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STATE CHANCELLERY

**Responsible (according to press laws)**

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## Corona pandemic

### **Federal and state governments decide on relaxation - continue to protect people in Germany against infection as effectively as possible**

"Our strategy has always been to keep the infection rate under control in such a way that sufficient treatment capacity is available for all seriously ill patients. We have succeeded in this, and it remains our benchmark for relaxation", said State Premier Malu Dreyer after the Chancellor's video conference with the various State Premiers, which lasted several hours.

"We have managed to slow down the rate of infection due to the restrictions of the past few weeks. In March, one infected person infected four to five people, today the reproduction rate with new infection is down to one. Thanks to the security measures we have achieved, more people recover from Covid-19 today than fall ill. We can provide many additional intensive care beds.

We also owe our success to the patience and tremendous discipline of our citizens and to the people who make sure that this is put into practice, especially in the health system. My special thanks go to them," said State Premier Dreyer.

"We have limited the speed at which the disease spreads but we have not defeated it, so our daily lives will be determined by the fight against the coronavirus for a long time to come. At the same time we are faced with the task of gradually restarting public life,



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giving citizens more freedom of movement again and allowing economic life to resume to a greater extent. For me, it is important that we ensure that the relaxation we have decided on today does not lead to setbacks. This is why it is essential that we protect all the people in Germany as effectively as possible from infection. This is especially true for people who have pre-existing illnesses, but there are also severe complications in younger infected persons. That's why infection prevention and hygiene measures are particularly important to us wherever we relax contact restrictions," said Malu Dreyer.

1. **Contact restrictions remain:** The most important measure continues to be keeping a spacing of 1.5 metres in public places. You should continue to enter public places either alone or only with another person not living in the household, or with members of your own household. Major events remain prohibited at least until 31 August 2020.

2. The aim is to effectively identify and prevent the spread of the virus by increasing **contact tracing. A digital "contact tracing" app is to be used** for this purpose and we also want to **further increase test capacities**.

3. **Procurement of medical protective equipment:** The Federal Government is supporting the Federal States and the Association of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians in the procurement of medical protective equipment for the health care system. In addition, the Federal States and institutions will make every effort to procure them themselves. In addition to procurement, primarily abroad, production capacities for appropriate products are also being expanded at high speed in Germany. The overriding goal is a comprehensive supply of medical masks which protect the wearer from infections in health care facilities and nursing homes.

"The recommendations of the Robert Koch Institute regarding the wearing of masks in public spaces apply to everyday use, whereby the wearing of so-called (non-medical) everyday masks or community masks in public spaces can reduce the risk of infection. "In this respect we strongly recommend the use of so-called everyday masks in public transport and in the retail trade", said State Premier Dreyer.

4. Special protective measures will continue to be taken for vulnerable groups and in particular for nursing homes, homes for the elderly and institutions for the disabled



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depending on local conditions and the respective institutions. However, it should be noted that these measures are not intended to lead to complete isolation of the persons concerned. For this reason a specific concept should be developed for each institution with the help of external expertise, in particular from specialist hospital hygienists, and this concept should be developed and adapted closely in the further course of the project with regard to the occurrence of infections in the surroundings.

5. The **opening of kindergartens, schools and universities** requires a lead time so that the necessary preparatory measures can be taken on site and, for example, school transport can be organised.

Emergency supervision will be continued and expanded.

Examinations and exam preparation for the final classes of this school year should recommence immediately after appropriate preparation.

From 4 May onwards, priority can also be given to pupils in the final classes and qualification-relevant years at general and vocational schools who will take their exams in the next school year and those who are attending the last year of primary school.

The Standing Conference of Education Ministers has been commissioned to present a concept for further steps on how teaching can be resumed as a whole under special hygiene and protective measures, in particular taking into account the social distancing requirements caused by reduced learning group sizes, by 29 April. In addition to the lessons, breaks and school operation should also be taken into account. Every school must have its own hygiene plan. The school authorities are called upon to create and continuously safeguard hygienic requirements.

The Chancellor will discuss the timing for starting lessons in the respective class levels and the supervision of kindergartens with the State Premiers against the background of the development of infection figures.

In university teaching, in addition to sitting examinations, practical courses which require special laboratory or work rooms at universities can be resumed under special hygiene and protective measures.



