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COVID rules in Hessen: What applies where?

An overview of the most important COVID-19 rules.

Acting responsibly - what can I do now?

- Many of the officially-ordered everyday measures to prevent infection have been dropped. Now, it is even more important that every single person acts responsibly.
- Behave so you and others are not exposed to any inappropriate dangers of infection.
- Observe the general hygiene recommendations and about wearing masks, especially when indoors and in crowds.
- Be especially careful when you have personal contacts with people who would have an increased risk of serious illness if they became infected with COVID-19 (recommendation: precautionary testing!).
- During private get-togethers consider the room circumstances and take appropriate hygiene measures to protect those present.
- In enclosed spaces make sure you ventilate regularly and properly.
- If you have any acute respiratory symptoms, avoid contact with members of other households as far as possible.

Mandatory masks

- in medical practices, clinics and hospitals (not for in-patients)
- in retirement and care homes
- for carers and the emergency services
- in buses and trains (local and long-distance public transportation)
- in communal accommodation, such as accommodation for the homeless or for refugees

Masks are no longer generally mandatory indoors. Masks are no longer legally mandatory in schools, higher-education institutions or in other educational institutions either. However, individual businesses can require masks to be worn as mandatory as an occupational safety measure.

The following masks are permitted in areas that require mandatory masks: Surgical masks or protective masks that comply with the standards FFP2, KN95, N95 or comparable without any exhalation valve.

Mandatory tests

- for employers and employees of, and visitors to hospitals, retirement and care homes as well as communal accommodation. Some exceptions may be possible.
- Testing of residents (in care homes in particular) can be officially ordered by the competent health authority in the event of an outbreak.
- In schools, teachers and school students will continue to be tested three times a week.
- Prisons and deportation facilities etc. can decide whether to order mandatory tests themselves.

There is no longer a general obligation to present a negative test when entering all workplaces.

Tests for the general public: All people will continue to be entitled to free COVID-19 tests until at least the end of June.

Isolation and quarantine

Isolation: This affects people who have a confirmed infection. It requires a time-limited period of isolation due to an infection.

Quarantine: This affects household members and other contact persons of infected persons. This requires a time-limited period of isolation in cases of suspected infection.

Positive COVID-19 test / Infections with COVID-19 (regardless of vaccination status)

- Even if you only test positive in a rapid test you must self-isolate. Then, a PCR test must be carried out in every case. During the period of isolation, you must not leave your home. If the PCR test is negative, the period of isolation will end.
- If the test is positive, the infected person must self-isolate for 10 days, even without any separate demand by the health authority.
- If any symptoms occur, you must report these to the competent health authority.
- It is possible to leave isolation if you test negative from the 7th day after the first positive test (rapid test or PCR test). In order to end isolation early, you must submit the test result to the health authority.

Members of households of people infected with COVID-19 (for example, partners, parents, children etc.)

- If someone has a positive PCR test, the members of the infected person's household must also go into quarantine. As with the infected person, this lasts for 10 days calculated from time of the positive test. No official order is required from the health authority.
- If any symptoms occur it is mandatory to take a test and to inform the health authority.



- It is possible to leave isolation if you test negative from the 7th day after the first positive test (rapid test or PCR test). In order to end quarantine early, you must submit the test result to the health authority.
- It is possible for school students and small children to leave quarantine if they test negative from the 5th day. In order to end quarantine early, you must submit the test result to the health authority.

Other contacts of people infected with COVID-19.

- Official orders to enter quarantine are issued exclusively and individually by the health authority.

School

Mandatory tests:

- Currently, tests are required at least three times per week. If there is a positive test in one class or learning group, daily tests will be carried out on lesson days until the end of the week.
- Teachers or school students who have been vaccinated or have recovered from COVID-19 can take voluntary tests if there is sufficient capacity.

You will find all further current information and rules about dealing with COVID-19 in schools at any time on the website of the Hessian Ministry of Education www.kultus.hessen.de.

Workplace

Companies are still obliged to protect their employees from becoming infected with COVID-19 in the workplace.

Travelling

What generally applies: When entering the Federal Republic of Germany, anyone over the age of 12 must produce evidence of a negative test, that they have recovered from COVID-19 or that they have been vaccinated against COVID-19. Children under the age of 12 are exempt from these obligations to provide evidence. This evidence can be demanded at checks of cross-border traffic into Germany carried out by the German Federal Police or by the competent authority.

If people enter Germany from a high-risk area or if they enter Germany by air, the carrier must submit the relevant evidence before departure.



The following applies if a person has been in a virus variant area in the last 10 days before their entry to Germany: Persons over the age of 12 and who have been in an area classified as a virus variant area at the time of entry at any time in the last 10 days before their entry to Germany, must on entering the Federal Republic of Germany produce evidence of a negative test. This test must be carried out using nucleic acid detection (PCR, PoC-NAAT or other nucleic acid amplification techniques); evidence of recovery from COVID-19 or of vaccination against COVID-19 is not sufficient in this case. Children under the age of 12 are exempt from these obligations to provide evidence. This evidence can also be demanded at checks of cross-border traffic into Germany carried out by the German Federal Police.

If people enter Germany using a carrier, the relevant carrier must submit test evidence before departure.

Note

You will find current information on the Hessian State Government website at the following link: <https://www.hessen.de/handeln/corona-in-hessen>. Current information can also be obtained from the websites of the RKI (Robert-Koch-Institut), the ECDC (European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control) or the WHO (World Health Organization).