**Quarantine Regulations**

**What does "isolation" mean, and what does "quarantine" mean?**

"Isolation" means a temporary seclusion of infected or certain suspected infected persons from other people for the duration of the period during which the person under isolation is able to pass on the virus. "Quarantine" is the appropriate segregation of contacts, i.e. persons who have had contact with an infected person.

**What is the purpose of isolation and quarantine?**

Isolation and quarantine serve to protect us all from infection with the coronavirus and is intended to contain the spread of the disease.

**When do I have to go into isolation or quarantine?**

A duty of isolation or quarantine applies automatically under the Coronavirus Test Quarantine Regulation and is to be implemented directly for:

* persons whose PCR test is positive for SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus,
* members of the same household of people who tested positive,
* persons who show symptoms of disease or have a positive rapid test result and have therefore undergone a PCR test- until the PCR test result is available.

The quarantine of persons who have had close personal contact with infected people without living in the same household is decided by the local regulatory authority in consultation with the competent public health department, depending on the intensity of the contact. A quarantine order is conceivable if there were at least 10 minutes of close contact, for example in the context of a conversation, and no mask was worn. Quarantine can also be ordered if the person has been in a poorly ventilated or unventilated room with an infected person for a long period of time. Even if quarantine is not ordered, contact persons must seclude themselves as best they can for 10 days after contact.  
  
Household members and other contact persons do not have to be quarantined if they either

* have a proven booster vaccination, or
* are both vaccinated and recovered
* have been vaccinated twice, although this only applies between the 15th and 90th day after the second vaccination
* or have recovered, this being between the 28th and 90th day after the positive test was taken alone.

If symptoms of the disease occur, individuals are required to go into self-isolation and have testing done.

**Are there exceptions to the automatic quarantine rule?**

The automatic quarantine regime replaces individual quarantine orders by the competent authorities on site. If a locally competent authority additionally issues an individual order, its content shall in any case take precedence over the general regulation of the ordinance.

**What do I have to keep in mind during isolation or quarantine?**

Isolation and quarantine mean domestic segregation. The following measures must be observed:

* direct retreat into one's own flat, house or accommodation
* no leaving the accommodation during quarantine, not even to go shopping or to walk a dog. That must now be done by others
* Contact with other people outside the accommodation must be strictly avoided
* Contact with other non-quarantined people within the accommodation should be kept to a minimum. Then important rules of conduct must be observed, such as wearing a medical mask, good hand hygiene and sufficient ventilation in the rooms.
* One's own garden, balcony or terrace may be used - but not to meet other people
* The flat may only be left to have a PCR coronavirus test carried out. It is very important to observe the rules of conduct (keep your distance, observe hygiene rules, wear a medical mask).

**Whom do I have to inform about the isolation?**

Persons with a positive test result (infected persons) must immediately inform their close personal contacts of the past two days since the onset of symptoms/positive test result. This is especially true if the contact was in a poorly ventilated or unventilated room for a prolonged period of time, or in a direct contact (over 10 minutes), no distance of 1.5 metres was kept between each other and no medical masks were worn.

**How long does isolation or quarantine last?**

Isolation or quarantine of infected persons and their contacts always ends after 10 days. It can be stopped early after seven days with a negative rapid coronavirus test or a negative PCR test if there have been no symptoms in the past 48 hours. Termination of isolation is also possible with a PCR test with a CT value above 30. The test certificate must be kept for at least one month for possible checks by the authorities.

For employees in hospitals, nursing homes, etc., a PCR test is always required for a release.

For children in day-care facilities and schoolchildren, the quarantine period can even be reduced to five days with a negative test.

**What happens if I don't follow the isolation/quarantine rules?**

Anyone who does not comply with the rules commits an administrative offence. This can be punished with a fine of up to 25,000 euros.