

Questions and answers on the most important regulations

Current Corona rules and further information

From 16 December, the following regulations apply in Hesse:

Contact restrictions: Who can I meet and where?

Staying in the public space is only permitted alone, with members of one's own household and another household up to a maximum group size of five persons; accompanying children up to and including the age of 14 years are not taken into account. When meeting other persons, a minimum distance of 1.5 metres must be maintained. Public behaviour such as dance events, which are generally likely to endanger the distance requirement, are prohibited regardless of the number of people. **Celebrating together in public spaces is prohibited. The consumption of alcoholic beverages in public spaces is prohibited.** Violations are punishable by a fine.

Also in this special year, it should be possible to celebrate **Christmas** together. However, in view of the high incidence of infection, this will only be possible on a much smaller scale than usual. From **24 December to 26 December 2020** - as an exception for the holidays - gatherings with **four people beyond one's own household plus children aged up to 14** from the immediate **family circle** are permitted, even if this includes more than two households. In any case, the immediate family includes grandparents, spouses, civil partners and partners in a non-marital partnership, siblings, sibling children and their respective household members. For visits outside the family circle, the rule continues to apply on Christmas holidays: a maximum of five persons from two households and their children up to and including the age of 14.

In view of the continuing high incidence of infection, an urgent appeal is once again made to the population to reduce contacts to an absolute minimum in the five to seven days before family reunions (protection week).

In addition, fireworks are banned in public places. The **sale of pyrotechnics before New Year's Eve is generally prohibited this year** and the setting off of New Year's Eve fireworks **is** strongly discouraged, especially against the background of the high risk of injury and the already enormous burden on the health system.

What are the rules at school?

The heads of government of the Länder and the Chancellor have agreed on additional, comprehensive measures in many areas of public life, which also affect school operations. Until the last day of school, Friday 18 December 2020, the following applies:

- **On Monday, 14 December 2020, as well as on Tuesday, 15 December 2020,** classes and all-day activities in all grades will take place according to the existing rules as before.
- **From Wednesday 16 December 2020 until the last day of school, Friday 18 December 2020,** the following rules will apply to all year groups:
 - **Pupils should be looked after at home whenever possible.** Therefore, depending on the decision of the parents or guardians (pupils of full age make the decision themselves), they can stay away from lessons and all-day offers at school. The pupils then participate in distance learning from home within the framework of the school's offers. In any case, please inform the school of the decision, especially if the child is to participate in the face-to-face lessons and the all-day offer. The decision applies uniformly for all three days, from Wednesday, 16 December 2020, to Friday, 18 December 2020. Switching back and forth between face-to-face and distance learning is not possible.
For pupils with a need for special educational support that requires special care, this must be provided at school in consultation with the parents or guardians.
 - **Examinations Class tests**
, examinations and other examinations will not take place between 16 and 18 December 2020. An exception is made for class tests, examinations or other examinations that cannot be postponed for the 2021 school-leaving examination. These may take place in the school in compliance with the hygiene regulations and the distance rules. The schools will inform the pupils of this separately. In this case, the waiver of compulsory attendance does not apply.
 - **Final examinations/Baccalaureate For**
all final examinations due in 2021, in particular the Baccalaureate, it is ensured that only the learning content that has actually been taught is the subject of the examination.
 - **All-day care/holiday**
care All-day **care**
can continue to be offered according to the current status. The regulations of the current hygiene plan of the Hessian Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs as well as the hygiene plan of the respective school apply. For the purpose of contact restriction and follow-up, fixed groups are to be formed; mixing of different groups of pupils must be avoided.
According to the current status, this also applies to holiday care. With a view to the start of school after the Christmas holidays, this means that the regulations for care

are initially also valid for the period from 11 January 2021. If there are any changes due to a new infection situation at the beginning of January, we will inform you in time.

○ **Start of lessons after the Christmas holidays**

The 1st school day after the Christmas holidays is still scheduled for 11 January 2021.

Due to the dynamics of the infection, there may be organisational adjustments to school operations. The heads of government of the Länder and the Chancellor plan to meet again on 5 January 2021.

We will keep you up to date on possible changes and inform you via our website www.kultusministerium.hessen.de.

Public events

Meetings and events are only permitted in cases of special public interest and with the permission of the competent authority, in compliance with the applicable distance and hygiene rules and enabling contact tracing. Gatherings within the meaning of Art. 8 of the Basic Law (for example demonstrations, political meetings and party conferences) are still possible without prior permission.

Where do I have to wear a mouth-nose covering?

