WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CORONA NOW

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

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.
- Ventilate closed rooms sufficiently.

Why 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 KIND OF ASSISTANCE IS THERE FOR STUDENTS?
Students under acute financial strain can apply for a subsidy from their student services (Studierendenwerk). It amounts to up to 500 euros each month. Furthermore, there is the KfW student loan, which is also available to foreign students.

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 risk area, an area of high incidence or an area where virus variants are present, must fill out a digital registration form before entry. For all flights and when entering Germany from a high incidence area or area with virus variants, a negative test result is required. In the case of other arrivals from a risk area, you must provide evidence of a negative test within 48 hours of arriving in the country.

After arriving in the country, all travellers must enter quarantine at home for a period of 10 days. This period is increased to 14 days if you have arrived from an area in which virus variants are present.

If you test negative for COVID-19, have received a full vaccination against it or you have recovered from a COVID-19 infection, you do not have to enter into quarantine after arriving from a risk area. When arriving from a high incidence area, only tested persons must enter into quarantine. From the 5th day after entry, the quarantine can be terminated following another test. Persons who have received a full vaccination against COVID-19 or who have recovered from a COVID-19 infection must only be tested before entry when entering from an area with virus variants and enter into quarantine after entry.

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

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. 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.

CAN I APPLY FOR CHILD ALLOWANCE?
If your income is not sufficient for your entire family, parental benefits are available. In 2021, you can receive 30 days of parental care leave per parent (60 days for single parents). This is also applicable if you must care for your children at home because their school or kindergarten has shut due to the pandemic.

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