**FAQ for CoronaSchVO as of November 2020**

*What is the purpose of the increased restrictions?*

The number of coronavirus infections has increased exponentially over the past weeks. Further growth at this rate would overload the healthcare system. These increased measures aim to reduce the infection numbers and thus permanently ensure the care capacities in the healthcare sector, while keeping infection paths manageable.

*Where does the new Coronavirus Protection Ordinance apply?*

The ordinance is binding for all public space. These are all areas that do not fall under the special protection of Article 13 of the Basic Law.

*Should people adhere to the regulations in private as well?*

Absolutely, whenever possible. Everyone capable of understanding the basic rules of infection protection is obligated to conduct themselves such that they and others are not subjected to any avoidable infection risks. This includes responsible conduct in private. The goal in November is to stop the rapid rise in infection numbers in order to prevent an overload of the healthcare system.

*Will new rules be implemented at schools and day cares?*

The previous regulations of the Coronavirus Care Ordinance, in particular for the operation of child day care centres and schools, remain unchanged.

*How many people can get together in public?*

A minimum distance of 1.5 metres from all persons must be adhered to in public.

This may only be disregarded in exceptional cases, including:

* if people from a maximum of two households meet, but this only applies to a maximum of 10 people
* to accompany underage persons and persons requiring assistance, or for care-related reasons
* in schools and day cares, including their events outside of their respective premises
* for children on public playgrounds
* in public transit
* for emergency, fire department and police dispatches
* for urgent work-related meetings
* between close relatives at funerals and civil weddings

*What distance must musicians adhere to?*

Persons who play wind instruments or sing must maintain a somewhat greater distance from each other and other people, namely 2 metres.

*Where do masks have to be worn?*

The previous regulations remain unchanged. The basic rule is that masks must always be worn when the minimum distance cannot be met. In enclosed public spaces, masks must also be worn while adhering to the minimum distance requirement if these spaces are accessible to customers and visitors. The previous regulations also remain in effect in public transit, schools and day cares.

Persons who do not adhere to the mask requirement are barred from using facilities or services.

*Can I continue to visit relatives at inpatient facilities?*

Patients at inpatient health and care facilities can continue to receive visitors if facility-specific visit plans are available and the directives and recommendations of the Robert Koch Institute are followed. The local regulations must not result in complete isolation of the patients.

*Are there restrictions for non-scholastic training services?*

Yes. All training services not pertaining to education or work are prohibited. In particular this concerns athletic services by the educational providers and services from music schools, as well as recreational services for children and adolescents.

Facilities for social and youth services will remain open for a maximum of 10 persons, however.

*Are driving classes and licence exams still possible?*

Yes. Only the students, instructors, teaching candidates and examiners may be present in the vehicles.

*What will happen with cultural facilities?*

Concerts and performances in theatres, operas and concert halls, cinemas and other public or private (cultural) facilities are prohibited until 30 November 2020. This also applies to the operation of museums, cultural exhibits, galleries, palaces, castles, memorials and similar facilities. Probationary operation for employment purposes is still allowed during this time.

Only drive-in cinemas with a distance of 1.5 metres between the cars may be operated.

*What will happen with amateur sports facilities?*

Recreational and amateur sports on and in all public and private sports facilities, gyms, swimming pools and similar facilities are prohibited until 30 November 2020. This excludes individual sports alone, with one other person, or exclusively with persons from one’s own household outside of indoor sports areas. Team and contact sports are also temporarily prohibited, including outdoors.

School athletics, practical athletic exams for academic studies, training at state service bases and federal bases in North Rhine-Westphalia are permitted.

*Are professional sports allowed?*

Competitions in professional leagues, professional equestrian athletics and horse racing as well as other professional athletics are permitted if all requirements are met and suitable infection protection concepts are available. Spectators are prohibited from attending competitions until 30 November 2020. Training for professional athletes is also permitted.

*What will happen with recreational and leisure facilities?*

Operation of the following facilities is prohibited until 30 November 2020:

* swimming pools and water parks, saunas and spas, and similar facilities
* amusement parks, indoor playgrounds and similar recreational facilities (indoors and outdoors),
* casinos, bookies and similar facilities,
* clubs and similar facilities,
* brothels, places of prostitution and similar facilities,
* excursions via ship, carriage, historical trains and similar facilities.

*Are there restrictions for shopping in (stationary) retail?*

All stationary retail locations will remain open. The number of customers present in retail facilities at the same time must not exceed one person per ten square metres of sales space in accordance with the NRW retail decree.

This regulation applies accordingly to the business premises of craftsmen and service providers.

Museums, exhibits, annual markets, special markets and similar events are prohibited until 30 November 2020.

*Are services requiring close physical proximity allowed?*

Services and trades for which a minimum distance of 1.5 metres from the customer cannot be adhered to (in particular facial treatment, cosmetics, nail studios, manicures, massages, tattoos and piercings) are prohibited until 30 November 2020.

This does not include

* trade workers and service providers in healthcare (including physical therapists, occupational therapists, midwives, speech pathologists, audiologists, opticians, orthopaedic shoemakers, etc.),
* foot care and hair salons,
* medically necessary trades and services,
* transportation of persons via car for commercial purposes.

*Are events and gatherings still allowed?*

Events and gatherings not covered by the special regulations in the Coronavirus Protection Ordinance are prohibited until 30 November 2020.

The following, among others, are still allowed pending conditions which must be observed on a case-by-case basis:

* gatherings as per the Assembly Act (e.g. demonstrations)
* gatherings that serve to provide basic needs to the population, uphold public security and order, or support public services and welfare (e.g. party meetings or blood donations)
* meetings of legally established committees that cannot be conducted digitally
* funerals
* civil weddings.

*Are restaurants and food service facilities open?*

The operation of restaurants, inns, carry-outs, pubs, cafés and other food service facilities is prohibited until 30 November 2020. Company dining areas and dining areas in educational facilities (such as in schools and universities) may stay open to serve the employees and users of the facilities. However, delivery and carry-out of meals are permitted.

*Are tourist trips allowed?*

No. Overnight accommodations for tourism purposes that began after 29 October 2020 are prohibited until 30 November 2020. The usage of permanently rented or owned properties and permanently stationary mobile homes, RVs, etc., by the authorised users is not tourism, and is thus allowed.

*Will adherence to the rules be inspected, and what is the punishment for violations?*

All responsible authorities and state officials will actively and consistently implement the conditions of this ordinance, and with coercive action if necessary.

Violations are administrative offences. These can be punished with monetary fines of up to 25,000 euros.