

Adrian Pękacz, MA

WSB University in Dąbrowa Górnicza

e-mail: adrian.pekacz@gmail.com

ORCID: 000-0002-6057-057X

DOI: 10.26410/SF_1/23/9

COVID-19 IN POLAND – STATE OF EMERGENCY OR NORMAL STATE OF EXTRAORDINARY EPIDEMIC?

Abstract

In March 2020, there was a spectacular change in the functioning of public and economic space, both in Poland and around the world. This was caused by the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, this situation, initially perceived as temporary and having no impact on society and economics, became long-term and led to a number of revolutionary changes. The issue of choosing the right model of action, from the beginning, has been controversial of a legal nature, as the use of specific constitutional state of emergency, in this case a state of natural disaster, depends on the occurrence of the situation in which overcoming the threat requires the use of extraordinary measures. In Poland, the finally used was the model of an ordinary constitutional measure, which resulted in the establishment of the restrictions, orders, and prohibitions in connection with the introduction of the state of epidemic threat, and then, the state of epidemic.

Key words

Covid-19, state of emergency, state of natural disaster, infectious disease

Introduction

Initially, the appearance in December 2019 of an atypical form of severe pneumonia in the city of Wuhan¹, in Chinese province of Hubei (population close to 60 million people), did not indicate anything unusual and alarming. From December 8, 2019, until January 5, 2020, only 44 cases of pneumonia of unknown etiology were diagnosed, while in a population of 11 million people (Wuhan agglomeration) an average of about 2000 pneumonias requiring hospitalization were diagnosed per month, about half of which had no recognized etiological factor. Such situation did not arouse anyone's clinical suspicion at that time². The growing number of cases has led to the search for the cause of the increasing incidence of the specific disease entity. On February 11, 2020, the disease was named COVID-19, and three days later, the pathogen causing it was named SARS-CoV-2 virus³. In the first quarter of the year 2020, the SARS-CoV-2 virus has already been detected in over 80 countries around the world. Whereas, in the second quarter of the year 2020, cases of SARS-CoV-2 infections, as well as COVID-19, were reported in all countries of the world⁴. Contrary to the circulating opinion about the appearance of the black swan – the largest epidemic

of the 21st Century, it should be said that the appearance of this phenomenon is not as much of a surprise as it might seem. Above all, we are dealing with the black swan when a phenomenon is unexpected (or subjectively very unlikely) and has shocking consequences in relations to reality, in relations it seems that it was easy to predict and explain, and all these elements at the moment of occurrence of the phenomenon are beyond the scope of available knowledge⁵.

COVID-19 epidemic in Poland

Meanwhile, in the 21st Century itself, different varieties of more or less infectious variants of SARS-CoV virus (2001), group of A/H1N1 virus (2009) or MERS-CoV virus (2012) appeared, causing moderately virulent regional epidemics⁶. The globalizing world and changing climate conditions in the first two decades of the 21st Century also showed the increasing risk of the spread of Ebola or dengue viruses into areas inaccessible to them. This illustrates the fact that epidemic phenomenon is changing their current nature and generate an increasing risk, which should be considered in a different context than it was before⁷. Primarily, it should be stated that in the case of SARS-CoV-2 epidemic, the world did not face the

1 N. Zhu, D. Zhang, W. Wang, X. Li, B. Yang, J. Song, X. Zhao, B. Huang, W. Shi, R. Lu, P. Niu, F. Zhan, X. Ma, D. Wang, W. Xu, G. Wu, G. F. Gao, W. Tan, *A Novel Coronavirus from Patients with Pneumonia in China, 2019*, *China Novel Coronavirus Investigating and Research Team*, „The New England Journal of Medicine” 2020 382(8), s. 727-733.

2 J. Duszyński, A. Afelt, A. Ochab-Marcinek, R. Owczuk, K. Pyrc, M. Rosińska, A. Rychard, T. Smiatacz, *Zrozumieć COVID-19 – scientific description of the Covid-19 teams at the President of the Academy of Science, Warszawa 2020*, p. 7.

