

All information on Covid-19

+++ 18 March 2020 +++

Federal Government temporarily extends border checks to intra-European air and maritime transport. ... [more](#)

EU Member States agree on entry ban for Schengen area (third country nationals / non-EU citizens). Third country nationals may temporarily only enter if the reason for travelling is urgent. The Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure informed all air carriers operating civil air services to Germany by NOTAM (Notice to Airmen) accordingly. The European Commission's communication can be found [here](#). (More information: air transport)

Federal Government has started to bring travellers back to Germany. We would like to bring back our German citizens as quickly as possible. To this end, the Federal Government has made up to 50 million euros available.

Deutsche Bahn will help out if flights are cancelled. If the return flight does not land at the desired destination, travellers in Germany can take the train free of charge. "We want travellers to get back home fast and safely", said Federal Minister Scheuer. (More information: rail transport)

The Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure, together with the federal states, has agreed on maximum flexibility for exemptions from the ban on night flights, so that holiday airlines can continue to land and German travellers can return.

[Current information by Deutsche Bahn can be found here \(in German\).](#)

The [Federal Ministry of Health \(BMG\)](#) and the [Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community \(BMI\)](#) have set up a joint crisis task force. Representatives from the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure, the Federal Foreign Office, the Federal Ministry of Defence, the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, the Federal Ministry of Finance, the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the Federal Chancellery also contribute to this task force. The federal states are involved via liaison officers or special advisors. The task force's most important task is containing the spread of the virus in Germany. For instance, infection transmission chains in case of persons entering Germany after having travelled long distances need to be interrupted.

Additionally, the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure is constantly in contact with representatives from the European level, the transport ministries of other countries and associations.

In accordance with the International Health Regulations Implementation Act, the order is issued by the Federal Ministry of Health and published by the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure.

Air transport

Current information on air transport (as at 18 March 2020)

- Border checks have been extended to intra-European air transport. [... more](#)
- Across the EU, far-reaching travel bans for third country nationals have already been adopted (for 30 days). The Federal Ministry of the Interior is responsible. Further information can be found [here \(in German\)](#).
- The Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure, together with the federal states, has agreed on maximum flexibility for exemptions from the ban on night flights, so that holiday airlines can continue to land and German travellers can return.
- If a return flight does not land at the desired destination, Deutsche Bahn offers free of charge rail services within Germany.
- With the aim of protecting the population, the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure has requested that federal states and airports constantly reassess the risk of flights from countries that were determined as high-risk countries by the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) and review necessary additional protective measures. In accordance with the Act on the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases in Humans, the competent health authorities decide upon possible protective measures in connection with flights from RKI high-risk countries (e.g. quarantine, entry or landing bans).
- The airlines have been informed of their obligations, e.g. handing out passenger locator cards.
- The Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure does everything it can to ensure unrestricted air cargo services to maintain supply chains and guarantee the provision of goods and services.
- The European Commission's communication can be found [here](#).

Current information on air transport (as at 16 March 2020, 11:00 hrs)

The Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure is thankful to the federal states for supporting the maximum possible flexibility for exemptions from the ban on night flights at such short notice. In the days to come, we will have to continue to focus on allowing every holiday airline carrying German citizens to land at the airport of destination.

In order not to restrict supply chains and continue to maintain the provision of services and goods, another focus is on unrestricted air cargo services.

Road transport

Information on the Sunday driving ban (as at: 13 March 2020)

Due to the increasing spread of the coronavirus COVID-19, different goods are more in demand than usually. Due to the resulting bottlenecks, the retail trade is facing difficulties in ensuring constant availability of the entire goods range. Efficient supply chains are required now.

In order to face this exceptional situation, the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure has asked the transport ministries of the federal states in a letter to use the options provided under the principle of discretionary prosecution and abstain from enforcing the driving ban on Sundays and public holidays, initially until 5 April 2020, as far and as long as there are supply bottlenecks for goods due to the coronavirus spread.

Some background information: the federal states are solely responsible for enforcing and monitoring compliance with the German Road Traffic Regulations (StVO). In accordance with the StVO, the federal state road traffic authorities can grant exemptions for HGVs from the driving ban on Sundays and public holidays in certain exceptional cases or in general.

Rail transport

[Current information by Deutsche Bahn can be found here \(in German\).](#)

Current information on rail transport (as at 17 March 2020)

Deutsche Bahn supports Federal Government's repatriation measures. Flight tickets and boarding passes accepted as tickets in Deutsche Bahn trains

- [Regulations effective immediately \(in German\)](#)

Deutsche Bahn supports the Federal Government in bringing travellers from abroad back to Germany. Airline boarding passes are accepted as train tickets to allow passengers to continue their journey to their actual home airport.

Federal Minister of Transport Andreas Scheuer said:

We want travellers to get back home fast and safely. The following rules are effective immediately: if the return flight does not land at the intended destination, Deutsche Bahn offers free of charge rail services within Germany. This is cooperative, targeted action among the operators of different means of transport, and this is what we are focusing on in these times of major challenges.

