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## **EXTRAORDINARY ACTIONS ARE DECLARED TO ADDRESS THE HEALTH EMERGENCY GENERATED BY THE COVID-19 VIRUS**

By means of the Decree published on March 31 in the Federal Official Gazette (*Diario Oficial de la Federación*), the Ministry of Health (*Secretaría de Salud*) declared, as an extraordinary action, that the public, social and private sectors must comply with the following measures to address the health emergency generated by the Covid-19 virus:

- a) Suspension of non-essential activities. The immediate suspension, from 30 March to 30 April 2020, of non-essential activities, with the aim of (1) mitigating the dispersion and transmission of the Covid-19 virus in the community, and (2) reducing the burden of disease, its complications and death from COVID-19 in the population residing in the national territory.
  
- b) The following are considered essential activities:
  - a. those directly necessary to deal with the health emergency (medical, paramedical, administrative and support branches throughout the National Health System (*Sistema Nacional de Salud*)).
  - b. supply, services and providers, among which the pharmaceutical sector stands out, both in terms of production and distribution (pharmacies);
  - c. manufacture of inputs, medical equipment and technologies for health care;
  - d. those involved in the proper disposal of bio-infectious hazardous waste, as well as the cleaning and sanitation of medical units at different levels of care;
  - e. those involved in public safety and citizen protection; in the defense of national integrity and sovereignty; the procurement and delivery of justice; as well as legislative activity at the federal and state levels;
  - f. those of the fundamental sectors of the economy: financial, tax collection, distribution and sale of energy, gas stations and gas, generation and distribution of drinking water, food and non-alcoholic beverage industry, food markets, supermarkets, self-service stores, grocery stores and sale of prepared foods; passenger and cargo transportation services; agricultural, fishing and livestock production, agro-industry, chemical industry, cleaning products; hardware stores, courier services, guards in private security work; day care centers and children's homes, nursing homes and homes for the elderly, shelters and care centers for women victims of violence and their children; telecommunications and the media; private emergency services, funeral and burial services, storage and cold chain services for essential inputs; logistics (airports, ports and railways), as well as activities whose suspension may have irreversible effects on their continuation;
  - g. those directly related to the operation of government social programs, and
  - h. those necessary for the conservation, maintenance and repair of the critical infrastructure that ensures the production and distribution of indispensable services; namely: drinkable water, electric power, gas, oil, gasoline, turbosine, basic sanitation, public transportation, hospital and medical infrastructure, among others that could be listed in this category.

- c) Care measures. For the essential activities that shall continue to operate, they must observe, on a mandatory basis, the hygiene practices dictated by the Ministry of Health.

The population residing in Mexican territory has to comply with domiciliary lockdown from March 30 to April 30, 2020. It is strictly applicable to persons over 60 years of age, pregnant or immediately postpartum, or diagnosed with high blood pressure, diabetes mellitus, chronic heart or lung disease, immunosuppression (acquired or caused), kidney or liver failure, regardless of whether their work activity is considered essential.

Additionally, the integration of the General Health Council (*Consejo de Salubridad General*) was modified, which is contrary to the legal regulatory framework applicable to the General Health Council, since its integration is set forth on Article 15 of the General Health Law (*Ley General de Salud*) and cannot be modified by the Secretary of Health (*Secretario de Salud*).

The extraordinary measures came into force on March 31.

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