



Press release - 525/06/2020

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State government lifts lockdown for Warendorf district / Lockdown regulations in Gütersloh district extended by one week / Coronavirus Protection Ordinance regulations extended until 15 July for all of North Rhine-Westphalia

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Minister President Laschet: Praise for residents, restrictions in Gütersloh to protect health remain necessary

The State Chancellery has issued the following statement:

The state government is lifting the lockdown and public life restrictions for the district of Warendorf at midnight after Tuesday, 30 June 2020. The regulations and restrictions in place for the district of Gütersloh will be extended by one week until 7 July 2020. Minister President Armin Laschet spoke with Health Minister Karl-Josef Laumann and the district commissioners of the districts of Gütersloh and Warendorf, Sven-Georg Adenauer and Dr Olaf Gericke, about these measures on Monday, 29 June 2020 and explained the next steps.

Furthermore, the Coronavirus Protection Ordinance regulations will be extended by two weeks in all of North Rhine-Westphalia. These will thus remain in place until at least 15 July 2020.

"With the targeted decisions of recent days and the consistent implementation of measures, we have asked much of the people of Gütersloh and Warendorf," says Minister President Armin Laschet. "We are aware of this. I am thus all the more grateful to them for their understanding and support. This also applies to the local mayors, with whom we are in close contact as we evaluate the developments of the pandemic and coordinate actions.

"The results of the most large-scale testing since the coronavirus outbreak, with nearly 40,000 people, and the development of the case

numbers confirm our approach and show that our nuanced decisions were the right ones. Yet these past days should also serve as a reminder to us that we have not yet overcome the virus, and we must continue to act carefully and considerately around one another."

"With the responsible and transparent approach in the districts of Gütersloh and Warendorf, and the extension of the regulations, we are granting these districts and the residents of North Rhine-Westphalia predictability and reliability," continues Laschet.

"Developments in the district of Gütersloh provide hope," says Health Minister Karl-Josef Laumann. "But based on our current numbers, we cannot yet be certain that the infections are almost exclusively limited to the outbreak at the slaughtering facility. As difficult as it is for the people of Gütersloh, we will have to continue keeping a very close eye on the situation there in the coming days. I am very grateful to everyone affected in Gütersloh and Warendorf for their understanding and perseverance. The restrictions are certainly not easy, but they are necessary."

"I explicitly support the state's decisions in cooperation with the authorities on site," explains district commissioner Sven-Georg Adenauer. "All of the measures taken for the district of Gütersloh thus far have proven to be right and necessary. In light of the caution that will continue to have to be exercised, it is unavoidable that the measures will have to be extended by one week. It is good that the residents of the district now have a perspective due to the good test results and successful inhibition of the infections. The rate of 50 new infections over 7 days plays a critical role in that."

"The many tests in the district show that the virus has not passed into the general population," explains district commissioner Dr Olaf Gericke.

"That is why the only right decision now is to lift the lockdown for the district of Warendorf. We have performed a logistical feat over the past days and created large-scale testing capacities in a short amount of time. I am thankful to all relief personnel who worked tirelessly. I am also grateful to the state government, not lastly for preventing stigmatisation

against the people from the districts. Minister President Laschet and Chancellor Merkel have worked commendably to ensure that the local residents are not targeted. We acknowledge this sign of solidarity."

With the announcement of the coronavirus outbreak at a slaughtering facility in Rheda-Wiedenbrück, the state government immediately took action and closed the facility, schools and day care centres, and commenced the second phase of the lockdown on 23 June 2020. Public life in the districts of Gütersloh and Warendorf was subjected to increased restrictions as a result. Only two people, or people from one family or household, could meet in public. In addition, a range of recreational activities such as museums, cinemas, gyms, indoor pools and bars were forced to close, in addition to the state-wide regulations of the Coronavirus Protection Ordinance. These regulations remain in place for the district of Gütersloh.

Beyond the restrictions for contact and recreation, adherence to the stipulated quarantine measures is critical to effectively breaking infection chains. Furthermore, the state government has ordered a comprehensive expansion of coronavirus testing in the affected regions in order to be able to estimate the spread of the coronavirus among the population. All residents in the districts of Gütersloh and Warendorf also have the opportunity to be tested for free.

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