain, rural, wine, eco, congress, children's and youth, adventure, sports, hunting, golf and other types of tourism;

Key goals:

1. Implementation of anti-epidemic measures in connection with COVID-19 in order to ensure maximum protection of the health of tourists during the winter season 2021/2022.
2. Procedures to be followed in case of suspected coronavirus infection of the guest (s).
3. Complex and coordinated actions in accordance with the epidemic situation in the country related to COVID-19.

Measures in accommodation and good and entertainment establishments adjacent to them or on their own

✓ All persons, when they are in closed public places where citizens are served or have access, are obliged to have a protective disposable or reusable face mask, which is used in accordance with the recommendations in the Guidelines for the functioning of accommodation and food and entertainment establishments in the conditions of an emergency epidemic situation regarding to COVID-19 in Bulgaria of the Ministry of Tourism and comply with the orders of the Minister of Health. The guidelines are published on the institutional website of the Ministry of Tourism:

<https://www.tourism.government.bg/kategorii/covid-19>

✓ Upon arrival of guests, the flow of guests in the site is regulated and controlled, not mixing incoming and outgoing flow, no accumulation of tourists in one area and the requirement for a physical distance of 1.5 m is observed;

✓ In a prominent place, in front of the entrance of the site and at the reception, there are information boards (or otherwise) for the maximum number of guests who can stay in a part of the site, for hand hygiene and compliance with physical distance of at least 1.5 m;

✓ No more than 1 guest per 8 square meters is allowed, depending on the size of the reception area. An exception is allowed for members of one family.

Procedures in case of suspicion of coronavirus infection in a guest at the place of accommodation (the so-called “Health Protocol“)

✓ If a coronavirus infection is suspected in a guest, the guest is isolated in a predetermined room. The site is not quarantined, the orders of the Minister of Health and the prescriptions of the relevant

regional health inspectorate are observed, as the latter may introduce additional measures, restrictions and prohibitions depending on the epidemic situation in the site.

✓ The specific steps that the hotelier must follow in such a case will have to be specified on the spot by the health authorities, according to the specific case.

The following actions are taken:

✓ Provide the guest with a disposable or reusable face mask. Separate him / her from other tourists and provide the opportunity to be examined by a doctor in a pre-determined room. Offer him / her a hand sanitizer to perform hand hygiene;

✓ Designate one person, not different staff, to care for the guest (if necessary) who is ill until the arrival of the medical professionals. If possible, the person should have completed a vaccination course against COVID-19;

✓ The designated person should apply standard precautions, including hand hygiene and the use of personal protective equipment (disposable or reusable face mask and gloves);

✓ Strictly follow the instructions and recommendations of the doctor at the site or the medical specialists of the medical institution with which the site has a service contract, RHI or the Center for Emergency Medical Care;

✓ Family hotels and guest houses are not obliged to have a service contract with a medical institution. They strictly follow the instructions of the Center for Emergency Medical Care regarding the patient and the recommendations of the RHI health inspectors regarding the contact persons and the anti-epidemic measures;

✓ After isolation / transportation of the guest, ventilation, cleaning and disinfection of the premises / places where he / she stayed is performed.

Measures in case of transfer of tourists and in case of organized tourist packages with bus transport

✓ The order of transfer of tourists and organized tourist packages by bus is determined by the respective carrier in compliance with anti-epidemic measures;

✓ The transfer of tourists, if possible, is carried out with open windows of the vehicle for ventilation;

✓ Stickers with the main anti-epidemic measures and for their observance are placed in the vehicle.

Cabin lifts, chair lifts and ski lifts.

Tourists must cover their mouths and noses during their stay in the cabin, as well as in the territories of the lift stations by means of a protective face mask. The recommendation also applies to all lifts, ski lifts, trails in the beginners' area, as well as in front of ticket offices. The number of passengers in the closed lift facilities may be limited at the discretion of the lift operator if necessary.

The organization of corridors and the control of the tourists boarding the facilities must be made in such a way as to observe a distance of at least one meter.

The cabins should be disinfected according to a schedule not less than three times a day with preparations approved by the Minister of Health for product type 2. Hand sanitizers approved by the Minister of Health must be placed in specially marked places before and after the use of the cabin facilities.

All-day operation of the cabins should be carried out with the windows and locks for air ventilation in them removed as much as possible.

Stickers showing a face with a protective mask should be placed in each cabin.

The distance between the queues waiting for the lifts should be at least one meter.

Food and entertainment establishments on the territory of the ski areas and ski lockers.

Restaurants on the territory of the ski areas should follow the adopted *Guidelines for the functioning of accommodation and food and entertainment establishments in the conditions of an emergency epidemic situation regarding to COVID-19 in Bulgaria of the Ministry of Tourism*. <https://www.tourism.government.bg/kategorii/covid-19>

On the territory of the ski lockers it is obligatory to cover the mouth and nose with the protective face mask. Marking of places with hand sanitizers approved by the Minister of Health is mandatory. Carrying out periodic disinfection of all contact surfaces. An organization should be introduced to

prevent the accumulation of persons and the introduction of the physical distance of 1.5 m between the users of the wardrobes.

