

Moscow mayor orders all residents to stay at home

29 March 2020



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Moscow's mayor announced strict isolation rules for the city from Monday, as coronavirus cases climbed in the Russian capital.

The new restrictions would apply to all the city's residents, regardless of age, mayor Sergei Sobyenin said in a statement Sunday.

Residents of the capital will only be allowed to leave their homes in the case of a medical emergency, to travel to jobs judged essential by the authorities, and shop for food or medicines, the statement read.

Previously, only Muscovites over the age of 65 were under orders to remain in their homes under rules that came into force last Monday.

Residents in the capital will be allowed to take out trash and walk their dogs within a 100-metre radius of their homes, Sunday's order said.

Muscovites exempt from the rules would be issued with a special pass by city authorities in the coming days, Sobyenin added.

The new isolation rules would be policed by a "[smart system](#) of monitoring compliance," in what appeared to be a reference to a vast system of facial-recognition cameras in Moscow.

"Gradually, but steadily, we will tighten the control necessary in this situation," said Sobyenin.

The new isolation measures will come into force the same day as Russia's borders close as part of increasingly stringent measures to stop the spread of the coronavirus.

Health officials registered 1,534 cases of [coronavirus](#) and eight deaths, according to Sunday's official tally.

The streets of Moscow were eerily quiet on Saturday following the closure of all non-essential shops, including restaurants and cafes, as part of preventative measures.

The country closed its borders to foreigners last week and grounded all [international flights](#) on Thursday as part of increasingly stringent measures to slow the spread of COVID-19 in Russia.

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APA citation: Moscow mayor orders all residents to stay at home (2020, March 29) retrieved 25 September 2022 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-03-moscow-mayor-residents-home.html>

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