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Accordingly, schools in Rhineland-Palatinate will initially open as follows:

27.04.2020	Exam preparation - lessons only in the examination subjects - for Abitur examinations from 30.04.2020 in G8GTS, colleges, evening classes, vocational high schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Final examinations from 11.05.2020 in FOS, BOS II, dual BOS, HBF, BF II</li></ul>
04.05.2020	Examination and graduation classes in qualification-relevant grades at ABS and BBS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ G9: grades 11 and 12 and grade level 10</li><li>▪ G8: grades 11 and 10</li><li>▪ IGS: grades 12, 11, 10 and 9</li><li>▪ RS+: grades 11 (FOS), 10 and 9</li><li>▪ BBS: grades 12 and 11 of the Vocational High School;</li><li>▪ all BVJ and BF I</li><li>▪ BVJ and BFS at BBS:</li> <li>▪ Class level 4</li></ul>

Minister of Education Stefanie Hubig: "We are all pleased that we now have a little more clarity. It is right that we should gradually reopen the schools - and it is right that we do so responsibly and with the necessary lead time. Health protection is the top priority. We know that it is not easy for many parents to reconcile their work, general insecurity and caring for and supporting their children. The same is true for teachers and students, who have had very different expectations for the last weeks of this school year. We take all this very seriously. We will also be consulting today at CMC level and will clarify further details of the course of events in the coming weeks. My goal is that we proceed as uniformly as possible on this important issue throughout Germany."



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6. The following shops can also reopen under conditions regarding hygiene, control of access and avoidance of queues:

In shops, a sales area of up to 800 square metres is permitted.

Furthermore, car dealers, bicycle dealers, bookstores, libraries and archives are permitted to open irrespective of the sales area.

7. The Federal Chancellor and the State Premiers are well aware that religious worship is a particularly valuable commodity. Living faith can provide strength and confidence, especially against the background of the difficulties that this epidemic and its consequences are causing for many people. However, after all that is known about the role of meetings in the spread of the virus, the risk of infection and the serious consequences for vulnerable groups, it is still urgently necessary to limit the conveyance of religious content to the media. Gatherings in churches, mosques, synagogues as well as religious celebrations and events and gatherings of other religious communities should not take place for the time being.

The Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Sport, together with representatives of the Federal States, will initiate talks with representatives of the various religions in order to find the most consensual way forward.

8. Even during a pandemic, we want to ensure that industry and small and medium-sized enterprises can work safely to the greatest extent possible. Economic activities with considerable public attendance remain excluded. Employers have a special responsibility for their employees to protect them from infections. Chains of infection which arise during operations can be quickly identified. For this reason, every company must also implement a hygiene concept based on an appropriate hazard basis and company pandemic planning.

9. The federal and state governments are supporting business to restore disrupted international supply chains. To this end they will establish contact points for the companies concerned.

10. In order to prevent further spread of the virus as far as possible, members of the public are urged to refrain from private travel and visits in general, including those of



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relatives. This also applies within Germany and for national day trips. The worldwide travel warning remains in effect. Accommodation in Germany will continue to be provided only for necessary non-tourist purposes.

A two-week quarantine will continue to be imposed on those entering and returning to the country in accordance with the provisions of the Model Ordinance of 8.4.2020 issued by the Federal Government. Entering and leaving Germany for the movement of goods, for commuters and other occupational travellers will continue to be possible in principle as before.

11. In addition, it must be taken into account that the epidemic is not spreading evenly in Germany. While some regions are not affected at all, other regions are suffering from overstretched health care and public health services. For this reason, the Federal Government and the Federal States will provide rapidly-available support measures for particularly affected areas and will coordinate closely with the Federal Government and the Federal State crisis teams.

12. Vaccine development is of central importance. A SARS.CoV-2 database in which inpatient treatment is documented and evaluated is being set up with the support of federal and state research institutions.

"My conclusion is: With this decision, the federal and state governments are taking numerous measures to improve control of the infection chains. It is a phased relaxation because we have to check that the new relaxations do not lead to an excessive increase in infection each time we issue them. That is why we will monitor the infection dynamics approximately every two weeks," said State Premier Dreyer.

Pictures of the press conference can be found at: [www.rlp.de](http://www.rlp.de)