

11 June 2020

New version of the Coronavirus Protection Ordinance with further relaxations comes into effect starting on Monday

Certain events with more than 100 people and private festivities with up to 50 people will be possible with restrictions / Contact sports indoors with up to 10 people and outdoors with up to 30 people allowed / Further relaxation and leisure facilities can open

The state government has issued the following statement:

As of Monday, 15 June 2020, further adjustments of the Coronavirus Protection Ordinance will come into effect in North Rhine-Westphalia. These concern relaxations for the comprehensive access restrictions for retail as well as events and gatherings with more than 100 participants, which will be permitted with requirements, in particular the ability to contact participants. Private parties for exceptional occasions such as anniversaries, weddings, baptisms, birthdays or graduations will be permitted for up to 50 participants, with requirements such as the ability to contact participants as well as hygiene and safety precautions. Furthermore bars, wellness facilities and water parks can resume operation with requirements.

Relaxations will also apply to contact sports. Contact sports indoors with up to 10 people, and outdoors with up to 30 people, will be permitted as of Monday. Sports competitions in community and recreational sports can take place in auditoriums with requirements.

The fundamental contact restrictions in public and the obligation to wear mouth and nose protection in certain areas with public and customer traffic will remain in place. Large events will also remain prohibited until at least 31 August 2020.

The positive developments concerning the pandemic in North Rhine-Westphalia allow for the further adjustments of the coronavirus protection measures. The number of new infections in North Rhine-Westphalia since the first relaxations on 20 April has decreased by more than 75 per cent. This development reinforces the state government's path with regard to the coronavirus pandemic. The responsible and considerate conduct of the great majority of people makes it possible to take these next steps on the path toward responsible normalcy. The moderate relaxations and adjustments of the protective measures are subject to constant evaluation of the pandemic.

The new version of the Coronavirus Protection Ordinance will come into effect on Monday, 15 June 2020 and provisionally last until 1 July 2020. It can be found on www.land.nrw.

The new regulations in detail

The Coronavirus Protection Ordinance for North Rhine-Westphalia concerns the following new regulations as of 15 June 2020:

1. Events and festivities

Events

Events and gatherings with up to 100 people will be allowed with hygiene and distance requirements. Regulations concerning hygiene, controlling access, ensuring a minimum distance of 1.5 metres, and traceability of the spectators and participants apply. Further requirements apply to events with more than 100 participants. These are only permitted when coordinated with the corresponding health authority. Furthermore, these require a special hygiene and infection protection concept.

The traceability of participants and distance requirement of 1.5 metres do not apply at events with fixed seating if seating plans are created. This also applies to extracurricular educational services or cultural events if fixed seating is provided. The traceability requirements stipulate the recording of participant data and the creation of a seating plan that documents where each present individual was seated.

Large festivities such as folk festivals, city/village/street fairs, sharpshooting and wine events, or similar festivities will remain prohibited until at least 31 August 2020. This also applies to musical events, festivals and similar cultural events, and sports festivals.

Private festivities

Events of a primarily social nature will remain prohibited. The exceptions are festivities for exceptional occasions such as anniversaries, weddings, baptisms, birthdays or graduations, which may take place with certain requirements. These festivities are possible with up to 50 participants if hygiene regulations are adhered to and the participants can be contacted. With these requirements, mouth and nose protection does not need to be worn at civil funerals or gatherings at wakes. These events may take place in separated areas as well as in food service facilities and hotels.

2. Retail, museums and food service

Relaxations will apply to comprehensive access restrictions to retail as of 15 June. This will be expanded from one person per 10 square metres to one person per seven square metres within the shop's sales area. This also applies to visitor restrictions to museums, exhibits and zoos.

Bars can resume operation in accordance with the hygiene and infection protection standards that apply to food service. Clubs and night clubs will remain closed. Brothels, bordellos and similar facilities will remain prohibited from opening.

3. Relaxation and recreation facilities

Grilling in public spaces or facilities will be possible as of 15 June.

Flea markets can take place with requirements as per a special hygiene and infection protection concept. Temporary amusement parks with a majority of exhibitors can take place with requirements as per a special hygiene and infection protection concept, and if coordinated with the responsible authorities.

Wellness facilities and saunas can resume operations with adherence to hygiene and infection protection standards. This also applies to water parks and recreational pools. There will be no limit to the use of laned pools.

4. Sport

Groups of up to 10 people, lineal relatives, or relatives from two households will be able to play contact sports indoors as of Monday. Contact sports with groups of up to 30 people will be allowed outdoors. In both cases, it must be possible to contact the participants through the retrieval of data.

Community and recreational sport competitions will also be allowed indoors and in auditoriums, with adherence to a hygiene and infection protection concept.