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.

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!

HERE YOU WILL FIND INFORMATION ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT’S CORONA-WARN-APP IN YOUR NATIVE LANGUAGE.

www.integrationsbeauftragte.de/corona-warn-app
WHAT HAPPENS IF MY EMPLOYER TEMPORARILY CLOSES 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 they only receive visitors for urgent legal reasons. 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 twelve 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 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 HELP CAN I GET FOR 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.

Work and money

WHAT RULES APPLY IN PUBLIC SPACES?
Keep a minimum distance of 1.5 m and limit contact with other people. Wearing a mask is mandatory in certain public areas, such as on public transport and when shopping.

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

AM I ALLOW TO ATTEND EVENTS OR VISIT RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS?
Hygiene and distancing rules must be observed at religious services and events. Religious celebrations are allowed to take place in a small group.

Anything permitted beyond this is regulated by the federal states – it could be that there are stricter rules if the local infection situation requires. Please refer to the website of the respective state government for more information.

PUBLIC LIFE

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Shops and restaurants must observe also distancing and hygiene regulations. All large-scale events are generally prohibited until 31 December 2020.

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WHAT IS THE GOVERNMENT DOING?
The Federal Government and federal states are providing more than 1 trillion euros of aid to cushion the economic and social consequences of the corona pandemic.

CAN I TRAVEL TO MY HOME COUNTRY?
Unnecessary private travel and tourism 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.

WHAT DO I HAVE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT WHEN RETURNING TO GERMANY?
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 end the quarantine with a negative coronavirus test (From October after the fifth day at the earliest). Find out where you can get tested by calling 116 117. 

Beware: fines for violating the quarantine obligation will be imposed in the future.

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. [Störer]

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.

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?
You can potentially get child allowance if your income is only enough for yourself and not for the whole family. Only the last monthly income will be checked for new applications during this time. This regulation is temporary. Parents will receive a one-time children’s bonus of 300 euros per child. The bonus is not offset against welfare benefits. Payment will be made automatically.

TRAVELLING

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