

THE STATE OF EMERGENCY

Due to the danger of the SARS-CoV-2 virus (coronavirus) spread, the Republic of Serbia declared a state of emergency on 15 March 2020. Therefore, in the upcoming period, different measures will be put in place aimed at preventing the spread of coronavirus, which include restrictions on the freedom of movement for all residents of asylum centers and reception centers in Serbia. Also, the presence of police officers and members of the military around asylum centers and reception centers will be increased, whereby leaving the centers will only be possible with the permission of the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration in cases of exceptional nature, such as an emergency visit to a doctor. In addition, anyone entering the territory of Serbia will be isolated for 14 to 28 days to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

WHY IT IS IMPORTANT

Many refugees and migrants in the territory of the Republic of Serbia have passed through states designated as coronavirus red zones, such as Iran. Bearing in mind that coronavirus symptoms can occur up to two weeks after infection, it is important that anyone arriving in the territory of Serbia or who is in contact with persons who have recently arrived in the territory of Serbia is kept in isolation for at least 14 days. At this point, the most important thing is that the coronavirus does not spread to asylum centers and reception centers and that the persons residing there remain protected from coronavirus. In addition to isolation, you need to regularly maintain personal hygiene as directed by the competent authorities and thus protect yourself and the people in your immediate vicinity from the coronavirus.

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT COMPLYING WITH THE RULES

Failure to observe the freedom of movement restriction has serious consequences. If you leave the Asylum Centre or the Reception Centre on your own initiative, police officers may arrest you. If you are placed in hospital quarantine due to suspected infection, you must not leave the hospital or be sentenced to up to three years in prison.

Please follow the instructions you will receive in good time from the medical teams, the Commissariat and the UNHCR.