Richard Lutz, Chairman of DB AG, said:

We are helping in a quick and unbureaucratic way. Together with the Federal Government and the airlines, we are offering certainty for all those who are currently stuck abroad and want to get home.

Therefore, Deutsche Bahn offers air passengers to continue their journey free of charge to their actual destinations in Germany. Flight tickets and boarding passes are accepted as train tickets for Deutsche Bahn. These regulations are effective immediately, initially until the end of this month.

Current information on rail transport (as at 16 March 2020)

Regional rail services

Contrary to other statements, Deutsche Bahn AG (DB AG) will continue to operate its intra-German regional services without any limitations. This will only change if federal state public transport authorities decide to adopt possible timetable changes.

Therefore, DB AG clarified yesterday already that the company will not limit its scheduled services because of the spread of the new coronavirus. However, DB AG has been contacted by individual public transport authorities concerning possible service limitations. The objective of public transport authorities and local passenger rail service providers is to ensure a stable provision through reliable services and to maintain mobility in Germany. In the end, the decision on changing timetables will be taken by the federal states.

On cross-border DB Regio local services:

Austria:

- suspended

Poland:

- suspended

Switzerland:

- lines to terminus stations in Basel SBB and Schaffhausen in operation
- on the Upper Rhine, the trains stop at stations on Swiss territory

France:

- lines to terminus stations in Wissenburg and Lauterburg (Elsace) in operation

Netherlands:

- line to terminus station in Maastricht in operation (cooperation with Arriva)

Belgium:

- line to terminus station in Liège in operation (cooperation with SCCN)

Long-distance rail services

The national long-distance services are mostly being operated as usual.

Cross-border long-distance services to the following countries have been suspended:
Denmark, Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy.

Austria:

- Regular services on the Frankfurt-Nuremberg-Passau-Linz-Vienna axis
- Regular services between Munich-Salzburg-Vienna
- Suspended services to Vorarlberg (Bregenz) and Tyrol (Innsbruck)
- Additionally, all overnight trains have been suspended

Switzerland:

- Regular services between Basel-Freiburg(Br)-Karlsruhe-Frankfurt-Hamburg
- Long-distance services between Stuttgart and Zurich have been suspended (Stuttgart-Singen in operation)
- Long-distance services Munich-Zurich have been suspended
- Overnight trains have been suspended

France:

- Reduced services between Stuttgart/Frankfurt and Paris

- Long-distance services to Southern France (Marseille) have been suspended

Benelux (Netherlands/Belgium/Luxembourg):

- Regular services to Belgium and Holland
- No long-distance services to Luxembourg (do not exist under normal conditions, either)

Rail freight

Intra-German and cross-border freight transport is mostly operated as usual. Further capacities are available both with DB Cargo as well as with other railway companies. Starting today at 09:00 hrs, DB Cargo will offer a hotline for new customers under +49 203-9851-9000. The customers will receive competent advice and solution proposals for how to make a modal shift from road to rail. Contact information for the main non-DB railway companies can be found on the website of the Netzwerk Europäischer Eisenbahnen (NEE): www.netzwerk-bahnen.de/ueber-uns/mitglieder.html (in German).

Goodwill regulations for purchased tickets (as at 13 March 2020)

The Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure has agreed on additional goodwill regulations with Deutsche Bahn. Everyone who already purchased a ticket of the “Supersparpreis” or “Sparpreis” categories can convert their ticket to a voucher free of charge. Tickets of the “Flexpreis” category can be cancelled.

Federal Minister Scheuer said:

Many people are currently delivering extraordinary work to ensure our provision with goods and services. In this exceptional situation, we will have to cooperate and jointly ensure that this security of supply is maintained, even in times of large numbers of infections, quarantine or when care options are lacking. This particularly applies to services of public interest such as rail transport, local public passenger transport, water, energy, telecommunications, but also to supply chains in goods transport. We temporarily need flexible rules on maximum working hours for this purpose. A limited loosening of regulations on weekend work, work shifts or the number of weekly working hours during particularly critical time periods would be easy to implement if the bulk of employees became unfit for work. Flexibility and solidarity are indispensable in this exceptional situation.

For rail travellers, the following General Decree issued by the Federal Police applies in addition to the abovementioned requirements:

Railway undertakings operating in long-distance and regional passenger transport have to report suspected cases of COVID-19 infections immediately to the command, control, communication and information services at the Federal Police. Contact details and information on how to structure the report are listed in the [General Decree \(in German\)](#).

In case of a suspected infection, passengers on the train in question have to fill in the “[passenger locator card](#)“ (in German) for rail transport. In that case, these cards will be handed out to the passengers.