3 Ibidem.

4 Ibidem.

5 N. N. Taleb, *Czarny łabędź, o skutkach nieprzewidywalnych zdarzeń*, Warszawa 2014, p. 17.

6 K. Pyrc, *Ludzkie koronawirusy*, „Postępy Nauk Medycznych” 2015, volume XXVIII, no. 4B, p. 50.

7 R. Beaglehole, R. Bonita, T. Kjellström, *Podstawy epidemiologii*, Łódź 2002, p. 43-63.

collision with the completely unknown phenomenon, as well as generating completely unknown risks, and only such an event can be referred to as a black swan. Meanwhile, epidemics are a phenomenon with a well-established history, each of them seems new and different in its own way, but this does not mean that we are not familiar with this phenomenon or the risk. Therefore, the phenomenon of the uncontrolled spread of some new virus on a global scale should itself be called a gray rhino or a black jellyfish, not the black swan⁸.

The erroneous definition of the COVID-19 pandemic as a black swan contributed to the scalability and quality of information, characteristic of the phenomena occurring in Extremist an (a land created by Nassim Nicholas Taleb, where nothing can be certain and extreme accidents play a dominant role), scalability and quality of information, and more precisely, its distortions. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization – WHO – announced that we are dealing with a pandemic, an epidemic with a global dimension⁹. During the conference it was stated that „pandemic is a word that, if misused, can create unwarranted fear or

the unwarranted assumption that the disease enforcement is over, leading to unnecessary suffering and death¹⁰. Meanwhile, the emergence of the pandemic was, from the beginning, accompanied by the narrative that it was not so much „cautious” (make doubly sure) as panic, and the panic itself (although sagging) accompanies it to this day¹¹. Crisis communication, of this and no other nature, was used due to the delayed reactions in most countries of the European zone, where images of welded doors of residential buildings in Wuhan evoked rather bitter political comments than resulted in the number of possible solutions to the „hypothetical” problem of the epidemic in your own „backyard”.

Quite quickly, however, the pandemic became a closely watched phenomenon by all governments of the world. This happened not only because of the fact that the situation in People’s Republic of China imbalanced the global economy, but because the threat to individual public health systems has come true and the state of uncontrolled development of the wave of infections with the newly discovered SARS-CoV-2 virus has become a fact that created many problems, the solutions of which

8 In evaluating certain types of phenomena, there has been a kind of fashion to use metaphors from the animal world. The proposed division of the risk assessment is based on a comparison of the level of knowledge of a given phenomenon and the risk generated by it. And so: *Elephant* – is a metaphor for a well-known, obvious risk that no one wants to talk about or turn to – we know what it is and what it can do to us; *Black jellyfish* – an unintended risk resulting from a known phenomenon – we know what it is, but we do not know that we are in danger of it; *Gray rhinoceros* – is a highly probable, strong but neglected threat – we know what can happen, but we do not know by whom, because we disregard the knowledge of the phenomenon; *Black swan* – highly improbable events that can not be predicted – we do not know what it is and what threatens us; Por. L. A. Gershwin, *Stung! On Jellyfish Blooms and the Future of the Ocean*, Chicago 2013; M. Wucker, *The Grey Rhino, How to Recognize and Act on the Obvious Dangers We Ignore*, St. Martin’s Press 2016.

9 <https://www.who.int/director-general/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-opening-remarks-at-the-media-briefing-on-covid-19---11-march-2020>; press conference WHO available on the official WHO website: <https://twitter.com/WHO/status/1237777021742338049?s=20> (access: 03.05.2021).

10 Ibidem.

11 P. Basiukiewicz, *Ani jednej łzy. Ochrona zdrowia w pandemii*, Warszawa 2021, p. 7-8.

has become a real problem for the politicians. For this purpose, the states have undertaken the first interventions, which can be assessed from the perspective of differences in information policies. These, on the other hand, differed due to the degree of centralization and perceived credibility. In some countries information policies „are often contested as unreliable (e.g. USA, Brazil, Mexico), but also countries where deviations from official information policies were not tolerated due to institutional dominance (e.g. Singapore, South Korea, China) and countries (mainly European and Canada) where the model of democratic information policies prevailed, which were rather accepted, although sometimes specifically criticized”¹².

In a short period of time, the distribution of fears and social attitudes towards the epidemic threat has changed significantly, as well as the reaction of political circles, which, to this day, are trying to select appropriate intervention measures, including communication¹³. During the COVID-19 pandemic in Europe the most important form of intervention was the legislative one – regulatory. It should be noted that the main principle is the principle of a rational legislator, which is expressed, inter alia, in the proper application of proportionality rules. One of its components is the

imperative of the law-governed state, according to which the legislator should take measures adequate to the planned goals¹⁴. In a short period of time, since the first wave of the SARS-CoV-2 infections has appeared, emergency measures were taken in most European countries. In some countries, these were constitutional states of emergency, while in others, states of epidemic were established based on ordinary legislation¹⁵.

