

Corona

State Premier Malu Dreyer: Federal and state governments agree on extension of corona protection measures

The heads of government of the German states, together with the Federal Chancellor, decided today on a uniform escalation of protective measures to slow down the continuing rapid spread of the corona virus. "We are in an historic situation. The alarming situation in other countries in the European Union - particularly in Italy and France - is becoming more apparent every day: the situation is very serious, ultimately it is a matter of life and death.

In these times of maximum uncertainty amongst the population it was important that we achieve the greatest-possible clarity and find consistent regulations to protect people. A patchwork quilt with different measures in the individual states would have exacerbated uncertainty among the population", said State Premier Malu Dreyer.

"We would like to thank all those who have followed the measures to the letter in an exemplary manner. In view of the continuing increase in the number of infections throughout Germany and also here in Rhineland-Palatinate we now consider it necessary to extend the measures. We want to use these to flatten the infection curve, so that there are always enough intensive care places available and

health care continues to be guaranteed even in the event of a high rate of illness", said State Premier Malu Dreyer.

"The danger is frequent direct social contact, which allows the virus to spread in an uncontrolled manner. That's why we have to strongly restrict this. It makes no difference whether contact takes place in public spaces or in the domestic environment.

The Federal Government and the Federal States agreed on an extension of the guidelines for restricting social contact adopted on 12 March.

I. Citizens are urged to reduce contact with other people outside the members of their own household to an absolutely necessary minimum.

II. Wherever possible a minimum distance of at least 1.5 m must be kept between persons other than those from your own household in public places.

III. Access to public areas is only permitted alone, with one other person not living in the household or with members of one's own household. Observance of the contact restrictions will be monitored by the regulatory authorities and the police, and sanctions will be imposed in case of violations.

IV. The journey to work, journeys for the purposes of emergency care, shopping, visits to the doctor, participation in meetings, necessary appointments and examinations, providing help for other people, or individual sports and exercise in the fresh air as well as other necessary activities will of course remain possible.

V. Groups of people celebrating in public places, homes and private institutions are unacceptable given the seriousness of the situation in our country.

VI. Catering establishments will be closed. This does not include the delivery or collection of takeaway food for consumption at home.

VII. Personal care service providers such as hairdressers, beauty salons, massage parlours, tattoo studios and similar establishments will be closed because it is impossible to avoid physical proximity in this sector. Essential medical treatment remains possible.

VIII. In all establishments, especially those open to the public, it is important to comply with hygiene regulations and implement effective protective measures for employees and visitors alike.

IX. These measures are expected to be in force for a minimum of two weeks.

The Federal Government and the Federal States will cooperate closely in implementing these restrictions and assessing their effectiveness. Further regulations based on regional specifics or epidemiological situations in the federal states or administrative districts remain possible."

State Premier Malu Dreyer expressed her special thanks to workers in the health system, the public service and in the industries sustaining daily life, as well as to all members of the public, for their sense of responsibility and their willingness to abide by these rules in order to further slow the spread of the corona virus.

Many of these measures are already being implemented in Rhineland-Palatinate, the following will however change:

We are further restricting the circle of contact persons. Therefore, leaving one's own living quarters and access to public areas is only permitted alone, with one other person not living in the household or with members of one's own household.

In this way we want to ensure that the risk of infection is reduced. Other services, for example hairdressers, cosmetic studios, nail studios and tattoo studios, are now prohibited. This does not affect medical services such as medical pedicure, opticians or hearing-aid audiologists.

"We are fully aware that all the measures taken, and in particular stricter restrictions on social contacts, are radically changing the everyday lives of our citizens. But we are currently seeing how rapid and deadly the consequences of the corona pandemic can be in our neighbouring 'Grand Est' regions of France and in Italy," said State Premier Malu Dreyer. "Restricting contact today can save lives tomorrow. We owe it to any of our fellow citizens who have a previous illness or who are elderly. It is literally a matter of life and death! We also owe it to the doctors, nurses, policemen and policewomen, firefighters, rescue workers and those who keep our lives running, for example in grocery stores, trains or buses. They are already working to exhaustion. It is the duty of everyone to show reason and understanding in this historical situation and it is our duty to support them by complying with the protective measures", the State Premier appealed to the people of Rhineland-Palatinate.

The heads of government also discussed a legislative package to be passed in the German Federal Assembly (Bundesrat) on Wednesday which will include aid for hospitals preparing to admit seriously ill patients, an amendment to the infection control law, an adjustment to the insolvency law, the supplementary federal budget, the economic stabilisation fund law, emergency corona aid for micro-enterprises and the self-employed, and the social protection package.