



**Neue Coronaschutzverordnung: Land setzt vereinbarte Maßnahmen zur Bekämpfung des Corona-Virus konsequent um**

**Press release - 1010/11/2020**

**New Coronavirus Protection Ordinance: state implements agreed measures for combating the coronavirus**

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**The Ministry for Labour, Health and Social Affairs has issued the following statement:**

The measures agreed upon during the advisory meetings between the state leaders and the Chancellor on 25 November 2020 are being implemented in North Rhine-Westphalia. The new Coronavirus Protection Ordinance contains necessary adjustments and remains in effect until 20 December 2020, as agreed by the state leaders and as per the new federal regulations.

"The situation remains serious," says Health Minister Karl-Josef Laumann. "We need a national effort to avoid a health emergency. And that means that we must continue reducing our levels of contact in order to further inhibit the spread of infection. The regulations in November were able to halt the exponential rise in cases, but unfortunately the number of infection cases has not yet decreased as much as desired and necessary. Concerning the upcoming Advent period, the measures are difficult for many people and pose a challenge to all of us, as this year we have to distance ourselves from cherished traditions. The goal now is to persevere."

**Overview of measures**

The new Coronavirus Protection Ordinance stipulates the following measures:

- Meetings in public places are only permitted between persons from one and one other household. Only a maximum of five

persons from two households are permitted to meet, whereby children up to and including the age of 14 years are not included in this count.

- A cloth face mask must be worn in enclosed public spaces. This also includes at the workplace, if a distance of 1.5 metres from other persons cannot be adhered to.
- A cloth face mask must also be worn in the immediate vicinity of retail facilities, in particular on the business's property, in the business's parking areas, and on the pathways leading to the business.
- In commercial facilities such as supermarkets, shopping centres and home improvement stores with a total sales space of more than 800 square metres, there are additional restrictions concerning the number of customers per square metre.
- Adherence to the Ordinance is also urgently recommended in private spaces. This explicitly includes the recommendation to reduce contacts, or to engage in contact in the safest possible manner by following these rules: keep a distance, stay hygienic, and wear a cloth mask.

The following special regulations apply for the upcoming Advent period and holidays:

- Commercial and social providers of Christmas trees may sell trees pending adherence to distance and hygiene requirements.
- During the period from 23 December 2020 to 1 January 2021, gatherings of close relatives or friends with a maximum of ten persons are permitted in addition to the aforementioned contact restriction, whereby children up to and including the age of 14 years are not included in this count. These persons are also not prohibited from staying in hotels and inns during their holiday visits.
- Publicly organised fireworks displays are prohibited for 2020/2021 New Year celebrations. The local authorities also prohibit the use of pyrotechnics on squares and streets (to be more specifically

designated) where large gatherings of people would be expected without this restriction. With regard to the upcoming ski season: the operation of ski lifts is currently prohibited as per § 10 paragraph 1 no. 2 Coronavirus Protection Ordinance as they are considered recreational facilities.

The new Coronavirus Protection Ordinance is effective as of 1 December 2020 and can be viewed [here](#).

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