

Muja Law brings you the latest *Legal Update* regarding the measures taken in Albania following the situation created by COVID-19 infection.

Given the current circumstances of coronavirus' spread in Albania, the *Ministry of Health and Social Protection* has approved a list of orders, which essentially postpone the effects of the previous ones in this regard, until the end of the epidemic.

As for the above, the following orders have just been approved and have entered into force immediately:

➤ **Order No.216, dated 01.04.2020**, “On an amendment to Order No.190, dated 19.03.2020 ‘On closing of activities in public and private educational institutions and nurseries for preventing the spread of COVID-19 infection’”, provides that *these institutions will remain closed until the end of the epidemic, without providing a specific date for their opening.*

➤ **Order No.217, dated 01.04.2020**, “On an amendment to Order No.164, dated 12.03.2020 ‘On closing of bars, restaurants and pubs, fast-food restaurants and limitation of services offered by the accommodation structures that offer client services’”, provides that these services will be closed until the end of the epidemic caused by COVID-19 infection.

However, during the day, the bars and restaurants activities are not prohibited to provide service to customers through catering or delivery.

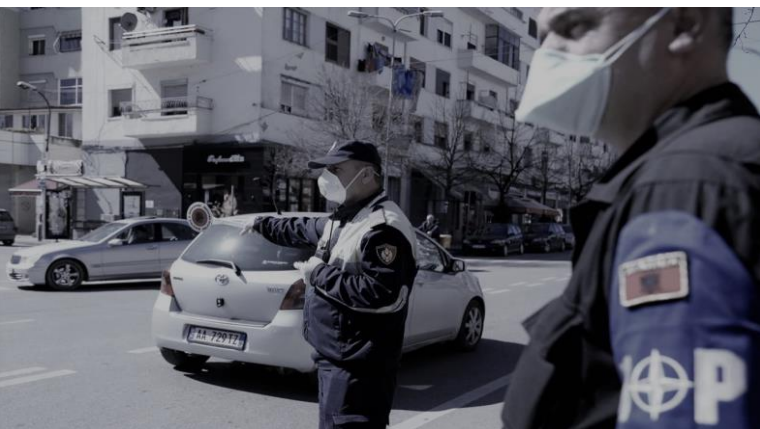
➤ **Order 218, dated 01.04.2020** “On an amendment to Order No.160, dated 11.03.2020 “On the termination of planned chirurgical interventions in all private and public hospital structures’”, provides that this termination will continue until the end of the epidemic caused by COVID-19 infection

➤ **Order No.219, dated 01.04.2020**, “On an amendment to Order No.147, dated 09.03.2020 ‘On the suspension of planed chirurgical interventions in ‘Nene Tereza’ hospital center and ‘Shefqet Ndroqi’ hospital’”, provides that these interventions will remain suspended until the end of the epidemic.

➤ **Order No.220, dated 01.04.2020**, “On an amendment to Order No.158, dated 11.03.2020 ‘On the suspension of the functioning of evaluation commissions for persons with limited abilities and work invalidity’”, provides that these public functions will remain suspended until the end of the epidemic caused by COVID-19 virus.

➤ Order No.221, dated 01.04.2020, “On an amendment to Order No.165, dated 12.03.2020 ‘On closing of dental cabinets/clinics’”, provides that this closure will continue until the end of the epidemic caused by COVID-19 infection.

➤ Order No.222, dated 01.04.2020 “On an amendment to Order No.132, dated 08.03.2020 ‘On closure of all public and non-public activities and cancelation of mass gatherings in open or closed spaces’”, provides that these measures will be postponed until the end of the epidemic caused by COVID-19 infection.



➤ Order No.223, dated 01.04.2020, “On an amendment to Order No.156, dated 10.03.2020 ‘On taking special measures for preventing the spread of the infection caused by COVID-19’”, provides that *these measures, will remain in force until the end of the epidemic caused by coronavirus. Some of these measures are as follows:*

1. Closure of facilities that provide nightclub services;
2. Closure of indoor facilities dedicated to entertaining children and youth;

3. Closure of activity of gyms, sports centers, swimming pools;
4. Closure of activity of internet centers;
5. Closure of activity of cultural and entertainment centers;
6. For public services for which close contact with the public is required, institutions must provide staff with protective tools in order to protect their health;
7. Public and private institutions must draft according to their area of responsibility a plan of measures to ensure the provision of priority services by prioritizing the category of services primarily through the provision of online service, working remotely and only in case of necessity to provide the service through physical contact. For services that require direct contact with the public, institutions should provide workers with protective work tools to safeguard their health;
8. Public institutions providing reception services to the public at the help desk must take measures to maximize the use of online services and the e-Albania platform;
9. Postal service bodies must ensure continuity of service and develop a plan of measures to limit employee contact with the public and avoid crowding of the public at the help desks or other indoor facilities;
10. All persons entering in Albania from epidemiological risk areas identified as such by the World Health Organization are required to complete the traveler file at the border entry points and to self-quarantine for a period of 14 days from the date of entry at the border; otherwise, they may be subject to fines.



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Muja Law is a family-run law office where we work hard for the success of our clients and to provide excellence in legal service. Our roots go back to 2001 when our Managing Partner, Krenare Muja (Sheqeraku), opened her law practice office in Tirana, Albania. Krenare's son Eno joined her in 2014, and the other son Adi entered the practice in 2019. What started in Tirana as a small, family-run law office has grown and flourished in the community for the last 20 years. The office consists of various respected and talented lawyers who possess outstanding educational and community service backgrounds and have a wealth of experience in representing a diverse client base in various areas of the law.

The office is full-service and advises clients on all areas of civil, commercial and administrative law. With significant industry expertise, we strive to provide our clients with practical business driven advice that is clear and straight to the point, constantly up to date, not only with the frequent legislative changes in Albania, but also the developments of international legal practice and domestic case law. The office delivers services to clients in major industries, banks and financial institutions, as well as to companies engaged in insurance, construction, energy and utilities, entertainment and media, mining, oil and gas, professional services, real estate, technology, telecommunications, tourism, transport, infrastructure and consumer goods. In our law office, we also like to help our clients with intermediary services, as an alternative dispute resolution method to their problems.

While we have grown over the past 20 years and become recognized as one of Albania's leading law offices, we are grounded in the essence of "who" we are and "where" we started. We understand the importance of family, hard-work, and dedication.

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