



Press release -

Test obligation for incoming travellers from the Netherlands – North Rhine-Westphalia implements federal decree

Minister President Laschet: "Reduce border traffic to the necessary minimum."

The State Chancellery has issued the following statement:

Today the federal government today, 4 April 2021, has categorised the Netherlands as a high-incidence area, effective 6 April 2021. This means that, as of Tuesday, a current negative test result must be presented upon arrival from the neighbouring country. The test must have been taken no sooner than 48 hours before arrival.

For regular commuters who cross the border due to their occupation, studies or apprenticeship, a negative test taken up to 72 hours prior is sufficient, meaning that they must get tested up to two times per work week. This corresponds to similar regulations in Lower Saxony and Rhineland-Palatinate.

Adherence to the test requirement will be enforced through random checks by the police.

In a joint appeal in Friday, Dutch Prime Minister Rutte and Minister President Laschet called for everyone to avoid non-essential trips to the neighbouring country.

"After today's categorisation of the Netherlands as a high-incidence area, we must reduce border traffic to the necessary minimum," says Minister President Armin Laschet. "We have defined clear regulations for persons who have to travel. The test obligation for incoming travellers is an important part of our fight against the pandemic. Tests help detect infections and prevent the spread of the virus. We have found a solution for regular cross-border commuters that takes into consideration both the state of the pandemic as well as people's everyday reality."

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North Rhine-Westphalia is working with its European neighbours in the "Cross Border Taskforce Corona" initiated by Minister President Armin Laschet, to address the questions posed by the federal government's decision.

"The Task Force that we founded a year ago has once again proven itself successful," says Minister President Armin Laschet. "We are working closely with our Dutch friends to quickly resolve all questions and issues that arise."

PCR tests and PoC rapid tests from a medically authorised service provider, and self-tests supervised by specialist personnel, are accepted. Proof of this test may be submitted in paper or digital format, e.g. by presenting a document on one's mobile phone. This proof must be on the traveller's person during arrival. Regular cross-border commuters are permitted to immediately take the test after arrival (e.g. directly at the workplace upon arrival).

Persons who regularly visit close relatives (1st-degree relatives, spouses, life partners, common-law spouses, children living separately due to shared custody or care) on the other side of the border multiple times per week must also undergo regular testing. Like the regulation for border commuters, a negative test no older than 72 hours is required in these cases. This means that two tests are required within one six-day period.

A negative test that is no older than 48 hours is valid in all other cases.

According to federal law, the test obligation does not apply to transit travellers and transport personnel who are in Germany for fewer than 72 hours. Further exceptions can be requested from the responsible health office.

In addition to the test obligation, there is a registration obligation for incoming travellers from the Netherlands. Registration must be made before arrival at www.einreiseanmeldung.de. Transit travellers and persons staying for fewer than 24 hours are exempt from this regulation.

The Netherlands have been categorised as a risk area since 17 October 2020. The upgrade to a high-incidence area will come into effect at

midnight on 6 April 2021. The categorisation as a risk area, high-incidence area or virus mutation area is made following joint analysis and decision by the Federal Ministry of Health, the Federal Foreign Office, and the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community. The Robert Koch Institute publishes the updated, full list online every day.

A list of test centres in North Rhine-Westphalia can be found here: <https://www.land.nrw/corona#testzentren>

The federal regulations regarding the test obligation in high-incidence areas can be found at <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/service/gesetze-und-verordnungen/guv-19-lp/coronaeinreisev.html>.

Please direct civilian questions to: tel. 0211 837-1001.

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