

## **COVID-19 pandemic in Romania**

**February 26, 2020** - The first known case of COVID-19 in Romania was confirmed in Gorj County. The Minister of Education and Research required schools to spread awareness about coronavirus.

**February 28, 2020** the Romanian Orthodox Church suggested that followers use their own spoons and avoid the traditional kissing of icons in church.

**March 2 -13, 2020** the National Committee for Special Emergency Situations decides:

- citizens arriving from other provinces or cities in mainland China, other localities in Lombardy, Veneto or Emilia-Romagna regions of Italy, as well as areas and localities in South Korea and Iran not previously specified for institutionalised quarantine, enter 14 days of self-isolation at home immediately upon returning to Romania.

- ban on all indoor or outdoor activities involving the participation of more than 1,000 people (these numbers were subsequently changed).

- flights from and to Italy have been suspended.

- close of all schools, from March 11 until 22, with the possibility of extending the measure

- a series of obligations for food units and for public and private providers of passenger transport are imposed, such as frequent disinfection of surfaces, avoiding crowds in commercial spaces, frequent disinfection of the passenger compartment in the means of transport, etc.

- a ban on sports, scientific, religious, cultural or entertainment events with over 100 participants in closed spaces until March 31. Likewise, the public activities for museums were suspended until March 31.

### **March 14–21: State of emergency**

- Schools closed
- Prices may be capped on medicines and medical equipment, on strictly necessary foods and on public utility services (electricity and heat, gas, water supply, sanitation, fuels, etc.).
- temporary closure of restaurants, hotels, cafes, clubs, gradual closure of borders, or limiting or prohibiting the movement of vehicles or persons in/to certain areas.
- no groups larger than 3 persons on the streets.
- Curfew from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.
- All shopping malls are closed, except for the sale of food, veterinary or pharmaceutical products and cleaning services. It is forbidden for foreign citizens and stateless persons to enter Romanian territory, except through the specially organized transit corridor, further exceptions being made for other categories, such as residents, family members, and others.
- Persons older than 65 can go out from home only between 11 a.m. – 13 a.m.

### **March 22–April 2: First deaths, national lockdown, Suceava quarantine**

**On March 22**, the first three deaths were reported in Romania.

**March 29**, Suceava, along with eight adjacent communes, is placed under total quarantine, the first Romanian city to be placed under complete lockdown since the start of the outbreak in late February, holding over a quarter of all infected cases, and about two thirds of all infected medical personnel.

- ban on international travel

#### April 4–present: Surgical masks, Easter Week

**April 4**, further extension the national lockdown period, and impose of a second local quarantine on the town of Țândărei, Ialomița County.

**April 7**, a 53 year old paramedic from Suceava became the first reported casualty among Romanian medical personnel. As of April 18, there were over a thousand infected medical staff in the country.

**April 9**, despite suspending all flights to and from countries with many cases of COVID-19 infections, Romania has allowed seasonal workers to leave the country. The German government reached an agreement to take over 80,000 foreign seasonal workers under strict conditions, with arrivals expected to take place during April and May.

- prohibition for the export of certain basic foods, ban of the commerce of majority share packages in the National Energetic System,
- residential buildings be equipped with sanitary products and that their stairways and elevators be periodically disinfected
- citizens to wear protective masks, even if homemade

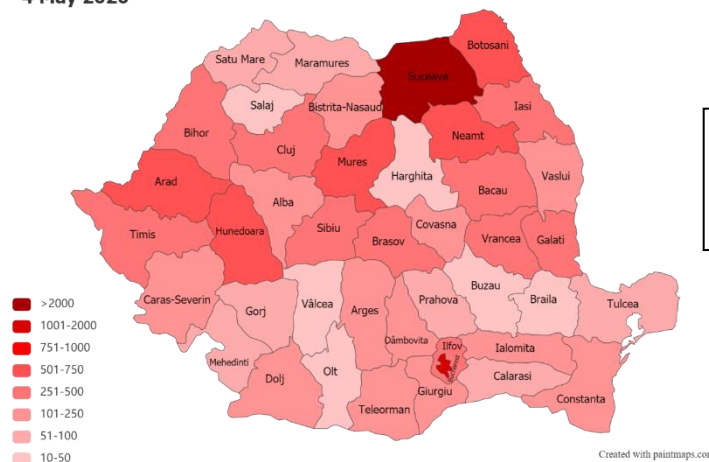
**April 27**, except for work and medical emergency, people over 65 are only allowed to leave their homes between 7 a.m.-11 a.m. and 7 p.m.-10 p.m.

