

Chile closes its borders due to an increase in COVID-19 cases

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The Chilean capital is under heavy restrictions due to the increase of Covid-19 infections. | Photo: EFE

Santiago de Chile, April 5 (RHC)-- Amid a spike in coronavirus infections, Chile will close its borders as of April 5 as part of measures to try to contain the COVID-19 pandemic. Chilean authorities decreed the cessation of international flights and operations of the Arturo Merino international airport in the Chilean capital, which was practically the only way in and out of the country.

Last week, the Undersecretary of Crime Prevention, Katherine Martorell, detailed that as of this Monday and during the whole month of April no foreigner will be able to enter Chile except for residents.

National and foreign citizens will not be able to travel abroad except in very extraordinary situations, for which they will have to request a permit from Carabineros de Chile. It was reported that the Arturo Merino airport will remain in operation only for humanitarian flights, transport of goods and other activities considered essential.

The curfew was also advanced throughout the country from 21:00, local time, and will be extended until 05:00 the following day.

Likewise, commercial activities will be restricted and only essential goods stores will be allowed to open, while teleworking, distance learning, security and real estate activities will be maintained. Chile reported record numbers of new infections, with two consecutive days with more than eight thousand new cases.

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