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 authority by telephone immediately, even if there are no visible signs of illness. Call 116 117 to find out where you can be 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 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 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?
Keep a distance of 1.5 metres. 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 for long periods of time, a mask must be worn. You must also wear a mask at work, if the distance of 1.5 metres cannot be strictly kept. Alcoholic beverages must not be consumed in public.

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

WHAT CAN 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 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?
Keep a distance of 1.5 metres. 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 for long periods of time, a mask must be worn. You must also wear a mask at work, if the distance of 1.5 metres cannot be strictly kept. Alcoholic beverages must not be consumed in public.

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

The federal states may also adopt stricter regulations. In the case of many new infections, some state districts may restrict people’s allowable travel radius to 15 km from their residence. You can find information on this topic on the websites of the respective state governments.

WHAT CAN 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 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?
Keep a distance of 1.5 metres. 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 for long periods of time, a mask must be worn. You must also wear a mask at work, if the distance of 1.5 metres cannot be strictly kept. Alcoholic beverages must not be consumed in public.

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

WORK AND MONEY

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 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 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?
Keep a distance of 1.5 metres. 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 for long periods of time, a mask must be worn. You must also wear a mask at work, if the distance of 1.5 metres cannot be strictly kept. Alcoholic beverages must not be consumed in public.

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

WORK AND MONEY

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 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 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?
Keep a distance of 1.5 metres. 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 for long periods of time, a mask must be worn. You must also wear a mask at work, if the distance of 1.5 metres cannot be strictly kept. Alcoholic beverages must not be consumed in public.

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

WORK AND MONEY

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 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 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?
Keep a distance of 1.5 metres. 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 for long periods of time, a mask must be worn. You must also wear a mask at work, if the distance of 1.5 metres cannot be strictly kept. Alcoholic beverages must not be consumed in public.

Caution: a fine of at least EUR 50 may be imposed for violating the mask obligation.
WHAT IS THE GOVERNMENT DOING?
In order to ease the economic and social impact of the coronavirus pandemic, the federal government and the states are providing more than 1 trillion euros in aid. There is an additional support program for companies and facilities who are to close in November or December 2020.

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 area: You must undergo a Covid test 48 hours before travelling or immediately beforehand, and then stay at home. Do not receive visitors and register immediately with your local health authority. You can take a further 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.

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

Find out which countries are risk regions here: https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Risikogebiete_neu.html

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 area before you travelled, you will not be entitled to wage compensation!

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.

WHAT KIND OF ASSISTANCE IS THERE FOR STUDENTS?
Students under acute financial strain can apply for a subsidy from their student services (Studierendenwerk). It amounts to up to 500 euros each month for three months. Furthermore, there is the KfW-Studienkredit, which is now also available to foreign students.

CAN I APPLY FOR CHILD ALLOWANCE?
If your income is not sufficient for your entire family, parental benefits are available. In 2021, you can receive an additional 10 days of parental care leave per parent (20 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.

Publisher:
Federal Government Commissioner for Migration, Refugees and Integration.

Last updated:
05/01/2021