Corona Pandemic: Important information for persons entering from a risk area

The coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 continuously spreads worldwide. Germany has so far been able to cope relatively well with this pandemic. To ensure that it remains that way, there are strict regulations for travellers from countries declared as risk areas. The most important regulations at a glance.

**High-risk areas:** The Robert Koch Institute, together with federal ministries, designates countries as international risk areas. The number of new infections registered in the respective countries is particularly decisive. The list of risk areas is updated regularly and can be found on the internet via following the link: [www.rki.de/covid-19-risikogebiete](http://www.rki.de/covid-19-risikogebiete).

**Quarantine:** If you have been in one of the designated risk areas 14 days prior to entering the Federal Republic of Germany, you are obligated to go directly and immediately into a 14-day domestic quarantine. This measure serves to protect your family, your neighbours and all people surrounding you and it is unfortunately unavoidable. In this case, it does not matter whether you are infected or not.

During quarantine, you are not allowed to leave the house or apartment and receive visits from people who are not members of your household. This is the only way to prevent further spread of the coronavirus.

Important: You are obliged to inform your local health authority immediately via telephone or e-mail about your previous stay in a designated risk area. You can find your local health office here: [https://tools.rki.de/plztool](https://tools.rki.de/plztool).

Please note that a violation of the quarantine obligation can be expensive – in North Rhine-Westphalia fines of up to 25,000 euros are possible.

**Exceptions from quarantine:** Quarantine can be exempted if a so-called PCR test for SARS-CoV-2 is negative. However, the test must have been carried out within 48 hours prior to your entry.

If you want to be tested after your entry, please contact your local health authority. Unfortunately, you must remain in quarantine until the negative test result is available.

The obligation to remain in quarantine does not apply if you are in transit. However, you have to leave North Rhine-Westphalia directly and overnight stays are prohibited.

**Suspected illness:** The symptoms of an infection with the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 include in particular fever, a new cough, loss of smell or taste and shortness of breath. If you have any of these symptoms, please first contact your primary care physician or the German medical on-call service via 116 117.

Further information – including the Corona Entry Regulation with further details and exceptions – can be found on the website [www.mags.nrw/coronavirus](http://www.mags.nrw/coronavirus).