In Poland, the approach to the possibility of the SARS-CoV-2 epidemic was initially not a subject to any public verification. The possible effects of COVID-19 could not be properly estimated at that time. Unfortunately, the application of precautionary rule (with a few exceptions, such as the actions of the Chief Sanitary Inspector of the Ministry of Interior and Administration informing about the risk of SARS-CoV-2 infections as early as December 2019) has completely given way to multi-cause disregard for the issue of the growing epidemic risk¹⁶. On January 30, 2020, Chief Sanitary Inspector continued to point to his even greater optimism from the Minister of Health regarding the occurrence of the virus in Poland, the great distance between China and Poland, and that he has knowledge about how this virus behaves, how patients are treated – that

12 J. Duszyński, A. Afelt, A. Ochab-Marcinek, R. Owczuk, K. Pyrc, M. Rosińska, A. Rychard, T. Smiatacz, *COVID-19 – scientific description of the Covid-19...*, p. 7.

13 Por. A. Grzegorzcyk i A. Kościńczuk, *Komunikowanie w sytuacjach kryzysowych*, [w:] *Zarządzanie w sytuacjach kryzysowych niepewności*, K. Kubiak (Ed.), Warszawa 2012, p. 27-38.

14 E. Folak, *Zasada proporcjonalności w tworzeniu prawa administracyjnego*, „Ruch Prawniczy, Ekonomiczny i Socjologiczny” 2017, Year LXXIX – volume 4, p. 57-58.

15 L. Bosek, *Stan epidemii – aspekty konstytucyjne i prawnoпорównawcze*, [w:] *Prawo w czasie pandemii Covid19 – materiały z XXII konferencji wydziałowej*, Warszawa 2021, p. 6-8.

16 <https://www.rmfm24.pl/tylko-w-rmf24/populudniowa-rozmowa/news-pinkas-w-polsce-nie-ma-tego-wirusa-zagrozenie-zarazenia-koro,nId,4298411> (access: 01.05.2021 r.).

they are recovering, there is no threat to health and life among European patients, the course of the disease is similar to that of an inflammatory infection of the upper respiratory tract, perhaps with some complications – perhaps not, and also the fact that in Europe, as in Poland, there is well-organized health care¹⁷. Shortly after submission of the above-mentioned statements, they were verified. The first case of the person infected with new type of SARS-CoV-2 virus in Poland was recorded on March 4, 2020, and the first death resulting from COVID-19 was registered on March 12, 2020 – the day after WHO declared the COVID-19 to be a global pandemic. On March 20, 2020, the Minister of Health, acting based on the statutory delegation from art. 46 sec. 2 and 4 of the Act of December 5, 2008, on preventing and combating infections and infectious diseases in humans¹⁸, issued a regulation on declaring a state of epidemic in the territory of the Republic of Poland¹⁹.

In accordance with the principle of proportionality invoked, governments have adopted various strategies to fight the pandemic. In Poland, a model of regulating the crisis regime has been implemented, based on the assumption that statutory solutions are separate from constitutional states of emergency²⁰.

The issues of choosing the right operating model have been, from the

beginning, controversial of a legal nature. The use of specific state of emergency depends on the occurrence of the situation in which overcoming the threat requires extraordinary measures, as the „ordinary constitutional measures” are no longer sufficient. All restrictions on human and civil rights and freedoms introduced under the state of emergency procedure are, importantly, optional and should only be introduced in a necessary situation. The actions of state authorities during a state of emergency should be characterized by a positive assessment of the category of adequacy of their use in relations to the degree of threat²¹. The introduction of the state of emergency itself, from the systematic point of view, may be a source of development restrictions.

States of emergency in the Polish legal system

In the Polish constitutional realities, there are three states of emergency: martial law, state of emergency and state of natural disaster²². The Constitution of the Republic of Poland in art. 218 sec. 1 requires constitutional measures to be applied proportionately in crisis situations²³, only in cases of danger and only when other ordinary means within the meaning of the constitution are insufficient.

17 Ibidem.

18 Act of December 5, 2008, on preventing and combating infections and infectious diseases in humans, Journal Laws of 2022, item 1675.

19 Regulation of the Minister of Health of March 20, 2020, on the announcement of the state of epidemic in the territory of the Republic of Poland, Journal Laws of 2020 r. item 491.

