

Entry from Risk Areas: Quarantine Regulations and More

In Rhineland-Palatinate, a quarantine obligation applies to all persons entering the country from risk areas abroad. Persons entering Rhineland-Palatinate from a risk region for Covid-19 as defined by the German Robert-Koch-Institut (RKI) are obliged

- to enter a 14-day quarantine immediately upon entry,
- to report to the responsible health authority and
- to provide information about possible symptoms and a Covid-19 test.

The quarantine obligation does *not* apply to persons in mere transit through Rhineland-Palatinate. There are further exceptions for example in case of recent negative Covid-19 test or in cases of shared custody (cf. FAQs scrolling further down).

Prime Minister of Rhineland-Palatinate Malu Dreyer about the quarantine regulations: "It was important to the state government to find a solution that ensures that vacations in Rhineland-Palatinate remain safe." People traveling to Rhineland-Palatinate from a declared risk area are responsible for complying with the regulations. Violations of this obligation are subject to a fine. Hoteliers are able to protect themselves by providing this information to their guests. The state government has been in contact with the local central associations, Rheinland-Pfalz Tourismus GmbH, the DEHOGA Rhineland-Palatinate Hotel and Restaurant Association and the Chambers of Industry and Commerce to communicate the set of rules.

Below, you can find detailed information on quarantine rules, testing for incoming travelers, and our testing strategy.

Ground rules

According to the 11th Corona Fighting Regulation Rhineland-Palatinate, persons entering the state of Rhineland-Palatinate by land, water, or air and who have stayed in a risk area at home or abroad at any time within 14 days prior to their entry are obliged to go directly to their own home or another suitable accommodation immediately upon entry. They have to remain there permanently for a period of 14 days after entry, i.e. to go into quarantine. This also applies to persons who have first entered another federal state in Germany. Immediately upon entry to Rhineland-Palatinate, you are obliged to contact the local health authorities and inform them about your state.

Where do I go into quarantine?

Accommodation is suitable for the purpose of isolation if it ensures by spatial separation that there is no contact with persons not belonging to your own household.

What is a 'Risk Area'?

A risk area is a state or region outside the Federal Republic of Germany for which there is an increased risk of infection with the coronavirus SARS-CoV2 according to the German Robert-Koch-Institut (RKI) at the time of entry into the state of Rhineland-Palatinate.

Who classifies places as risk areas?

The classification as a risk area is made by the Federal Ministry of Health, the Foreign Office and the Federal Ministry of the Interior, for Building and Homeland Affairs and is published by the Robert Koch Institute. A current list can be found here: https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Risikogebiete_neu.html. Risk areas in Germany are identified in the daily management report of the Robert Koch Institute on coronavirus disease 2019. An overview can also be found here. This also applies to persons who have first entered another federal state.

What if I am only passing 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 by the most direct route. No one will a toilet break. However, if possible, no further contact with other people should take place.

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

In case of violation, a fine can be imposed.

Do I in any case have to quarantine if I travel to Rhineland-Palatinate from a risk area?

No, there are exceptions to the quarantine obligation if

- you enter daily or for up to five days for work or medical purposes,
- you stay here for a maximum of 24 hours,
- you carry with you a negative covid-19 test from within the last 48 hours,
- you have another valid reason for travelling, such as, in particular: social aspects like shared custody, visiting a partner who does not live in the same household as the spouse, urgent medical treatment, assistance or care for vulnerable persons, or reasons that are related to training or studies, or
- you have spent less than 72 hours in a risk area and are currently living in Rhineland-Palatinate.

If I return from a holiday outside of Rhineland-Palatinate (from a risk area), do I have to be quarantined at home afterwards?

Yes, but there is one exception: The obligation to be in quarantine does not apply to persons who have a medical certificate in German, French, or English language confirming that there is no evidence of an infection with the coronavirus and who present this certificate to the responsible authority immediately upon request. The medical certificate must be based on a molecular biological test for the presence of infection with the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2. It also has to be taken in a member state of the European Union or another state published by the RKI. The list of countries thus defined can be found here:

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

Additionally, the test has to be taken no more than 48 hours prior to entering Rhineland-Palatinate. The medical certificate must be retained for at least 14 days following entry.

Is it possible to take a test here in Germany after entry (at one's own expense) to avoid quarantining? Can I shorten the quarantine period by getting tested and getting a negative result? Can I do a molecular biological test if I have already travelled back to Germany from a risk area? If so, where?

The quarantine can be shortened by testing after entry if the test gives a negative result. It must be ensured that the test is performed without breaching the quarantine obligation.

The obligation to quarantine does not apply to persons who have a medical certificate in German, French, or English language confirming that there is no evidence of an infection with the coronavirus and who present this certificate to the responsible authority immediately upon request. The medical certificate must be based on a molecular biological test for the presence of infection with the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2. It also has to be taken in a member state of the European Union or another state published by the RKI. The list of countries thus defined can be found here: https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Tests.html. Additionally, the test has to be taken no more than 48 hours prior to entering Rhineland-Palatinate. The medical certificate must be retained for at least 14 days following entry.