



21 March 2020

Liebe Mitbürgerinnen und Mitbürger,

My fellow citizens,

We are currently faced with the greatest test in North Rhine-Westphalia's history. The coronavirus is an invisible danger. It threatens our greatest asset: our health. For the elderly and chronically ill it is a matter of life and death. We must thus do everything in our power to slow the spread of the virus. Only then will we be able to provide proper care to every patient and save lives.

The state government is investing all its energy in making sure that our state can overcome this entirely new challenge. We are expanding our hospitals' capacities. We are ensuring the continued supply of everyday needs. We are creating extensive aid resources for the local economy, freelancers and employees in our state.

But each of us must follow the new rules that place such heavy restrictions on our prior living habits, and which should stop the virus. This means avoiding social contact, not leaving your children in the care of their grandparents, and staying home!

Many of you have justified questions, concerns and fears - I understand completely. The state government has made available an extensive range of information to provide answers to these questions.

I extend my sincerest gratitude to all of you working to the point of exhaustion in hospitals, care facilities, grocery stores, pharmacies and chemist shops, medical clinics, law enforcement and fire departments, and many other places to ensure continued healthcare, safety and public services in our state.

We, all 18 million residents of North Rhine-Westphalia, must stick together in this difficult time. Whether we overcome this crisis depends on every one of us. Yet I am convinced: Our state can do it.

Stay healthy!

Bleiben Sie gesund!  
Armin Laschet

Armin Laschet

