

On May 11, the President of Russia Vladimir Putin addressed citizens and **announced the end of the non-working days regime at the federal level starting on May 12**, introduced in Russia six weeks ago to reduce the spread of COVID-19. At the same time, the powers of the heads of the federal subjects are preserved, and they will determine the time to exit the restrictions on coronavirus, based on the opinion of doctors.

The President emphasized that "starting May 12, it is necessary to create conditions for the resumption of work in construction, industry, energy, communications and other basic industries where there is no direct contact with consumers."

Vladimir Putin said that a new package of measures has been adopted to support the Russian economy amid a pandemic:

- All entrepreneurs from the affected industries who have retained 90% of their employees will be granted a loan until April 1, 2021, at 2%, based on 1 minimum wage per employee. If employment is subsequently maintained at 90 %, the loan and interest will be completely written off. If it is 80 % – the loan will be written off half.
- all taxes (except VAT) will be written off to small, medium-sized businesses and individual entrepreneurs from the affected sectors, as well as socially oriented NGOs for the second quarter of 2020.
- Self-employed will be fully refunded their income tax paid in 2019.

In addition, as part of the meeting, it was announced that:

- for people over 65 years of age, restrictive sanitary measures are maintained.
- all public events throughout the country are still prohibited.
- by mid-May, it is planned to double the number of people tested for coronavirus to 300,000 per day.

More information can be found at: <http://kremlin.ru/events/president/news/63340>