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You may idly talk to your children now



The cabinet closed the borders on Sat. to most foreigners and made mountain hotels off-limits to families, but in one respect PM Andrej Babiš and his ministers enacted the biggest easing of the covid-19 measures in more than three months. No longer is it illegal for people living together in the same household to [shoot the breeze](#) or otherwise engage in non-essential contact. It remains illegal for anyone else to engage in non-essential contact, but as of Sat., members of a single household have an exemption. (Compare the wording of the new government order [here](#) to the old one [here](#).) This is the first time that family members have had any special treatment. The ban on non-essential contact was first imposed on [March 16, 2020](#), and it lasted until [April 23](#). It was then [reinstated on Oct. 22](#) and lasted until [Jan. 30](#). The cabinet and the police rarely if ever enforced the ban on idle family chats, but it was on the books for a total of five months. Hardly anyone even objected.

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