20 S. Trociuk, *Prawa i wolności w stanie epidemii*, Warszawa 2021, p. 8-10.

21 Ibidem.

22 P. Winczorek, *Komentarz do Konstytucji Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej z dnia 2 kwietnia 1997 r.*, Warszawa 2000, p. 287-301.

23 L. Garlicki, *Polskie prawo konstytucyjne. Zarys wykładu*, Warszawa 2018, p. 451.

Martial law is an institution regulated in the Act of August 29, 2002, on martial law and on the competences of the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces and the principles of his subordination to the constitutional authorities of the Republic of Poland. The application of the regulations contained in this act enables the widest range of activities, as the introduction of martial law must be associated with the threat to the existence of the state as a result of:

- external threat to the state,
- an armed attack on the territory of the Republic of Poland,
- if an international agreement results in the state's obligation to jointly defend itself against aggression²⁴.

The basis for the state of emergency are disturbances in the internal situation in the state. Pursuant to Art. 230 sec. 1 of the Constitution of the Republic of Poland, a state of emergency may be introduced only in the case of:

- threats to the constitutional system of the state,
- threats to the security of citizens,
- threats to public order.

Although the above threats, constituting the premises of the state of emergency, do not have their legal definitions either on the basis of the Constitutional Act or the Act of June 21, 2002, on the state of emergency, they are defined in rather uniform views of the legal doctrine.

Thus, the introduction of the state of emergency on the basis of the first

premise must be associated with the occurrence of the threat to the basic institutions and principles of the state system, as well as to the basic constitutional values²⁵. The state of emergency caused by the second premise means a threat to the life and health of citizens and their property, which cannot be abolished by ordinary constitutional means²⁶. An example of such a risk could be collective acts of violence against the life and health of citizen and their property, e.g., mass street riots²⁷. The third premise refers to the institution of public order, understood as a state of social relations that ensure the proper functioning of the state and society and the protection of the interests of individuals²⁸. The duration of the state of emergency is predetermined by a maximum length of time, i.e., a period of 150 days. As rightly pointed out by B. Banaszak, a longer duration of emergency measures could cause a disruption in the functioning of the existing systemic solutions. In case when such situation arises, constitutional reforms should be used rather than prolonging the state of emergency indefinitely.

A state of natural disaster is characterized by a different nature than the above-mentioned states of emergency, which is focused on jointly combating the adversities of nature. The introduction of a state of natural disaster is not subject to the fulfillment of such high legal requirements as the state of

24 A. Cieszyński, *Stany nadzwyczajne*, [w:] *Prawo konstytucyjne*, Z. Witkowski (Ed.), Toruń 2002, p. 631634.

25 M. Brzeziński, *Stany nadzwyczajne w polskich konstytucjach*, Warszawa 2007, p. 205-206.

26 K. Wojtyczek, *Granice ingerencji ustawodawczej w sferę praw człowieka w Konstytucji RP*, Kraków 1999, p. 253.

27 Por. K. Działocha, *Komentarz do art. 230*, [w:] *Konstytucja Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej. Komentarz*, L. Garlicki (Ed.), volume IV, p. 2-3.

28 K. Wojtyczek, *Granice ingerencji...*, p. 188-190.

emergency²⁹. Pursuant to the provisions of Art. 232 of the Constitution of the Republic of Poland, this state may be introduced to prevent the effects of natural disasters or technical failures bearing the characteristics of a natural disaster or to remove them.

The definition of the concept of a natural disaster is contained in Art. 3 of the Act of April 3, 2002, on the state of natural disaster. Prerequisites for the occurrence of a natural disaster are sudden, violent phenomena, threatening or causing large losses in people, or large-scale losses in property or the environment. This status is introduced for a period not longer than 30 days in part or in the entire territory of the state. What is important, unlike the state of emergency regulated in the Constitution of the Republic of Poland, the legislator did not limit the period of prolongation of the state of natural disaster. The doctrine points to the related dangers for the proper functioning of the state. As an example, it is noted that „any state of emergency, including a state of natural disaster, results in the extension of the term of office and the postponement of the parliamentary elections, and the possibility of its multiple and indefinite extension will tempt the parliamentary majority and the Council of Ministers supported by it to manipulate the date of future elections”³⁰.

To sum up the above, the notion of a state of emergency is understood as the occurrence of a situation of danger in

the country, which justifies resorting to solutions consisting of in:

- the concentration of power in the hands of executive,
- limitations on the rights and freedoms of citizens,
- changes in the structure and functioning of the state authorities,
- changes in law-making system³¹.

