**REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA**

Ministry of Health

Minister of Health

**ORDER**

No РД-01-179 of 6 April 2020

Pursuant to Article 63 of the Health Act and in connection with the increasingly complex epidemiological situation due to the spread of COVID-19 on the territory of Bulgaria and the Decision of the National Assembly to declare a state of emergency dated 13 March 2020,

**I hereby ORDER:**

1. All municipalities shall organise the functioning of cooperative and farmers’ markets, taking into account their specifics, e.g. location, capacity and number of producers engaged in supplying small quantities of raw material and food directly to end customers.
2. On the basis of the analysis referred to in point 1 and with a view to protecting all participants in the vendor-buyer chain, the following additional practices may be applied:
	1. increasing the areas used for farmers’ markets and placing information signs to ensure compliance with the measures;
	2. introducing fencing to prevent people from clustering together and allowing only one-way movement at markets;
	3. providing officials to ensure that access by clients is controlled;
	4. protecting foodstuffs from secondary contamination while these are displayed;
	5. ensuring a minimum distance of 2 m between vendors offering their produce and between clients;
	6. protective equipment used by vendors and clients;
	7. maintaining personal hygiene and ensuring disinfection.
3. Farmers shall be allowed access to their arable land. Agricultural producers shall be allowed the opportunity to market their produce (vegetables, fruit, seed and stock material and finished products) subject to compliance with all requirements aimed at curbing the COVID-19 risk.
4. To ensure continuity of the operations relevant to rearing livestock, processing raw material and producing feed, where contact persons who do not present symptoms and work at animal breeding establishments are placed in quarantine, said persons may continue discharging their professional obligations according to a dedicated schedule and may leave their place of residence for the purposes of commuting to their workplace, for which they shall provide a signed statement, with their employer ensuring working conditions that do not endanger other persons. All requirements relevant to personal hygiene, use of personal protective equipment and disinfection shall be observed.
5. Any and all additional restrictions introduced by local authorities and found incompliant with the Health Act and the Act on Measures during the State of Emergency Declared by a Decision of the National Assembly of 13 March 2020 shall cease to be effective and shall be lifted.
6. This Order shall be communicated to regional governors and mayors, who shall be tasked with its implementation, and to the Ministry of Interior and the Heads of Regional Health Directorates and Regional Food Safety Directorates, who shall be tasked with control over its implementation.

Associate Professor Dr. Angel Kunchev, Chief State Health Inspector, and the relevant Deputy Ministers of Health shall also be tasked with control over the implementation of this Order.

*[Signature]*

*[Round stamp reading ‘Ministry of Health, Sofia, Republic of Bulgaria, 2’]*

**Kiril Ananiev**

*Minister of Health*