

Czech authorities ban liquor after 19 poisoned

September 15 2012

The Czech health minister has placed a total ban on the sale of liquor with over 20 percent alcohol, following 19 deaths attributed to methanol poisoning from bootleg spirits.

Friday's measure tightens up a ban on spirits with over 30 percent alcohol being sold by street vendors and market stalls, which was introduced on Wednesday.

"We have to toughen up this measure," [health minister](#) Leos Heger said on public television Friday,

Most of the deaths, in the country's worst wave of alcohol [poisonings](#) in three decades, were due to drinks bought in shops and restaurants, he said.

The first case of methanol poisoning in the capital Prague had also been discovered, he added.

In comments made later on the daily Dnes newspaper's website, Heger said the ban, which will cover all outlets including hotels and plane flights, could last for "some weeks".

Vendors ignoring the [ban](#) will be subject to hefty fines.

The head of the spirits producers and importers union, Petr Pavlik, criticised the move, saying it would encourage the black market.

The 19th victim was identified as a 66-year-old woman from Havirov in the northeastern region, which has been worst hit by the poisonings.

Twenty other people remained in hospital Friday, some of them blinded, some placed in artificial comas and others in critical condition.

Czech police have so far arrested 11 people in connection with the matter.

The Czech Republic has the world's second highest adult [alcohol intake](#) after Moldova, according to latest [World Health Organization](#) data.

(c) 2012 AFP

Citation: Czech authorities ban liquor after 19 poisoned (2012, September 15) retrieved 9 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2012-09-czech-authorities-liquor-poisoned.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.