- In local and long-distance public transport, e.g. buses, trains, taxis, ships, ferries and aircraft
- In railway stations and airports as well as bus stops, underground stations and platforms
- In the public areas of all publicly accessible buildings (especially public authorities and office buildings).
- In all work and operating areas; this does not apply in the workplace, provided that a distance of at least 1.5 metres from other persons can be safely maintained.
- When collecting food in the catering industry as well as in canteens and cafeterias up to the seating area
- In shops (wholesale and retail), petrol stations, laundries, bank and post office branches, and indeed everywhere where customers have access
- At weekly markets, flea markets etc.
- In all health facilities such as hospitals and doctors' surgeries
- In covered shopping centres and in covered streets and areas with shops
- In overnight accommodation establishments in all areas with public traffic

- At the hairdresser's and at medically necessary services, where service providers and clients come very close to each other. The mask requirement applies to both.
- In schools outside the classroom. From grade 5 onwards, masks are also compulsory in class. These pupils can also remove the masks for a short time. These "mask breaks" are organised locally in the schools.
- On heavily frequented streets and open-air squares if the minimum distance of 1.5 metres cannot be ensured. This applies in particular to pedestrian zones and car parks.
- In vehicles, if there are persons from more than two households in one vehicle.
- In the circulation areas, event rooms, meeting rooms and examination rooms of universities, vocational academies and music academies.
- In the case of offers of child and youth work as well as youth social work in closed rooms.
- during participation in gatherings of religious communities for the communal practice of religion as well as funeral services and burials and other gatherings and events according to § 1 para. 2b Corona Contact and Operational Restrictions Ordinance as well as during the perception of educational offers that take place in closed rooms. In other respects, the wearing of a mouth/nose covering is strongly recommended if it is not possible to ensure compliance with the minimum distance of 1.5 metres from persons in other households.

What is a mouth-nose covering?

Any complete protection of the mouth and nose that fits closely to the facial skin and is suitable for reducing the spread of transmissible droplet particles or aerosols through coughing, sneezing or habitual pronunciation (singing) counts as mouth-nose covering. Certification is not required. **Plastic visors are not covered by this, they are not an acceptable mouth-nose covering.** Motorbike helmets are also not suitable mouth-nose covering.

Keeping your distance is still very important.

The contact restrictions and the distance rules are not invalidated by wearing a mouth-nose covering (everyday mask).

Who is exempt from the mask requirement?

Children under 6 years of age and persons who cannot wear a mask for health reasons are not obliged to wear a mask.

Further exceptions apply to

- Employees in shops or restaurants, for example, if other protective measures are taken. These can be, in particular, separating devices made of acrylic glass.
- Customers in establishments and facilities of hairdressers and other permitted establishments with services close to the body and during medical treatments insofar and as long as the use of the service can only take place without covering the mouth and nose.
- Teachers at universities, vocational academies, music academies and extracurricular educational institutions and those involved in examinations, if a hygiene concept is in place that ensures at least the distances to be maintained and the regular exchange of air.
- Participants in the compulsory state examination and the second state law examination.
- Teachers and learners giving practical lessons with wind instruments.

Testing and quarantine: Who can get tested and where? When do I have to go into quarantine?

Until 15 December 2020, people entering the country from risk areas can use the test centre at Frankfurt Airport or other testing facilities free of charge. From 16 December onwards, the test costs must be borne by the traveller (privately). Free testing" with a negative Corona test is only possible from the fifth day after entry. Until then, those entering from risk areas must go into quarantine.

In case of a positive Corona test, you must immediately go into quarantine. This applies as soon as the test result is available, even if the formal order from the health authority has not yet been issued.

Anyone living in a household with a person who has tested positive must also immediately go into quarantine for two weeks. There are exceptions for errands that cannot be postponed, such as grocery shopping.

Violations of the quarantine order are subject to a fine of 500 euros.

The tests are also free of charge for patients with symptoms. In case of symptoms, patients can contact the medical on-call service 116117 or their family doctor.

Travel and accommodation

There are no travel or movement restrictions within Hesse. But overnight stays within the state are now only permitted for necessary and explicitly non-tourist purposes.

Leisure, culture and sport: What is allowed, what is not?

Institutions and facilities that are part of recreational activities will be closed. These include:

- Theatres, operas, concert halls, and similar institutions
- Trade fairs, cinemas, amusement parks and providers of leisure activities (indoors and outdoors), amusement arcades, gambling houses, betting offices and similar establishments.
- Places of prostitution, brothels and similar establishments

- recreational and amateur sporting activities, with the exception of the practice of sport alone, in pairs or with one's own household, on and in all public and private sports facilities,
- Swimming pools and fun pools, saunas
- Fitness studios and similar facilities
- Ski lifts and ice rinks

Amateur and recreational athletes may play sports alone, in pairs or with members of their own household at and in all sports facilities.