According to the latest provisions of the Minister of Health, the establishments can operate under the following conditions: 100% of the staff at the site / persons involved in the event have been vaccinated or have suffered from COVID-19 or have a negative result from a pre-entry / event test certified by valid vaccination, illness or test documents and the site manager / the organizer of the event has made a decision and has created the necessary organization for admission to the site, respectively of the event only to persons who:

- have been vaccinated or have suffered from COVID-19, certified by valid vaccination or illness documents, or
- present a negative result from a polymerase chain reaction test performed for up to 72 hours before entering the site / event for COVID-19 or a rapid antigen test (up to 48 hours before entering the site / event), certified by a valid document.

The conditions do not apply to persons under 18 years of age.

A valid “green certificate” under Order No ПД -01-977 / 26.11.2021 of the Minister of Health is considered:

1. **“Valid EU digital COVID certificate for vaccination or similar document”** means a document for a completed vaccination course against COVID-19. The document must contain the names of the person written in Latin, according to the identity document with which he / she travels, date of birth, date on which the last received dose of vaccine against COVID-19, serial number of the dose, and the total number of doses in double vaccines, trade name of the vaccine against COVID-19, name of the manufacturer / holder of the marketing authorization, country of issue and name of the issuing competent authority and, for the EU certificate, its unique identifier.
2. **The completion of a vaccination course is considered** to be the administration of the appropriate number of doses of a COVID-19 vaccine listed in Annex No 3 and the expiry of a 14-day period from the date of administration of the last dose. The combination of one dose of Vaxzevria / AZD1222 with one dose of Comirnaty / BNT162b2 (Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine) is also considered a completed vaccination course.
3. **„Valid EU digital COVID illness certificate“** is a document certifying that a person has suffered from COVID-19 and which is valid for the period from the 11th to the 180th day from the date of the examination entered in the document. The certificate must contain the

names of the person written in Latin, according to the identity document with which he / she travels, date of birth, date of the first positive result of the NAAT test and a positive result (Positive), details of the issuing authority, country, which the examination was done and its unique identifier. “NAAT test” means a molecular test for nucleic acid amplification, such as polymerase chain reaction with reverse transcriptase (RT-PCR), cyclic-mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP) and transcriptional-mediated amplification (TMA) techniques used to detect the presence of ribonucleic acid of SARS-CoV-2 (RNA).

4. **A document analogous to the EU's digital COVID certificate of illness** is a document certifying that a person has suffered from COVID-19, and which is valid for the period from the 11th to the 180th day from the date of the examination entered in the document. The document must contain the names of the person written in Latin, according to the identity document with which he / she travels, date of birth, date of the first positive result of PCR test or rapid antigen test and positive result (Positive), information about the medical institution, carried out the examination (name, address or other contact details) or the issuing authority and the country in which the examination was conducted.
5. **“Valid EU digital COVID certificate for testing” or a similar document** is a document showing a negative result from a polymerase chain reaction test performed up to 72 hours before entry into the country or a negative result from a rapid antigen test conducted up to 48 hours before entry into the country, as of the date of sampling entered in the document. The document must contain the names of the person written in Latin, according to the identity document with which he / she travels, date of birth, type of test, written in Latin method (PCR or RAT) and negative result (Negative), date and time of collection test sample, trade name and manufacturer of the test (mandatory for rapid antigen tests), name of the laboratory / medical institution that performed the test, country where the test was performed and authority that issued the certificate / document, and for the EU certificate - and its unique identifier.

Ski schools

The activities of ski schools must be subject to strict rules: groups of up to 10 people, not allowing people with visible ill health to participate in them, as well as not allowing mixing or moving people from one group to another. The requirement for physical distance between the trainees and

the ski instructors must be observed during the training in the ski schools. Tourists should wear a protective face mask that covers the nose and mouth.

Prior to the start of the training, a filter should be provided (temperature measurement for the teachers involved in the process, the employees of the ski school and all trainees).

The distance between the clients during their training should not be less than 1.5 m, as the recommended and safest is the individual form of training.

Awareness on the territory of ski areas, ski lockers and ski schools

Placing signs / screens and information materials with instructions and rules that must be followed at all points where there is a significant flow of tourists - ticket offices, ski stations, parking lots, ski lockers, receptions, etc. In case of questions, tourists should turn for assistance to the employees of the tourist site, who should be familiar with safety measures.

Protective face and nose masks should be worn in the following places in winter resorts:

1. Public transport, shuttle buses, taxis;
2. Pharmacies, polyclinics, clinics, hospitals, social homes, nursing homes;
3. Shops and all retail outlets;
4. Banks, post offices and all public institutions;
5. Tourist information centers;
6. In restaurants until food consumption;
7. All closed public places.

The most important rules that must be followed by all:

1. Observance of at least 1.5 m distance from strangers;
2. Proper wearing of the protective face mask (covers the nose and mouth) in closed public places;
3. Refrain from shaking hands when greeting;
4. Cover your nose and mouth with a protective face mask when you are surrounded by many people and when outdoors;
5. Wash your hands often;
6. Sneezing and coughing should be done in the curve of the elbow or in a handkerchief;

7. Regular ventilation of closed spaces;
8. If you have symptoms or if you feel sick, **DO NOT GO OUT!** Contact one of the staff by phone and ask for a doctor's examination!

Measures can be changed at any time in the event of significant changes in the epidemic situation!