WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CORONA NOW

Tips on conduct, labour law and travel regulations at a glance

Health

HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF AND OTHERS?

Everyone can help fight coronavirus. Keep contact with others to a minimum wherever possible and limit yourself to a constant group of people. This is the only way to avoid infection. Always important:

- Washing your hands (at least 20 seconds)
- Keeping a distance of 1.5 metres from other people.
- Wearing a mask that covers the mouth and nose.
- Cough or sneeze into the crook of your arm or into a tissue.
- Ventilate closed rooms sufficiently.

WHY SHOULD I GET VACCINATED AGAINST CORONAVIRUS?

- You will protect yourself, your loved ones and your contact persons.
- Getting vaccinated is voluntary and free of charge. By calling 116 117, you can find out where you can get vaccinated.
- The vaccines have been checked thoroughly with regards to tolerability, safety and efficacy.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I THINK I HAVE BEEN INFECTED?

Have you had personal contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus? Contact your local public health office by telephone immediately! Even if there are no visible signs of illness. By calling 116 117, you can find out where you can get tested. Stay at home until the results are available!
WHAT RULES ARE IN PLACE AT WORK?
When at work, you must provide proof that you are vaccinated, recovered or a negative test (“3G” rule). You can also get tested at your workplace under supervision. Your employer must check this. If you are not working solely from home, your employer must provide at least two rapid tests per week. If you can’t safely keep a distance of 1.5 metres while at work, you must wear a mask. Your employer must provide you the possibility to work from home, as long as no important company reasons stand in the way.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I LOSE MY JOB?
You must register with your job centre or employment office. Both receive visitors, but only in urgent cases and if you have an appointment. You can register as unemployed by phone, letter or online. You can also file applications online. Important: The rules on protection against dismissal continue to apply. Furthermore, access to basic security for jobseekers has been simplified.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY EMPLOYER HAS MANDATED SHORT-TIME WORK?
You can receive a short-time work allowance for up to 24 months. It can be up to 87% of your loss of earnings. The relevant employment agency checks whether all conditions met on a case-by-case basis.

WHAT HELP CAN I GET FOR MY BUSINESS?
Freelancers and companies that have gotten into financial difficulties due to coronavirus can apply for loans at favourable rates, subsidies and guarantees. This decision-maker can show you what’s possible: https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/DE/Module/Entscheidungsfinder/entscheidungsfinder.html
Unnecessary private travel and tourism, both abroad and in Germany, should continue to be avoided. Please find out about any current entry restrictions and border controls from the Federal Foreign Office and Federal Ministry of the Interior before you travel abroad.

WHAT DO I HAVE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT WHEN RETURNING?
Anyone who travels to Germany from a high risk area or an area where virus variants are present, must fill out a digital registration form before entry. Anyone arriving from abroad must show evidence of vaccination, a negative test or recovery from COVID-19. This is the case for all persons aged 12 and above. A PCR or an antigen test is required.

Generally, anyone arriving from a virus variant area must enter into quarantine at home for a period of 14 days. Those persons arriving from a high-risk area must enter into quarantine for 10 days. Anyone who is fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or who has recovered from an infection is not required to enter into quarantine. If you have tested negative upon arrival from a high-risk area, you may terminate quarantine after 5 days if you can provide evidence of a second negative test. A lab test (PCR, PoC-PCR) is accepted as proof for having recovered from COVID-19, provided that the test is at least 28 days old and not older than 6 months. The full vaccination must have been received at least 14 days ago.

Find out where you can get tested by calling 116 117.

Caution: Fines will be imposed for violating the obligation to quarantine.

See the following link for information on which countries are currently high risk areas or areas with virus variants: https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Risikogebiete_neu.html

WHERE WILL I FIND RELIABLE INFORMATION ON THESE TOPICS IN DIFFERENT LANGUAGES?
The internet is full of rumours and fake news that quickly spread through chat groups.

Up-to-date information in various languages that you can rely on can be found at: www.integrationsbeauftragte.de/corona-virus and www.eu-gleichbehandlungsstelle.de/corona-virus

CAN I APPLY FOR CHILD ALLOWANCE?
If your income is not sufficient for your entire family, parental benefits are available.

MAY I CLAIM CHILD HEALTHCARE ALLOWANCE?
Per year, you can receive 30 days of parental care leave per parent (60 days for single parents). This is also applicable if you must care for your children at home because their school or kindergarten has shut due to the pandemic.