



# COVID-19 REPORT

April 7, 2020 | Preventive Measures taken by Colombia

At ProColombia we want to express our solidarity with all the countries that are facing the challenges of COVID-19.

We want you to know that we are today more than ever committed to our investors and although working from home, to protect the health and safety of our team, we are connected and at your service.

Colombia is a resilient country, which identifies opportunities amid difficulties. With the necessary precautions, we want our projects to continue.

We have prepared this daily report to keep you updated on the decisions of the National Government regarding the current situation.



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TURISMO INVERSIÓN EXPORTACIONES INDUSTRIA

## Number of cases detected in Colombia.

- The Colombian Ministry of Health confirmed the start of the mitigation phase of the coronavirus COVID-19 in the country. The above given that, to date, the index of cases that we have without a link, compared to those registered as imported or related is high. In other words, one in 10 infected in Colombia does not have an epidemiological link. With this indicator, the country began the mitigation stage, which means that the strategy should be emphasized to the general population and not just the control and containment of cases of identified people.
- **On the morning of April 7, 1,579 cases of Colombians infected with the coronavirus (Covid-19) are recorded. According to the Ministry of Health, 103 cities in the country already have at least one patient reported, with Bogotá presenting the most cases with a total of 779.**
- **Cundinamarca (53), Antioquia (183), Valle del Cauca (210), Bolívar (56), Atlántico (52), Magdalena (12), Cesar (16), Norte de Santander (25), Santander (12), Cauca (13), Caldas (16), Risaralda (37), Quindío (23), Huila (34), Tolima (15), Meta (14), Casanare (2), San Andrés and Providencia (2), Nariño (6), Boyacá (13), Sucre (1), Córdoba (3), La Guajira (1).**
- **By gender they are 804 male and 775 female. There are 88 recovered patients and 46 deceased.**

# Containment measures implemented by the National Government

- **President Iván Duque announced that, considering the behavior of the virus and analysis of public health information, the Government made the decision to maintain mandatory preventive isolation until April 26, at 11:59pm in order to continue saving lives.**
- **According to the President, the extension of this mandatory preventive isolation is also aimed at reinforcing other measures that have been adopted, such as maintaining confinement for older adults, which will run until May 30, as well as the closing of schools and universities.**
- **Fernando Ruíz, Minister of Health, stated that after a rigorous analysis of the numbers and the behavior of the pandemic in the country, it was recommended to extend preventive isolation for an additional 14 days, as this period is directly related with the virus contagion cycle: “At this time, the impact of the measures applied before the start of the quarantine is being known.**
- The Ministry of Health ordered that people who are circulating and using public transportation must wear masks.
- The Ministry of Health and Social Protection authorized the use of hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine to treat the disease caused by the new coronavirus, supported by scientific evidence that shows positive effects in this pathology.
- The Ministry of Health considered that these drugs used in the treatment of malaria and other inflammatory diseases are available to doctors, so that within the framework of their autonomy they use it when they consider it necessary, in this type of patient.

# Economic support measures for businesses

## **Mintransporte and MinSalud work to create biosafety protocols for infrastructure works**

- **The Transport Minister, Angela María Orozco, explained that work has been done with the Ministry of Health in the creation of biosafety protocols to continue with the infrastructure projects, which are necessary to maintain the connectivity of the country.**

## **Government issues Decree 520 to extend deadlines for filing income tax returns**

- **Through Decree 520 of 2020, the National Government modified the tax calendar, again, and left for June the presentation of the income statement corresponding to 2019.**

## **New line of credit from Findeter for the public and private sectors**

- **Findeter announced that it launched a new credit line 'Compromiso Colombia' with a capacity of COP \$713,000 million pesos, aimed at supporting the country's public and private sectors affected by Covid-19.**

## **'United for Colombia' Program, a new line for businesses with COP \$ 12 billion in loans**

- **Through the National Guarantee Fund (NGF), the National Government announced the creation of a new guarantee program for COP \$ 12 billion, as well as other financial support, which will allow Colombian businesses to mitigate the economic impact generated by Covid-19 .**
- **This program will have 60% coverage on the value of the credit, where the National Government through the NGF will have the commitment of supporting the businesses with 60% of the value of their credit, facilitating access to the liquidity that it requires. Companies (natural or legal persons) can have access to this support, with sales of up to COP \$ 51,951 million.**

