

FAQ quarantine rules

(As of 13 January 2021)

What must I bear in mind when entering the country from risk areas?

Anyone who has stayed in a risk area in the last ten days before entering Germany is generally obliged to go into domestic quarantine immediately and to inform the health authority of their entry without delay. From 11 January 2021 onwards people entering the country from risk areas are also required to be tested for Corona infection no more than 48 hours before or immediately after entering the country.

The only exceptions to this are persons who

- enter the Federal State of Rhineland-Palatinate on a daily basis or for up to five days on business or medical grounds or stays here for a maximum of 24 hours and can present a corona test no more than 48 hours old,*
- have another valid reason for travelling; this includes in particular social aspects such as shared custody, visiting a partner who does not live in their own household, urgent medical treatment, assistance or care for persons in need of protection and reasons relating to training or studies, or*
- has been in a risk area for less than 72 hours as a person living here.*

Who has to go into quarantine?

Anyone in the following situations must go into quarantine:

- persons who have had a Category 1 contact with a person who tested positive
- persons who are themselves infected with corona
- persons who enter the Federal Republic of Germany from a foreign risk area, unless an exception regulated in the Ordinance applies.

No restrictions apply to travel within Germany. Travellers coming to Rhineland-Palatinate from risk areas within Germany do not have to enter quarantine. Regulations for those entering from abroad are different.

In accordance with the current Rhineland-Palatinate Corona Control Ordinance, persons who enter the Federal State of Rhineland-Palatinate by land, water or air and who have been in a risk area abroad at any time within 10 days prior to entry are obliged to go into quarantine immediately after entry by direct route for a period of 10 days after entry. This also applies to persons who have first entered the country in another federal state. As soon as they enter the country they must contact their responsible authority and draw attention to the existence of their quarantine obligations.

A reduction of the quarantine period is possible at the earliest from the fifth day after entry, if a person has a negative test result for corona infection on paper or in an electronic document in German, English or French and presents this immediately to the responsible health authority on request within ten days of entry.

Where can I go into quarantine?

Accommodation is suitable for segregation purposes if spatial segregation ensures that there is no contact with persons who do not belong to the same household. People in quarantine are not permitted to receive visits from people who do not belong to their household during this period.

Where are the current risk areas?

Risk areas are states or regions outside the Federal Republic of Germany for which there is an increased risk of infection with the corona virus SARS-CoV2 at the time of entry into the Federal State of Rhineland-Palatinate. Classification of risk areas is carried out by the Federal Ministry of Health, the Federal Foreign Office and the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Homeland Affairs and is published by the Robert Koch Institute (RKI).

The current list of risk areas outside the Federal Republic of Germany can be found on the RKI website:

https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Risikogebiete_neu.html

How and where do I report when I enter Germany from a risk area?

You are obliged to inform the health authority about your entry immediately. You can fulfil this obligation by registering your entry online in advance at <https://einreiseanmeldung.de>. Carry the saved and/or printed confirmation with you so that you can present it to the carrier or the border authority.

If this digital registration is not possible you will exceptionally have to fill in a written substitute registration and hand it in to the carrier or the border authority or send it to the health authority immediately after your arrival. You can find the sample here: https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/fileadmin/Dateien/3_Downloads/C/Coronavirus/Aussteigekarte_08-20.pdf

What happens if I only pass through Rhineland-Palatinate and the state is not my final destination? Can I stop for a toilet break?

The quarantine obligation does not apply to persons in transit. However, they must leave Rhineland-Palatinate immediately and directly. No one should be denied a toilet break. However, if possible, further contact with other people should be avoided.

What happens if I do not comply with the quarantine obligation?

A fine can be imposed in case of infringement.

Are there any exceptions to the quarantine obligation?

Exceptions only apply if there are no symptoms indicating infection with COVID-19. The responsible health authority may issue different instructions in individual cases.

The quarantine obligation does not apply, among other situations:

- to transit

- to a person who has stayed in a risk area abroad for less than 72 hours or who enters Federal territory from a risk area for maximum 24 hours.
- under specific conditions, for example in the case of private visits (first-degree relatives, life partners, exercise of rights of custody or access), professional activities, training, studies, to cross-border commuters and frontier workers who return regularly (at least weekly) to their place of residence.

The employer, client or educational institution must certify the urgent necessity in addition to compliance with the appropriate protection and hygiene concepts.