

**Ordinance on Preventing
new Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 Infections
concerning Incoming and Returning Travellers from the United Kingdom and South Africa
(Coronavirus Incoming Travel Ordinance – CoronaEinrVK-VO)**

From 20 December 2020

On the basis of § 32, in conjunction with §§ 28 paragraph 1 sentence 1, 28a, 29, 30, § 73 paragraph 1a number 6 and 24 of the Infection Protection Act of 20 July 2000 (BGBl. I p. 1045), of which § 28 paragraph 1 was last amended by Article 1 number 16 of the Act from 18 November 2020 (BGBl. I p. 2397), § 28a interpolated by Article 1 number 17 of the Act from 8 July 2016 (BGBl. I p. 2397), § 29 last amended by Article 41 number 7 of the Act from 8 July 2016 (BGBl. I p. 1594), § 30 and § 73 paragraph 1a number 6 last amended by Article 1 number 26 of the Act from 19 May 2020 (BGBl. I p. 1018), and § 73 paragraph 1a number 24 last amended by Article 1 number 23 of the Act from 18 November 2020 (BGBl. I p. 2397), as well as § 10 of the Infection Protection and Authority Act from 14 April 2020 (GV NRW p. 218b), the Ministry for Labour, Health and Social affairs decrees the following:

§ 1

Isolation for incoming and returning travellers, monitoring

- (1) People who travel into the State of North Rhine-Westphalia via land, maritime or air routes and have at any point within the ten days prior to arrival spent time in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland or in the Republic of South Africa are obligated to travel directly to their primary or secondary residence or another accommodation where isolation is possible immediately upon arrival, and to remain there in constant isolation for a period of ten days starting with the day of departure from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland or the Republic of South Africa. This also applies to persons who first travelled to a different federal state in the Federal Republic of Germany. The persons specified in sentence 1 are not permitted to receive visitors who do not belong to their household during this period.
- (2) The regulation of paragraph 1 applies accordingly to persons who have travelled to North Rhine-Westphalia as of 11 December 2020.
- (3) The persons specified in paragraph 1 sentences 1 and 2 are obligated to immediately contact the local lower health authority and to notify this authority of their arrival from the states specified in paragraph 1, the date of arrival, and their current place of accommodation. This notification may also be provided over telephone or via e-mail.

Furthermore, within the time period specified in paragraph 1 sentence 1, they are obligated to immediately notify the responsible lower health authority if they exhibit symptoms typical of coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 infection such as coughing, fever, sniffing or loss of sense of taste and smell.

(4) Paragraph 3 sentence 1 does not apply if a complete digital incoming travel registration at <https://www.einreiseanmeldung.de> is available. Confirmation of the successful digital incoming travel registration must be on the traveller's person during arrival and presented upon the carrier's behest. In the event of direct incoming travel via air, the confirmation must be submitted during the arrival inspection to the authority responsible for law enforcement monitoring of cross-border traffic for purposes of random comparison of the information stated in the incoming travel registration with the traveller's travel documents.

(5) If, in exceptional cases, digital incoming travel registration was not possible due to lack of technical equipment or a technical disruption, the obligation to notify the lower health authority as per paragraph 2 remains unaffected. Furthermore, a full written substitute registration in accordance with the template in Annex 2 of the regulations passed by the Federal Ministry for Health concerning travel after announcement of an epidemic of national proportions (German Bundestag, 5 November 2020, BAnz AT 06/11/2020 B5) must be kept on the traveller's person, and submitted upon request to the carrier or, in the event of direct arrival by air, to the authority responsible for law enforcement monitoring in the event of Section I number 1 sentence 5 of these regulations.

(6) For the period of isolation, the persons specified in paragraph 1 sentence 1 are subjected to monitoring by the responsible lower health authority.

§ 2

Test requirement and reduction of the isolation period

(1) The persons specified in § 1 paragraph 1 sentence 1 are obligated to undergo a test to detect infection with the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 no sooner than 24 hours before arrival, or immediately upon arrival (incoming travel testing).

(2) The persons specified in § 1 paragraph 1 sentence 1 and paragraph 2, who undergo isolation in North Rhine-Westphalia in accordance with § 1, are obligated to undergo another test five days upon arrival. If the result of this test is negative, the obligation to isolate as per § 1 ends upon receipt of the test result (release test). If the date of arrival is already more than five days in the past upon this Ordinance's coming into effect, the test must be taken immediately.

(3) If symptoms typical of coronavirus SARS CoV-2 infection such as coughing, fever, sniffing or loss of sense of taste and smell occur within ten days upon arrival, persons specified in § 1 paragraph 1 sentence 1 are obligated to contact a doctor or testing centre in order to undergo another test.

(4) Isolation as per § 1 paragraph 1 sentence 1 is suspended for the time necessary to conduct a test in accordance with the preceding paragraphs.

(5) If one of the test results is positive, the regulations of the Quarantine Ordinance of NRW from 18 December 2020 (GV NRW p. 1138a) apply.

§ 3 Exceptions

(1) The isolation obligation as per § 1 paragraph 1 sentence 1 does not apply to persons who are only travelling through North Rhine-Westphalia. These persons must leave the territory of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia via the fastest route in order to complete their passage through the State; if they are travelling with public transportation, they must constantly wear a cloth face mask throughout, or at least every time they disembark the transportation vehicle. These persons must also fulfil the testing requirement as per § 2 paragraph 1 upon arrival.

(2) The responsible, local health authority can, in the event of a negative arrival test result as per § 2 paragraph 1, allow exceptions from the isolation obligation as per § 1 paragraph 1 sentence 1 for persons whose area of employment for upholding

1. the functionality of the healthcare system, in particular physicians, care workers, auxiliary medical personnel and 24-hour care staff,
 2. public security and order,
 3. diplomatic and consular relations,
 4. the functionality of administration of the law,
 5. the functionality of popular representation, government and administration of the federal government, states and municipalities, or
 6. the functionality of bodies of the European Union and international organisations
- is absolutely necessary, if such necessity has been confirmed by the employer or client.

(3) Persons who, due to their profession, transport persons, goods or products across the border via road, rail, water or air must undergo an arrival test as per § 2 paragraph 1 if they wish to leave the transportation vehicle for longer than 30 minutes. If no negative test result is available, such persons may only leave the transportation vehicle if and as long as they are wearing a cloth face mask. The responsible lower health authority must be notified in the event of a sojourn in North Rhine-Westphalia of more than 48 hours.

§ 4

Administrative offences

Persons who deliberately or negligently commit the following acts are committing an administrative offence in accordance with § 73 paragraph 1a number 24 Infection Protection Act:

1. in violation of § 1 paragraph 1 sentence 1, failing to stay at the residence or accommodation specified therein, or failing to do so promptly or in the specified manner, or failing to self-isolate or failing to do so promptly,
2. in violation of § 1 paragraph 1 sentence 2, receiving visitors,
3. in violation of § 1 paragraph 2 sentence 1, failing to contact the responsible lower health authority, or failing to do so promptly, by not submitting the digital travel registration or not confirming such, and not making contact by other means,
4. in violation of § 1 paragraph 2 sentence 2, failing to contact the responsible lower health authority, or failing to do so promptly,
5. in violation of § 2 paragraphs 1 to 3, failing to undergo the tests stipulated therein.

§ 5

Coming into effect, expiration

This Ordinance comes into effect on the day following its announcement, and expires immediately at the end of the day on 17 January 2021.

Düsseldorf, 20 December 2020

The Minister for Labour, Health and Social Affairs
of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia

Karl-Josef L a u m a n n