Hessian Ministry
for Social Affairs and Integration

HESSEN

Status as of March 17, 2020

Information from the Hessian Ministry for Social Affairs and Integration

We provide you with the following information as well as suggest resources where you can obtain additional up-to-date information.

At the end of 2019, the World Health Organization (WHO) was notified that there was an accumulation of lung diseases of unknown cause in Wuhan (China). Several days later, a new type of virus was identified as the cause. The disease caused by the virus (COVID-19) is currently spreading worldwide.

What is the current situation?

The Robert Koch Institute (RKI) regularly evaluates the significance of the novel virus for public health in Germany. The current risk assessment is published by the RKI at https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Risikobewertung.html;jsessionid=9766CE9E961256ECB36D5D17A325E8F4.internet062.

The Hessian government has determined the following for Hesse:
To slow down the spread of the coronavirus and not to endanger human lives, it is necessary to minimize personal contact as much as possible, both in the public and private domain. Therefore, all events of 100 participants or more are prohibited.

- From Wednesday, the 18th of March, provisionally until Sunday, the 19th of April, all facilities or institutions, which are not essential to provide care or supplies, are closed. Food and beverage retail markets, pharmacies, supermarkets, tank stations, building supplies stores and drugstores will remain open. Restaurants must close by 6 p.m.; all public and private sports clubs, libraries, museums, and adult education centers are closed. The complete list can be found at www.hessen.de/presse.
- From Monday, March 16th to Sunday, April 19th, Hessian children's daycare centers remain closed. Exceptions and further information can be found at www.soziales.hessen.de.
- From Monday, March 16th to Sunday, April 19th all Hessian schools remain closed. Exceptions and further information can be found at www.soziales.hessen.de.

Where can I find additional information about the coronavirus in Hesse?

Current information is available on the web page of the Hessian Ministry for Social Affairs and Integration at the following link: www.hessenlink.de/2019ncov.

The Hessian Ministry for Social Affairs and Integration has also set up a free information hotline for Hessian citizens.
The telephone number is: 0800 555 4 666 and is accessible/can be called between 8 am and 8 pm. It can also be contacted by email at buergertelefon@stk.hessen.de.

Citizens can also contact their local health authority if they have any questions. Contact information can be found at: https://tools.rki.de/PLZTool/

Assessment of specific risk areas

The RKI defines risk areas, in which continued human-to-human transmission is suspected, by considering various indicators (e.g. frequency of illness, dynamics of case numbers). You can find the current status at:
https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Risikogebiete.html

What should you be aware of, for example, when returning from vacation?
If you return from a trip from a defined risk area or from a country in which a risk area is located, please pay attention to possible symptoms in the following 14 days. A 14-day self-quarantine at home is recommended.

What can I do as a precaution to stay healthy?

As a protective measure, including against influenza, citizens are urged to comply with the following basic hygiene:

- Wash hands frequently and thoroughly (including children and adolescents)
- Cough and sneeze only in a paper tissue or your elbow (also children and adolescents)
- Use disposable tissues and dispose of them in a waste receptacle/bin after each use
- No handshakes, no hugs, nocheek kisses
- Do not touch your nose, mouth and eyes (especially after holding handles in buses or using door handles, which are touched by many, but also at home)
- Regularly clean/disinfect your smartphone, mobile phone, tablet, etc.
- Basically/As a rule, use only your own glasses and cutlery
- Consistently avoid crowds

What do I do if I have symptoms?

If you experience symptoms such as cough, fever or shortness of breath, you should:

- call **116 -117** (phone number of the medical on-call service)
- Contact the local health department/authority by phone
- Contact your family or general physician by phone

They will clarify with the inquiring individual whether an infection with the novel coronavirus is likely and, if justified, they will initiate further diagnosis and treatment.

Additional information, also in other languages, can be found at
https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/coronavirus.html

Currently, there is a lot of misinformation circulating in social media. Please use the sources listed above for your information.