The president announced that after expiring the emeegency situation on 15th May, a state of alert situation will follow and new measures will be implemented.

#### Education

- Schools remained closed since March 9
- The show Teleșcoală (Teleschool), was implemented by the Ministry of Education and started on TVR 2 on March 16, at 9 a.m. Students can follow, from Monday to Friday, mathematics, Romanian, biology, history and geography classes.
- On April 6, the cancellation of national exam simulations, as well as of all school competitions and olympiads.
- The ministry of education said that the Baccalaureate and the National Evaluation would most likely be held in later June, all of the examinations excluding the second semester curriculum.
- On April 24, the requirement of the Ministry of Education for teachers to teach online has become formal. The order is highly contested by teachers, students and parents, as the Romanian educational system is not prepared and trained to use extended online learning.

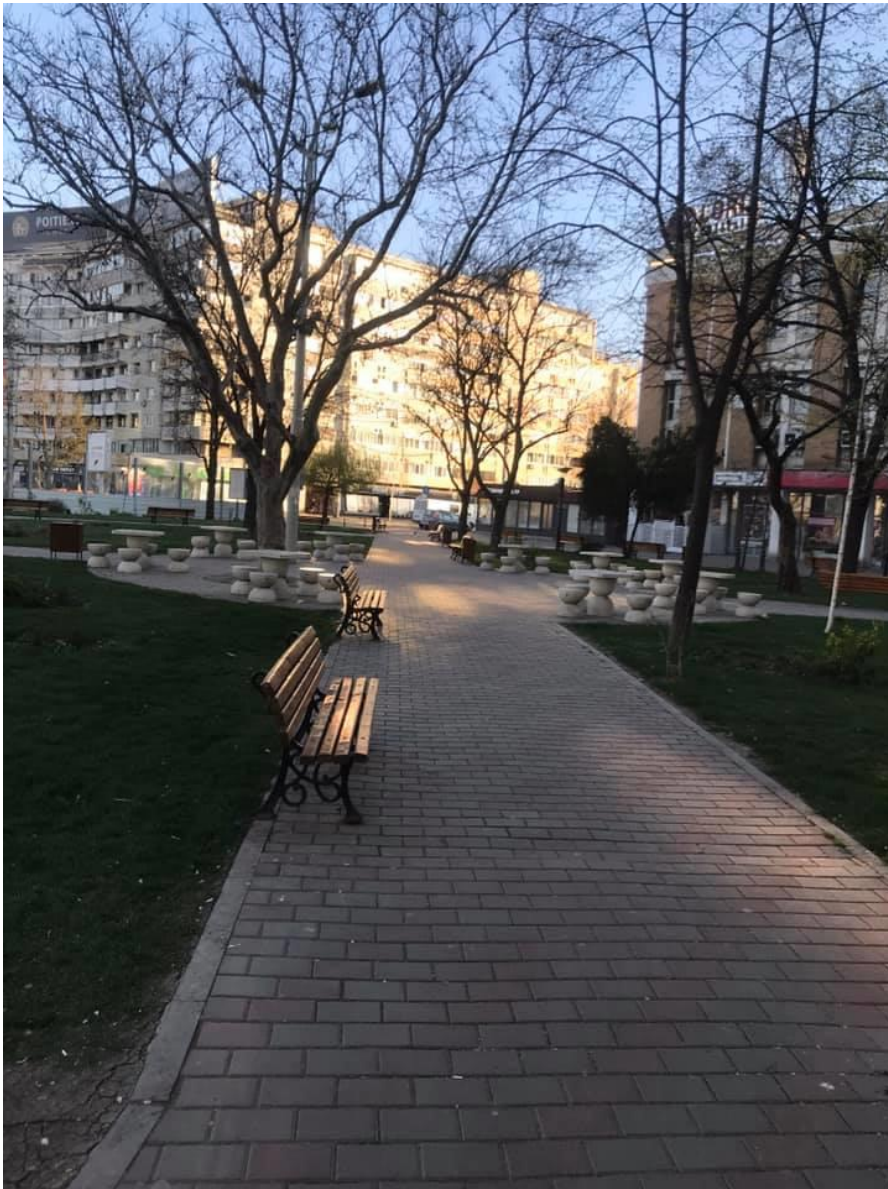
4 May 2020



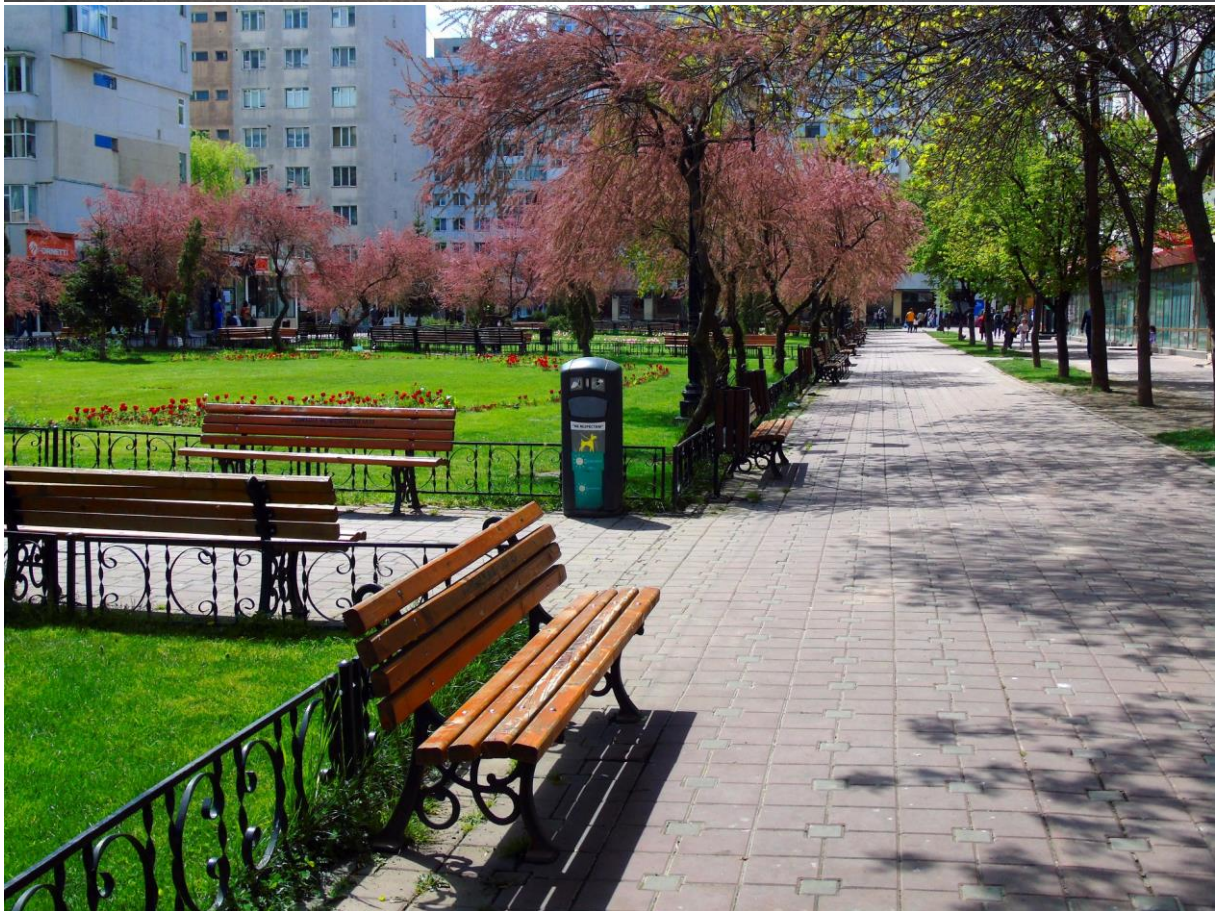
Iasi, empty city – I have never seen it like this...













A romanian young man came in the city **by horse**, to visit his wife and his new born son at the hospital!



Thousands of Romanian seasonal workers fly to Germany, despite COVID-19 restrictions





Empty stores....



...and queue at stores



Army at the entrances in the cities...





People at the church



Respect and love for all doctors!

