**Coronavirus in Greece**

The [2019–20 coronavirus pandemic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019%E2%80%9320_coronavirus_pandemic) first appeared in [Greece](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greece) on 26 February 2020. Initial cases related to people who had travelled to Italy, as well as a group of pilgrims who had travelled to [Israel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2020_coronavirus_pandemic_in_Israel) and [Egypt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2020_coronavirus_pandemic_in_Egypt) and their contacts.

As of 4 April 2020, there have been 1,673 confirmed cases and 68 deaths. Health authorities recommend travellers who have returned from affected areas or people who have been in contact with such travellers to stay home for a minimum of 14 days. It may take 2–14 days for symptoms to appear after initial exposure to the virus. Thirteen reporting hospitals have been designated to deal with cases. The main affected areas are [Ilia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elis_%28regional_unit%29%22%20%5Co%20%22Elis%20%28regional%20unit%29) and [Attica](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Attica_%28region%29).

Following the confirmation of the first three cases in Greece, on 27 February all [carnival](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carnival) events in the country were cancelled, and by 10 March a total of 89 cases had been confirmed in the country, mainly related to people who had travelled to Italy and a group of pilgrims who had travelled to Israel and Egypt, as well as their contacts. Health and state authorities issued precautionary guidelines and recommendations, while measures up to that point were taken locally and included the closure of schools and the suspension of cultural events in the affected areas (particularly [Ilia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elis_%28regional_unit%29%22%20%5Co%20%22Elis%20%28regional%20unit%29), [Achaea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Achaea) and [Zakynthos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zakynthos%22%20%5Co%20%22Zakynthos)). However, on 10 March, due to the outbreak of the virus in different parts of the country and failure by many to comply with the restrictive measures, the government decided to suspend the operation of educational institutions of all levels nationwide and then, on 13 March, to close down all cafes, bars, museums, shopping centres, sports facilities and restaurants in the country. On 16 March, all retail shops were also closed, two villages in Kozani were quarantined, and all services in all areas of religious worship of any religion or dogma were suspended. On 18 and 19 March, the government announced a series of measures of more than 10 billion euros to support the economy, businesses and employees.

On 22 March the Greek authorities announced significant restrictions on all nonessential transport and movement across the country, starting from 6 a.m on 23 March. Ever since, movement outside the house is permitted to individuals only for ten specific reasons, grouped into seven categories: i) moving to or from one's workplace during work hours, ii) going to the pharmacy or visiting a doctor iii) going to a food store iv) going to the bank for services not possible online, v) assisting a person in need of help vi) going to a major ritual (funeral, marriage, baptism) or movement, for divorarced parents, which is essential for the contact with their children, and vii) moving outdoors, near one's home, for exercising or taking one's pet out, individually or in pairs. Citizens leaving their home are required to carry their police ID or passport, as well as a signed attestation where the purpose/ category of travel is cited. The [Hellenic Police](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hellenic_Police), the [Municipal Police](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Municipal_Police_%28Greece%29), the [Hellenic Coast Guard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hellenic_Coast_Guard) and the National Transparency Authority are empowered to enforce the restrictions and can issue fines for each offense.