## **Bancóldex has already disbursed 37% of the resources of the 'Colombia Responde' program**

- **According to Bancoldex, in the placement of the special credit line for COP \$ 250,000 million focused for the tourism and aviation sectors -and their respective supply chains- in addition to those related to public events to mitigate the impact of the coronavirus in the sectors, COP \$ 92,159 million have already been disbursed.**



# Economic support measures for businesses

- As for the airline sector, one of the most affected, the announcement to suspend the collection of airport consideration or compensation (until December 2021) paid by the concessionaires to the State became effective. In the same way, the suspension of the lease collection that Aerocivil does on account of the exploitation of commercial spaces at aerodromes has already materialized.
- The Government's announcement to suspend the mechanical technical inspection for vehicles of any type (private and public) during the state of economic emergency was also effective. At this time, the Automotive Diagnostic Centers do not provide service to users.
- The Government reported on March 26 the suspension of the collection of tolls (on concessioned roads and in charge of Invías) for cargo transporters. This measure, contained in Decree 482, already applies in the more than 140 existing toll stations.
- **'Empresarios por el empleo' Program**
- The National Government, under the leadership of the Vice President of the Republic, the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Tourism and the manager for the comprehensive care of the pandemic COVID-19, launched the program "Empresarios por el Empleo", to provide the elements of protection that is urgent for the health sector in the country, through a strategy aimed at identifying the available supply of micro, small, medium and large companies that produce and / or market all of these priority elements for the health sector, essential in the emergency health care.
- Through the program, the National Government seeks to know the potential bidders and their production capacity, to connect them with the needs of clinics, hospitals and others.
- It seeks to answer this two needs: guaranteeing the safety of health professionals in the development of their work and generating jobs at this moment.

# Economic support measures for businesses

## **The Government provides alternatives to workers and employers to promote job retention**

- Withdrawal of layoffs to mitigate the reduction of their monthly income, inform the employee 1 day before the enjoyment of their vacation, purchase of personal protection items by the Administrators of Labor Risks (ALR) for health workers and others, and aid to the unemployed through Compensation Funds, with resources from FOSFEC ( Solidarity Fund to Promote Employment and Unemployment Protection), are some of the measures announced by the Government of the President, Iván Duque, through the Ministry of Labor.
- The postponement of payments and self-assessment of parafiscal contributions to the aviation, tourism, events and restaurants sectors were announced, immediately impacted by the current situation.
- The Administrators of Labor Risks, ALR, will allocate resources from the contributions in labor risks, to carry out promotion and prevention and emergency and intervention activities, aimed at the workers of their affiliated companies, who, on the occasion of the tasks they perform, are directly exposed to the spread of the virus.

## **Deadline extended to July 3 for renewal of the National Registry of Tourism (NRT)**

- In order to mitigate the economic effects of the COVID-19 coronavirus in the national territory, Decree 434 of 2020 was issued, by means of which the period for touristic service operators to extend to July 3, 2020 renew the National Registry of Tourism (NRT).
- It is worth remembering that the registration to the NRT has an annual expiration and must be done within the first three months of each year, but due to the national situation this term was extended. For more information write to: [info@mincit.gov.co](mailto:info@mincit.gov.co)

# Economic support measures for businesses

## **Guidelines on electronic commerce against the containment measures of COVID-19**

- Considering that the prevention and containment measures taken by the National Government against the spread of Covid19 in the country oblige to implement actions of social distancing and limitation of mobility, electronic commerce becomes an important channel to ensure the supply of goods and services.
- The companies will be able to carry out the dispatches of the products marketed through electronic commerce, through postal service companies and collaborative economy, for which they will be able to operate the distribution centers of the selling companies and supply centers.
- They may be marketed, transported and delivered essential goods and goods for ordinary consumption at home, purchased through electronic commerce. Goods for ordinary daily consumption are understood to be all the goods that a person requires for the development of his habitual environment.
- Postal service companies may operate for the reception, classification, transport and delivery of postal objects, as well as mail, courier, express courier services and paid postal services.
- The people necessary to ensure the functioning of the critical communications infrastructure (all the IT infrastructure and related IT services), including networks and systems, may circulate; as well as to ensure the operation of call centers, contact centers, technical support, electronic commerce and data processing platforms.
- The companies that carry out the permitted activities must adopt hygiene and aseptic measures, provide spaces for personal hygiene and supply cleaning implements, in accordance with the defined guidelines.

