WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CORONA NOW

Tips on conduct, labour law and travel regulations at a glance

Health

HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF AND OTHERS?

Everyone can help fight coronavirus. Keep contact with others to a minimum wherever possible and limit yourself to a constant group of people. This is the only way to avoid infection. Always important:

- Washing your hands (at least 20 seconds)
- Keeping a distance of 1.5 metres from other people.
- Wearing a mask that covers the mouth and nose.
- Cough or sneeze into the crook of your arm or into a tissue.
- Ventilating closed rooms sufficiently.

WHAT SHOULD I GET VACCINATED AGAINST CORONAVIRUS?

- You will protect yourself, your loved ones and your contact persons.
- Getting vaccinated is voluntary and free of charge. By calling 116 117, you can find out where you can get vaccinated.
- The vaccines have been checked thoroughly with regards to tolerability, safety and efficacy.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I THINK I HAVE BEEN INFECTED?

Have you had personal contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus? Contact your local public health office by telephone immediately! Even if there are no visible signs of illness. By calling 116 117, you can find out where you can get tested. Stay at home until the results are available!
WHAT HAPPENS IF MY EMPLOYER CLOSES FOR THE TIME BEING BECAUSE OF CORONA?
You are generally still entitled to remuneration, even if you cannot work.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I LOSE MY JOB?
You must register with your job centre or employment office. Both receive visitors, but only in urgent cases and if you have an appointment. You can register as unemployed by phone, letter or online. You can also file applications online. Important: The rules on protection against dismissal continue to apply. Furthermore, access to basic security for jobseekers has been simplified.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY EMPLOYER HAS MANDATED SHORT-TIME WORK?
You can receive a short-time work allowance for up to 24 months. It can be up to 87% of your loss of earnings. The relevant employment agency checks whether all conditions met on a case-by-case basis.

WHAT HELP CAN I GET FOR MY BUSINESS?
The Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) is offering various favourable business loans. Please contact your bank or financing partners that pass on KfW loans. Small and medium-sized businesses that want to secure or expand training places receive financial support.

WHAT KIND OF SUPPORT DO SELF-EMPLOYED PERSONS AND MICRO-ENTREPRENEURS GET?
Support available includes a KfW special programme with favourable loan conditions, grants for operating costs, guarantees with support from the government, tax measures and a support package for start-ups.

WHAT RULES APPLY IN PUBLIC SPACES?
The following applies in public spaces: Keep a distance of 1.5 metres. You must wear a (surgical) medical face mask at the following places: on public transport, when shopping, at public institutions and open-air places with many people. You must also wear it at your workplace if you cannot maintain a distance of 1.5 metres metres from other people.

If you are not working solely in a home office environment, your employer must provide at least two rapid tests for you to take per week.

If the number of COVID-19 infections are low, the Federal States will decide whether restaurants, cafés, fitness studios, swimming pools, theatres or cinemas are allowed to open and which rules are to be obeyed during their use. This will also be the case for private parties or attending events and religious services.

You can find information about this topic on the websites of the Federal States.

Work and money
WHAT APPLIES FOR TRAVEL?

Unnecessary private travel and tourism, both abroad and in Germany, should continue to be avoided. Please find out about any current entry restrictions and border controls from the Federal Foreign Office and Federal Ministry of the Interior before you travel abroad.

WHAT DO I HAVE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT WHEN RETURNING?
Anyone who travels to Germany from a high risk area or an area where virus variants are present, must fill out a digital registration form before entry. Anyone arriving from abroad must show evidence of vaccination, a negative test or recovery from COVID-19. This is the case for all persons aged 12 and above. A PCR or an antigen test is required.

Generally, anyone arriving from a virus variant area must enter into quarantine at home for a period of 14 days. Those persons arriving from a high-risk area must enter into quarantine for 10 days. Anyone who is fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or who has recovered from an infection is not required to enter into quarantine. If you have tested negative upon arrival from a high-risk area, you may terminate quarantine after 5 days if you can provide evidence of a second negative test. A lab test (PCR, PoC-PCR) is accepted as proof for having recovered from COVID-19, provided that the test is at least 28 days old and not older than 6 months. The full vaccination must have been received at least 14 days ago.

Find out where you can get tested by calling 116 117.

Caution: Fines will be imposed for violating the obligation to quarantine.

See the following link for information on which countries are currently high risk areas or areas with virus variants: https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Risikogebiete_neu.html

WHERE WILL I FIND RELIABLE INFORMATION ON THESE TOPICS IN DIFFERENT LANGUAGES?
The internet is full of rumours and fake news that quickly spread through chat groups.

CAN I APPLY FOR CHILD ALLOWANCE?
If your income is not sufficient for your entire family, parental benefits are available. In August 2021, families on a low income will receive a child leisure bonus of 100 euros for each child aged under 18. The bonus will be paid out automatically. If your family only receives housing benefit or other top-up benefits (but not supplementary child allowance), you will need to apply for the bonus through the family benefits department.

Up-to-date information in various languages that you can rely on can be found at: www.integrationsbeauftragte.de/corona-virus and www.eu-gleichbehandlungsstelle.de/corona-virus.

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