WHAT DO 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.

FOR WHOM IS THE VIRUS PARTICULARLY DANGEROUS?

- for people with pre-existing illnesses (e.g. cardiovascular disease, diabetes, respiratory, liver and kidney diseases and cancer);
- for patients with a weakened immune system (due to an illness or medication, such as cortisone);
- for the elderly.

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

Have you had personal contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus? Then contact your local public health office by telephone immediately! Even if there are no visible signs of illness. The local public health office will explain how you can get tested. Stay at home until the results are available!
WHAT HAPPENS IF MY EMPLOYER CLOSES FOR THE TIME BEING BECAUSE OF CORONA?
You are generally still entitled to remuneration, even if you cannot work.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I LOSE MY JOB?
In this case, you must register with your job centre or employment office. Job centres and employment offices are continuing to work but only in urgent cases and by appointment. You can register as unemployed by telephone, letter or online and all applications can also be submitted online. Important: the rules on protection against unfair dismissal also apply during the corona period.

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

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP MY BUSINESS?
The Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) is offering various favourable business loans. Please contact your bank or financing partners that pass on KfW loans. Small and medium-sized businesses that want to secure or expand training places receive financial support.

WHAT KIND OF SUPPORT DO SELF-EMPLOYED PERSONS AND MICRO-ENTREPRENEURS GET?
Support available includes a KfW special programme with favourable loan conditions, grants for operating costs, guarantees with support from the government, tax measures and a support package for start-ups. Further support in the event of loss of revenue due to corona will be available for privately financed cultural institutions and non-profit organisations, e.g. youth hostels, charity department stores or inclusive businesses.

WHAT RULES APPLY IN PUBLIC SPACES?
On local public transport, when shopping as well as in all places open to the public and in open air, in which people remain in a confined space or for long periods of time, a mask must be worn. A nose and mouth covering must also be worn on work and business premises when a distance of 1.5 metres cannot be maintained.

Caution: a fine of at least EUR 50 may be imposed for violating the mask obligation.

Stricter rules may also be possible in the federal states if the local rate of infection so requires. Please refer to the website of the respective state government for more information.

WHICH FACILITIES WILL BE CLOSED?
In order to minimise the risk of infection, restaurants and cafes are to be temporarily closed (collection and delivery of food is still possible). This also applies to bars, clubs, theatres, concert halls, cinemas, leisure parks, sport clubs, swimming pools and fitness and cosmetic studios.

WHICH FACILITIES REMAIN OPEN?
- Schools and nurseries
- Shops and hairdressers, providing the hygiene requirements are maintained
- Medically necessary services, for example physiotherapy, may take place
- Hygiene and social distancing regulations must be adhered to at church services and other religious events

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WHAT APPLIES FOR TRAVEL?

Unnecessary private travel and tourism, both abroad and in Germany, should continue to be avoided. Overnight accommodation in Germany, e.g. in hotels, is now only permitted for vital purposes and not for tourism. 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?
The following applies to anyone entering Germany from a risk region: stay at home, do not receive visitors and register immediately with the local public health office! You can have a Covid test from the 5th day after your return at the earliest to then end the quarantine ahead of schedule provided that the test result is negative (otherwise 10 days). Find out where you can get tested by calling 116 117.

WHO PAYS MY INCOME DURING MANDATORY QUARANTINE?
You are generally entitled to continued payment of your salary or compensation for the time you are unable to work during mandatory quarantine. Beware: if your destination was designated as a risk region before you travelled, you will not be entitled to wage compensation in the future!

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.