# Economic support measures for businesses

## **Decree that modifies terms to file income tax**

- **A decree was signed to modify the terms to file the income tax of large taxpayers and legal entities, and that changed the terms for the sectors that sell food and beverages, travel agencies and tour operators to pay VAT on these months and the consumption tax.**

## **Special Bancóldex line for tourism and aviation companies and aid for SMEs and MSMEs**

- In order to alleviate the negative effects of coronavirus on the tourism and aviation sector - and their respective supply chains -, Bancóldex launched a special line of credit for COP \$ 250,000 million. This measure seeks to maintain the liquidity of companies in these sectors in favorable financial conditions.

- The 'Colombia responds' line of credit for entrepreneurs with links to the tourism and aviation sector will offer loans in pesos and the maximum amount per company will be up to COP \$ 3,000 million pesos for MSMEs and COP \$ 5 billion for large companies.
- In terms of relief for micro, small and medium-sized firms (MSMEs), which are more than 90% the national business network and contribute 40% to GDP, the presidential decision states that in the period of the emergency those that have credit maturities mortgages or of another nature may not pay during these months, in addition, they may refinance extending the terms so that their operation is not reported or affected.
- A line of guarantees was put in place. It will allow many small, medium and large companies to keep paying their payrolls during the period of the economic emergency.
- Elimination of VAT for the import of health products and technology.



# Social support measures

- **As of April 7, nearly 500,000 Colombians bank users will receive through their Bancolombia and Bancolombia A La Mano accounts, the Solidarity Income, granted by the National Government to families affected by the Covid-19 but that are not benefiting from any other social program.**
- **In the midst of the Covid-19 crisis that requires quarantine and compulsory isolation, the Bogotá Ministry of Education, with 790,253 students in charge, created a strategic plan to take children and young people to their homes, not only academic activities, but also school meals, which for many is the only ration of the day.**
- The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism, led by the National Administrative Department of Statistics Dane, and the Superintendence of Industry and Commerce, launched a decree that includes monitoring and control measures to avoid price speculation and prevent hoarding behavior during the period of economic emergency.
- President Iván Duque pointed out that 100% of the reconnections of water to 200,000 families who had suspended him for lack of payment have already been completed and that, to date, 119,000 people have been discarded, after testing.
- He also announced that the VAT refund measure that began to apply this week has the goal of giving the tax back to one million families. Since it began, 150,000 families have already received the COP \$ 75,000 that they return to the lowest-income people in the country. Aid will be received every two months and by 2021 the goal is to benefit two million families.
- The National Government launched the campaign 'Colombia is with you, a million families', which will be in charge, under the coordination of the Minister of the Interior, Alicia Arango, of delivering a million markets to low-income families.

# Social support measures

- According to Minister Arango, the aid, which began to be delivered this Thursday, is aimed at indigenous communities, Rom, blacks, Afro-Colombians, Raizales, Palenqueras, representatives of Community Action Boards, social leaders, human rights defenders, the LGBTI community and vulnerable people referred by religious entities.
- This campaign will reach 720 municipalities in the national territory.
- The Minister of Education, María Victoria Angulo, assured that four measures have been taken to help people who have an Icetex credit. More than 20,000 users can obtain these benefits, which are: grace period in current loan installments, transitory reduction of interest to the value of the CPI, extension of terms in amortization plans and the granting of new loans for the second half of 2020 without joint debtor.
- The Minister of Education assured that another of the measures that the National Government has taken against the education sector in the country is the food supplement of the School Food Program (PAE) and that it is reaching the homes.
- The National Government, under the leadership of the First Lady of the Nation, María Juliana Ruiz, presented #AyudarNosHaceBien, an initiative that seeks to raise funds to achieve the initial goal of distributing a million grocery baskets among families in need and people in vulnerable conditions.
- Annexed
- Decree 457 of the Presidency of the Republic of Colombia - Mandatory Preventive Isolation  
<https://id.presidencia.gov.co/Paginas/prensa/2020/Para-garantizar-derecho-vida-salud-supervivencia-durante-Aislamiento-Preventivo-Obligatorio-Decreto-457-permite-dere-200323.aspx>