In practice, therefore, during a state of emergency, some constitutional regulations are suspended and replaced by a separate regulation, prepared to confront the threat on behalf of the common good. When deciding which state should be introduced in a given situation, it seems extremely important to reflect on the assessment of the fulfillment of the conditions for introducing any of the states of emergency. It is obvious that martial law could not be applied in the connection with COVID-19. However, the legitimacy of introducing a state of emergency or a state of natural disaster in this case was not and is not devoid of factual arguments.

This is primarily due to legal restrictions covering individual states of emergency, especially taking into account the source of the threat, the duration of the threat enforcement, etc. Frequently, the decisive value will have an effect related to the occurrence of the crisis situation. With regard to the COVID-19 pandemic, the impact on health care systems and on the economies of individual countries is also quite often emphasized. It also indicates that these influences may

29 Por. K. Prokop, *Stany nadzwyczajne w Konstytucji Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej z dnia 2 kwietnia 1997 r.*, Białystok 2005, p. 23.

30 M. Brzeziński, *Stany nadzwyczajne w polskich konstytucjach*, Warszawa 2007, p. 233.

31 L. Garlicki, *Polskie prawo konstytucyjne...*, p. 451.

be perceived as a threat to public order. In the Polish reality, such a position was already presented by, among others, K. Działocha³², and the opposite view was indicated, for example, by K. Wojtyczek, based on the broad constitutional possibilities of „ordinary” limiting economic and social rights.

However, with regard to the legitimacy with introducing a state of natural disaster on the territory of the Republic of Poland, it is worth noting that pursuant to Art. 228 sec. 1 of the Constitution of the Republic of Poland, the introduction of each of the states of emergency takes place „in situations of particular threats, if ordinary constitutional measures are insufficient”³³. This is the principle of last resort for states of emergency. Therefore, with the situation of threat when ordinary constitutional measures are not sufficient, we will deal when it is not possible to counteract this threat without departing from the application of constitutional norms applicable in a „normal situation”.

Summary

Referring the above considerations to the issue of the COVID-19 epidemic, there is no doubt that the constitutional state of natural disaster also includes a disaster caused by the spread of an infectious disease. This is also confirmed by the content of the Art. 3 sec. 1 point 2 of the Act of April 18, 2002, on the state of natural disaster³⁴ within the

meaning of Art. 232 of the Constitution of the Republic of Poland. In Poland, the model of an ordinary constitutional measure was finally used, which resulted in the establishment of restrictions, orders, and prohibitions in connection with the outbreak of the state of epidemic (issued on the basis of the authorization contained in the Act on preventing and combating infections and infectious diseases in humans). This solution mainly affected the possibility of using the freedoms and rights of the individual which are permissible in the normal functioning of the state (Article 31 (3) of the Constitution of the Republic of Poland 31), but also restrictions that interfere with the essence of such freedoms and rights as: freedom of economic activity (Article 22 of the Constitution of the Republic of Poland), the right to decide about one’s personal life (Article 47 of the Constitution of the Republic of Poland) or freedom of movement within the territory of the Republic of Poland (Article 52(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Poland).

It should be noted here that the problem of statutory regulation of activities going beyond the normal functioning of a democratic state governed by the rule of law is an extremely delicate issue, as it is unanimously emphasized in the doctrine that it is not possible to create extra-constitutional emergency states of a scope and nature comparable to those known to the constitution. A different philosophy of operation leads to

32 K. Działocha, Comment to art. 230..., p. 4.

33 K. Wojtyczek, *Granice ingerencji...*, p. 250.

34 M. Czura, *Stany nadzwyczajne*, [w:] *Konstytucja III RP w tezach orzeczniczych Trybunału Konstytucyjnego i wybranych sądów*, M. Zubik (Ed.), Warszawa 2008, p.820-821.

a circumvention of the principle of constitutionality because the prohibition of violating the essence of constitutional freedoms and rights does not apply only in the states of emergency provided by the Constitution of the Republic of Poland. This prohibition also applies during the normal functioning of the state, and the state of epidemic, despite the name that could suggest something else, is not an emergency.

