

**Ordinance for Preventing
New Infections with the Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2
among Incoming and Returning Travellers
(Coronavirus Incoming Travel Ordinance – CoronaEinrVO)**

Version applicable as of 1 September 2020

§ 1

Federal law

The regulations of the ordinance for the testing obligation for incoming travellers from risk areas, passed by the Federal Ministry of Health on 6 August 2020 (Bundesanzeiger AT 07.08.2020 V1) and the regulations concerning return travel following determination of an epidemic situation on a national scale by the German Bundestag, passed by the Federal Ministry of Health on 6 August 2020 (https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/fileadmin/Dateien/3_Downloads/C/Coronavirus/200806_BMG_AO_Einreisende.pdf) remain unaffected.

§ 2

Reporting obligations

(1) Persons who travel from abroad into the state of North Rhine-Westphalia via land, sea or air and who stayed in a risk area as per paragraph 3 at any point within 14 days prior to arrival are obligated to immediately contact their respective local health office and notify it of their stay in a risk area as per paragraph 3. This also applies to persons who initially passed through another state in the Federal Republic of Germany. The obligation as per sentence 1 can be fulfilled by properly filling out a passenger locator form in accordance with the regulations concerning return travel following determination of an epidemic situation on a national scale by the German Bundestag (Federal Ministry of Health, 6 August 2020) and the submission thereof to the carrier.

(2) Furthermore, the persons specified in paragraph 1 are obligated, for 14 days upon arrival and in the presence of symptoms that indicate a COVID-19 infection based on the respectively current criteria issued by the Robert Koch Institute, to immediately notify their respective local health office.

(3) A risk area as per paragraph 1 sentence 1 is a state or region outside of the Federal Republic of Germany wherein there is an increased risk of infection with the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 at the time of arrival in North Rhine-Westphalia. The categorisation as a risk area is conducted by the Federal Ministry of Health, the Federal Foreign Office and the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community, and is published by the Robert Koch Institute.

§ 3

Quarantine for incoming and return travellers, monitoring, exemptions from quarantine

(1) The persons specified in § 2 paragraph 1 are obligated to immediately undergo home quarantine or quarantine in another suitable residence upon arrival, and to remain constantly sequestered there for 14 days following their arrival. During this period such persons are not allowed to receive visitors who do not belong to their household; this does not apply to persons who must enter the residence as per sentence 1 for pertinent reasons, such as to execute a legally granted right of custody or visitation for a person living in the household, to assist or care for a vulnerable person living in the household, or to visit a life partner who does not live in the same household as the visitor.

(2) For the quarantine period, the persons specified in paragraph 1 sentence 1 are subjected to monitoring by the respective local health office.

(3) The obligations as per paragraph 1 do not apply to persons who do not exhibit any symptoms that indicate an infection with COVID-19 based on the respectively current criteria issued by the Robert Koch Institute and who have a doctor's attestation in paper or digital format in German or in English confirming that there are no indications of the presence of an infection with the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, and this must immediately be submitted to the respective local health office on request. Findings from a specialist medical lab are considered a doctor's attestation. The doctor's attestation as per sentence 1 must be based on a molecular-biological test for the presence of an infection with the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 conducted in a member state of the European Union or another state specified by the Robert Koch Institute, and conducted no sooner than 48 hours before arrival in the Federal Republic of Germany. The time at which the test result is known is pertinent for the beginning of this 48-hour period. If the test is conducted following arrival, the obligations as per paragraph 1 must be adhered to until receipt of the doctor's attestation. The doctor's attestation as per sentence 1 must be kept for at least 14 days after arrival.

(4) Furthermore, the obligations of paragraph 1 do not apply to

1. persons whose profession during arrival entails crossing the border to transport persons, goods or products via road, rail, ship or airplane;
2. staff of diplomatic or consular offices as well as members of the European Parliament;
3. persons who are in the Federal Republic of Germany for fewer than 72 hours to attend to diplomatic or consular matters;
4. persons who are occupationally required and wholly compelled to travel into the Federal Republic of Germany daily or for up to five days due to their education, studies or for medical reasons and have been in a risk area as per § 2 paragraph 3;
5. persons who, for fewer than 72 hours and for one of the following travel reasons, are in the Federal Republic of Germany or were in a risk area as per § 2 paragraph 3: joint custody or visitation rights, visiting a life partner who does not live in the same household or relatives of the first and second degree, urgent medical treatments, assistance or care of vulnerable persons or persons needing assistance, caring for children, funerals and cremations, participation in civil or religious weddings.

(5) The obligations as per paragraph 1 do not apply to the following individuals, although they are still obligated to obtain a doctor's attestation as per paragraph 3 immediately upon arrival in the territory of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia:

1. members of a federal, state or municipal representational body as well as members of the Bundesrat;
2. members of the armed forces and law enforcement who are returning from an international deployment or from fulfilling obligations abroad equivalent to a deployment;
3. persons who have stayed in a risk area as per § 2 paragraph 3 due to compelling occupational matters without being included in the regulation of paragraph 4 number 1 or 4.

(6) In justified cases the respective local health office may allow exemptions from the obligations of paragraphs 1 and 5, provided such is permissible under consideration of all affected interests. The health office may also, in exceptional cases, authorise the person to leave their home to perform absolutely required activities that cannot be performed in another manner or by third parties.

(7) Sections 3 to 5 only apply if the persons specified therein do not exhibit any symptoms that indicate an infection with COVID-19 based on the currently respective criteria issued by the Robert Koch Institute.

§ 4

Special regulations

(1) The obligations of § 2 and § 3 do not apply to persons who are only travelling through the Federal Republic of Germany or North Rhine-Westphalia; these persons must leave the territory of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia directly without overnight accommodation. Any travel through the state of North Rhine-Westphalia for this purpose is permitted.

(2) The obligations as per § 2 and § 3 do not apply to persons who are travelling into the Federal Republic of Germany to commence a work period of at least three weeks (particularly seasonal workers, construction workers) if group-based, operative hygiene measures and precautions for avoiding contact outside of the work group are taken at the place of their accommodation and work for the first 14 days upon arrival and which are comparable to the sequestering obligation of § 3 paragraph 1, and if the workers are only allowed to leave their accommodation to perform their work. The employer shall report the commencement of work before it begins to the respective authority in accordance with the state law for protective measures as per § 28 paragraph 1 of the Infection Protection Act, and shall document the measures taken as per sentence 1. The authority shall assess the adherence to the requirements as per sentence 1.

§ 5

Administrative offences

Persons who deliberately or negligently engage in the following actions are committing an administrative offence as per § 73 paragraph 1a number 24 of the Infection Protection Act:

1. do not, or do not immediately contact the respective local health office in violation of § 2 paragraph 1 or 2,
2. do not directly undergo home quarantine or quarantine in another suitable residence in violation of § 3 paragraph 1 sentence 1,
3. do not seclude themselves from others in violation of § 3 paragraph 1 sentence 1,
4. receive a visitor in violation of § 3 paragraph 1 sentence 2,
5. do not submit the doctor's attestation to the respective local health office on request or immediately in violation of § 3 paragraph 3 sentence 1,
6. do not immediately obtain a doctor's attestation as per § 3 paragraph 3 upon arrival in the territory of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia in violation of § 3 paragraph 5,
7. do not directly leave the territory of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia in violation of § 4 paragraph 1 sentence 1 clause 2,
8. do not immediately or promptly report to the respective authority in violation of § 4 paragraph 2 sentence 2.

§ 6

Commencement, expiry

This ordinance is effective on the day following its announcement, and expires immediately following 15 September 2020.