The training and competition operations of top-level and professional sports as well as school sports are permitted if a comprehensive hygiene concept is presented.

Museums, castles, zoos and animal parks are closed. Memorials and children's playgrounds remain open. Ice rinks and similar open-air facilities remain open.

What are the visiting arrangements in hospitals and nursing homes?

Visits to hospitals, homes for the elderly and care facilities remain possible under strict regulations. It is always taken into account that the respective regulations must not lead to a complete social isolation of the persons concerned. In old people's and nursing homes, FFP2 or KN95 masks must be worn at all times by employees and visitors. Residents may be visited twice a week by up to two persons. Staff must be tested for Corona regularly, at least once a week.

Services and shops: What is open, what is closed?

Retail outlets are to be closed from 16 December 2020 until 10 January 2021. Exceptions are provided for the basic supply of the population. The sale of non-food products in the food retail trade, which are not to be allocated to daily needs, may continue to take place to the same extent as before, but may not be expanded under any circumstances.

If the subject matter of the trade is changed or extended to include new goods or services that are not customary for trades of the registered type, this shall be reported to the competent authority. A contravention is an administrative offence (section 146(2) no. 2 GewO).

The sale of Christmas trees is still permitted.

By closing as many facilities, businesses and meeting places as possible and discontinuing most of the offers, close social contacts are to be minimised to the absolute minimum and chains of infection are to be interrupted. Service enterprises in the field of personal hygiene such as hairdressing establishments, cosmetic studios, massage practices, tattoo studios and similar establishments are closed because physical proximity is indispensable in this field. This also applies if these prohibited body-related services are offered at the customer's home or in any other way outside

the customer's own business premises. In these cases, too, the services cannot be offered without the necessary, and currently infectologically undesirable, physical proximity. Medically necessary treatments, for example physiotherapy, occupational therapy and logotherapy as well as podiatry/foot care, remain possible. The provision of services, counselling services as well as handicraft activities is - with some exceptions (see below)- still permitted, provided that the recommendations of the RKI on hygiene, in particular on contacts and compliance with the safety distance, are observed.

The closure of all **catering establishments**, with the exception of takeaway food, drink and delivery services, and the restriction of overnight accommodation to necessary purposes also serves to prevent the rapid spread of the virus.

The operation of petrol stations and rest areas on federal motorways as well as the motorway service stations serves the basic supply and is still permitted. The same also applies to travel supply shops in the non-publicly accessible area of airports behind the security checkpoints.

Mouth-to-nose **covering must be** worn in open establishments, places of sale and in the public areas of all buildings open to the public, at permitted events and gatherings and in public transport. Mouth-to-nose coverings must also be worn in all workplaces and business premises. This does not apply at the workplace itself, provided that a distance of 1.5 metres from other persons can be safely maintained (cf. § 1a CoKoBeV and <https://www.hessen.de/fuer-buerger/corona-hessen/mund-nasenbedeckung>). This measure is an important component in containing the transmission of the virus.

Soup kitchens and similar charitable institutions are allowed to open. Here, the consumption of food and drinks is also permitted if it is ensured that the required minimum distance of 1.5 metres can be maintained, in particular through the spacing of the tables.

Basic hygiene rules

By following the hygiene rules, you can minimise the risk of infection for yourself and others. As a protective measure - also against the flu - citizens are urged to observe the following:

- Wash hands frequently and thoroughly (also children and adolescents)
- Coughing and sneezing only into a paper handkerchief or the crook of the arm (also children and adolescents)
- Use disposable handkerchiefs and dispose of them in a rubbish bin after each use.
- No handshakes, no hugs / cheek kisses
- Do not touch your nose, mouth and eyes with your hands (especially after holding on to handles in buses or using door handles, which are touched by many, but also at home).
- Regularly clean/disinfect smartphone, mobile phone, tablet etc.
- Only use your own glasses and cutlery
- Consistently avoid crowds

- Avoid social contacts for the time being

[Information on COVID-19](#) (coronavirus SARS-CoV-2) and on [protective and hygienic measures](#) can also be found on the RKI website.

More questions

If you have any further questions, please contact the mail address buergertelefon@stk.hessen.de in the first step. You will receive an answer as soon as possible. There is also a Hesse-wide hotline. You can contact our experts at 0800-5554666.