Bibliography

- Basiukiewicz P., *Ani jednej łzy. Ochrona zdrowia w pandemii*, Warszawa 2021.
- Beaglehole R., Bonita R., Kjellström T., *Podstawy epidemiologii*, Łódź 2002.
- Bosek L., *Stan epidemii – aspekty konstytucyjne i prawoporównawcze*, [w:] *Prawo w czasie pandemii Covid19 – materiały z XXII konferencji wydziałowej*, Warszawa 2021.
- Brzeziński M., *Stany nadzwyczajne w polskich konstytucjach*, Warszawa 2007.
- Cieszyński A., *Stany nadzwyczajne*, [w:] *Prawo konstytucyjne*, Z. Witkowski (Ed.), Toruń 2002.
- Czura M., *Stany nadzwyczajne*, [w:] *Konstytucja III RP w tezach orzeczniczych Trybunału Konstytucyjnego i wybranych sądów*, M. Zubik (Ed.), Warszawa 2008.
- Duszyński J., Afelt A., Ochab-Marcinek A., Owczuk R., Pyrc K., Rosińska M., Rychard A., Smiatcz T., *Zrozumieć COVID-19 – scientific description of the Covid-19 teams at the President of the Academy of Science*, Warszawa 2020.
- Działocha K., *Komentarz do art. 230*, [w:] *Konstytucja Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej. Komentarz*, L. Garlicki (Ed.), volume IV.
- Folak Ł., *Zasada proporcjonalności w tworzeniu prawa administracyjnego*, „Ruch Prawniczy, Ekonomiczny i Socjologiczny” 2017, Year LXXIX – volume 4.
- Garlicki L., *Polskie prawo konstytucyjne. Zarys wykładu*, Warszawa 2018.
- Gershwin L. A., *Stung!: On Jellyfish Blooms and the Future of the Ocean*, Chicago 2013.
- Grzegorzczak A., Kościńczak A., *Komunikowanie w sytuacjach kryzysowych*, [w:] *Zarządzanie w sytuacjach kryzysowych niepewności*, K. Kubiak (Ed.), Warszawa 2012.
- Prokop K., *Stany nadzwyczajne w Konstytucji Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej z dnia 2 kwietnia 1997 r.*, Białystok 2005.
- Pyrc K., *Ludzkie koronawirusy*, „Postępy Nauk Medycznych” 2015, volume XXVIII, no. 4B.
- Taleb N. N., *Czarny łabędź, o skutkach nieprzewidywalnych zdarzeń*, Warszawa 2014.
- Trociuk S., *Prawa i wolności w stanie epidemii*, Warszawa 2021.
- Winczorek P., *Komentarz do Konstytucji Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej z dnia 2 kwietnia 1997 r.*, Warszawa 2000.
- Wojtyczek K., *Granice ingerencji ustawodawczej w sferę praw człowieka w Konstytucji RP*, Kraków 1999.
- Wucker M., *The Grey Rhino, How to Recognize and Act on the Obvious Dangers We Ignore*, St. Martin's Press 2016.
- Zarządzanie kryzysowe. Teoria, praktyka, konteksty, badania*, eds. J. Stawnicka, B. Wiśniewski, R. Socha (eds.), WSPol., Szczelno 2011.
- Zhu N., Zhang D., Wang W., Li X., Yang B., Song J., Zhao X., Huang B., Shi W., Lu R., Niu P., Zhan F., Ma X., Wang D., Xu W., Wu G., F Gao G., Tan W., *A Novel Coronavirus from Patients with Pneumonia in China, 2019, China Novel Coronavirus Investigating and Research Team*, „The New England Journal of Medicine” 2020, 382(8).

- Act of December 5, 2008, on preventing and combating infections and infectious diseases in humans, Journal Laws of 2022, item 1675.
- Regulation of the Minister of Health of March 20, 2020, r. *on the announcement of the state of epidemic in the territory of the Republic of Poland*, Journal Laws of 2020 r. item 491.
- <https://www.who.int/director-general/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-opening-remarks-at-the-media-briefing-on-covid-19---11-march-2020>; press conference WHO available on the official WHO website: <https://twitter.com/WHO/status/1237777021742338049?s=20>.
- <https://www.rmfm24.pl/tylko-w-rmf24/populniodniowa-rozmowa/news-pinkas-w-polsce-nie-ma-tego-wirusa-zagrozenie-zarazenia-koro,nId,4298411>.

About Author

Adrian Pękacz, Graduate of Świętokrzyska Academy (Management and Marketing), as well as many postgraduate studies, including at the University of Warsaw (Medical Law, Bioethics and Sociology of Medicine), Warsaw School of Economics (Human Resource Management), Lazarski University (Master of Business Administration in Health Care and Master of Business Administration with a major in Management) and the Military University of Technology in Warsaw (Academy of Leadership and Communication).

In 2022, he started an Master of Business Administration in National Defense and Homeland Security at the Military University of Technology.