

The government does not rule out punishing those who do not respect the state of alert.

Only persons with mobility problems may be accompanied

The second state of alert in Spain since the restoration of democracy - the only precedent is the air traffic controller crisis in 2010 - is restricting the freedom of movement of its 47.1 million inhabitants to a maximum. Restricting freedom of movement throughout the country - only in certain cases and always alone, unaccompanied, except for people with mobility problems - is the measure with the greatest effect of the Royal Decree adopted by the government on Saturday at an Extraordinary Council of Ministers.

During the state of alert for the next 15 days, a period that could be extended with the approval of Congress, during which "the competent authority in the entire territory will be the Government," Pedro Sanchez said, "citizens will only be able to move through the streets of public use for the purchase of food, medicines and basic necessities. Among the exceptions provided for will be support for health centres and assistance and care for the elderly, minors, relatives, disabled or particularly vulnerable.

During the state of alarm, citizens and vehicles will only be allowed to travel on public roads and streets for the following activities:

1. The purchase of foodstuffs, pharmaceuticals and essential items.
2. To attend health centers.
3. To go to work or to provide employment services.
4. To return to your usual residence.
5. To assist and care for seniors, minors, dependants, the disabled, or people who are particularly vulnerable.
6. In cases of force majeure or of necessity.
7. Any other activity that is, by its nature, justified.
8. Vehicles may take to the roads for any of the aforementioned activities, as well as to refuel at gas stations.

Travel to the place of work and return to the place of habitual residence are also covered by the provisions of the Royal Decree. Financial institutions can also be addressed. More general are the possibilities of circulation "due to force majeure, necessity or any other duly justified activity of a similar nature", including, inter alia, the walking of pets.

The President specified that restrictions "mandatory" from midnight onwards may no longer be circulated, e.g. "for a meal at a friend's house or for coffee" outside the house, in accordance with the "extraordinary decisions" of the Executive.

In the case of Spaniards who are on a business trip or holiday and have a verifiable address, they will have no problem returning, Sanchez said. The government reserves the right to impose sanctions under the 1981 State of Alert Act.

No education from kindergarten to university.

Educational activity will be suspended, as well as university attendance at all centers and levels, cycles, grades, courses and training levels. During the state of alert, educational activity will be maintained through remote and online modalities whenever possible.

Transport.

The President explained that, in general, operators will reduce the total offer of public passenger transport services by at least 50% in the case of public road, rail, air and water transport services that are not subject to public contracts or public service obligations, although in the case of suburban railways they will operate at 100%.

Strengthening the national health system.

All public administration authorities in the national territory, especially the health authorities and the other officials and employees serving them, will be subject to "direct instructions" from the Minister of Health, Salvador Illa. And not only that: "All civil and military, public and private health resources" are placed at the disposal of the Minister of Health.

The Autonomous Communities and the Municipalities, within the limits of their competence, will maintain the management of health services "to ensure their proper functioning at all times". One of Illa's responsibilities will be to ensure "cohesion and equity in the provision" of health services, for example by transferring material and human resources from one area to another.

Ensuring the provision of health goods and services.

Illa can make the necessary arrangements to ensure the supply of the market and the operation of the services of the production centres affected by the lack of necessary products. The decree authorizes Illa to "intervene and temporarily occupy" and carry out temporary seizures of all types of goods and, if necessary, impose personal services in industries, factories, workshops, plants or premises of any type, including private health centres, services and facilities and the pharmaceutical industry.

Source: elpais.com translated by DeepL