Information for travellers entering the Federal Republic of Germany

- Travellers returning to Germany from **Italy, Austria, Switzerland** are requested to stay home for 14 days after their return to Germany, irrespective of whether or not they are suspected of having been infected with the coronavirus.
- Carriers that transport passengers from China, Iran, Italy, Japan or South Korea to Germany via aircraft, ship, train or bus have to hand out the following leaflet to their passengers which contains instructions for disease prevention and measures to be taken in case of symptoms of illness: www.rki.de/ncov-handzettel (in German).
- The same applies to all operators of airports, ports, passenger stations and bus and coach terminals.
- For flights from Iran, Italy, Japan, South Korea or China, pilots-in-command must hand over the health part of the aircraft general declaration to the authorities before landing in Germany.
- Passengers travelling to Germany from Iran, Italy, Japan or South Korea via aircraft or ship have to provide details on the flight/voyage and on how they can be contacted within a period of 30 days after arrival before leaving the plane/ship. This is done by means of a passenger locator card: www.rki.de/ncov-aussteigekarten (in German)
[Passenger locator card for air transport \(in German\)](#)
[Passenger locator card for maritime transport \(in German\)](#)
- For flights and voyages from Iran, Italy, Japan, South Korea and China to Germany, air carriers, shipowners, charterers and all other persons that are responsible for the operation of a ship must keep the data available for a period of up to 30 days.

Useful information

Useful information

Where do I find additional information?

[Information on behaviour at the workplace \(Federal Ministry of Labour, in German\)](#)

[Current figures \(in German\)](#) - Infections in Germany, China and globally. (RKI)

Questions and answers by the [Robert Koch Institute \(in German\)](#) and the [Federal Centre for Health Education \(in German\)](#) (link to FAQs)

[Current information on the new coronavirus \(in German\)](#) (RKI)

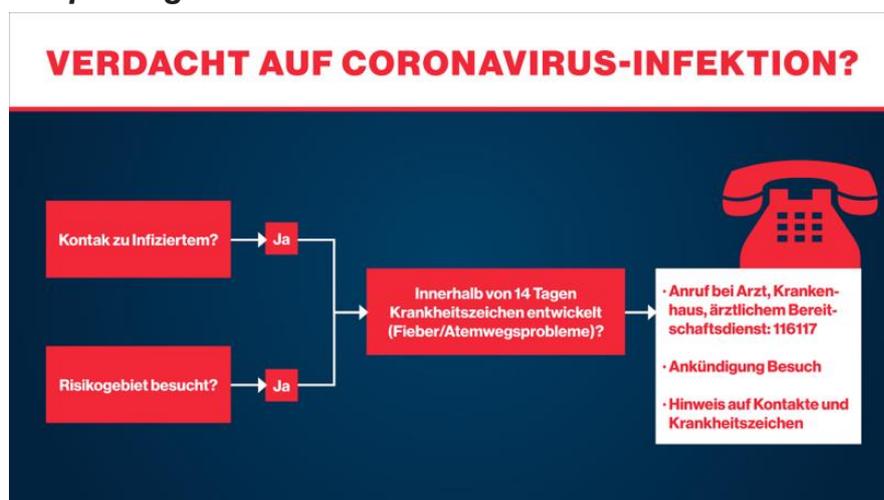
[Information for travellers in different languages](#) (Federal Ministry of Health/RKI)

[Information for travellers \(in German\)](#) (Foreign Office)

[Questions and answers \(in German\)](#) on the crisis task force and the travel bans/border checks (Federal Ministry of the Interior)

Information on the [economic impact of the coronavirus \(in German\)](#) and on support for businesses (Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs)

Suspecting a coronavirus infection?



Symptoms of a corona infection are similar to those of the flu, for instance dry coughing, fever, rhinitis and fatigue. Some patients also suffered from respiratory

problems, an itchy throat, head ache and limb pain, nausea, diarrhoea as well as chills.

Do I need to see a doctor for a medical certificate in case of non-severe respiratory diseases?

Starting immediately, patients with a benign disease in the upper airways can receive an incapacity to work certificate for up to seven days after having consulted their doctor on the phone. They do not need to visit a doctor's surgery for this. This agreement has been in place since 9 March 2020 and will remain effective for the 4 weeks afterwards.

How do I behave correctly after returning from a trip abroad?

Travellers who return from a [high-risk area \(in German\)](#) as determined by the Robert Koch Institute or from regions with COVID-19 infections should avoid unnecessary contact with other people and stay home, whenever possible. If symptoms occur during the 14 days after their return, travellers should visit a doctor after consulting with them on the phone.

Travellers arriving in Germany coming from Iran, Italy, Japan or South Korea have to state how they can be contacted within a period of 30 days after arrival, among other things. Travellers from China to Germany additionally have to provide even more [information \(in German\)](#).

[More questions and answers can be found here \(in German\)](#).

Who can I call?

If you think you might have been infected with the coronavirus, call your general practitioner or +49 116117, the phone number of the on-call doctors.

See below for additional hotlines that inform about the coronavirus throughout Germany.

Independent patient counselling Germany - +49 800 011 77 22

Federal Ministry of Health (enquiry helpdesk) - +49 30 346 465 100
General initial information and provision of contact data - general authorities phone number 115 (www.115.de [\(in German\)](#))

Counselling service for deaf persons and people with hearing impediments - fax number: +49 30 / 340 60 66 –
07 info.deaf@bmg.bund.de / info.gehoerlos@bmg.bund.de

Call option in sign language (video call) - <https://www.gebaerdentelefon.de/bmq/> (in German)