



**Press release - 359/05/2020**

09.05.2020

Page 1 of 7

## **North Rhine-Westphalia Plan takes effect / gradual loosening of anti-coronavirus measures begins in coming week**

Pressestelle Staatskanzlei  
40213 Düsseldorf  
Telefon 0211 837-1134  
0211 837-1405  
oder 0211 837-1151

[presse@stk.nrw.de](mailto:presse@stk.nrw.de)  
[www.land.nrw](http://www.land.nrw)

**The state's updated coronavirus protection ordinance comes into effect / More students will return to schools / Gradual opening of childcare facilities / Openings in food service, retail and services, among other areas**

**The state government has issued the following statement:**

As of Monday (11 May 2020), there will be further relaxations of anti-coronavirus measures as part of the state government's gradual implementation of the North Rhine-Westphalia Plan. These include loosening contact restrictions between people from two households, and opening businesses regardless of size, as well as indoor and outdoor food service, fitness studios and sports facilities, with strict requirements. More students will also be able to return to school. Child day care will be gradually expanded as of 14 May 2020. Additional relaxations will occur in other phases, such as visitor regulations for hospitals and care/rehabilitation facilities, with strict requirements, on 20 May 2020, or the opening of hotels and inns as of 18 May 2020.

The North Rhine-Westphalia Plan aims to loosen anti-coronavirus measures within the state in the coming days and weeks. The plan earmarks various phases with target dates for the individual areas, which are to be implemented based on the continued development of the pandemic. This approach takes citizens' health into consideration while allowing for predictability and reliability for economic and public life. The state government is appealing to citizens' personal responsibility. Openings will take place under constant evaluation and the explicit caveat of the pandemic's continued development. The specified dates are solely target dates, and deviations from these are to be assumed.

The legal regulations (revision of the coronavirus protection ordinance, update to the coronavirus protection ordinance and the coronavirus travel ordinance) were officially brought into effect on Saturday (9 May 2020) and published. These are available online at [www.land.nrw](http://www.land.nrw):

[Revision of the coronavirus protection ordinance](#)

[Update to the coronavirus protection ordinance](#)

[Coronavirus travel ordinance](#)

Also available online: [CoronaSchutzVO NRW annex "Hygiene and Infection Protection Standards"](#)

## The regulations in detail

The North Rhine-Westphalia state government's North Rhine-Westphalia Plan stipulates the following gradual approach, the implementation of which is subject to the caveat of how the pandemic develops:

### 1. Contact ban and rules for conduct

With the target date of **11 May 2020**, the current contact restrictions shall be altered so that relatives from two households can meet in public (adjustment to the federal and state regulation). The general distance regulation of 1.5 metres will still apply, as will the obligation to wear mouth and nose protection in certain areas.

### 2. Childcare

Starting on Thursday, **14 May**, childcare services will gradually open, first for preschool children with a justified need in accordance with the Education and Participation Act, as well as for children with disabilities and children threatened by a major disability. The child day care services for children past the age of 2 years will also open, as well as bridging projects. Private care organised by parents is permissible if the children remain in the same groups.

All other preschool children will resume childcare as of **28 May**. Other openings are planned for June.

### 3. Schools

**Starting on Monday, 11 May 2020**, students taking their leaving exams in the 2020/2021 school year will be returning to comprehensive schools and *Gymnasium*. Other groups or classes from grade 5 up to students in the introductory phase may be able to return on an alternating daily basis pending spatial and staffing capacities.

One to two classes from grades 5 to 9 will be returning to secondary schools (*Hauptschule, Realschule, Sekundarschule*, PRIMUS and community schools) on an alternating daily basis. Until completion of the decentralised exams replacing the central final exams in grade 10 this year, grade 10 will continue to receive schooling. Afterward this class will be integrated into the rolling system.

Also **starting on Monday, 11 May**, grades 1 to 4 at primary schools will return to school on an alternating basis of one grade per day. All-day schooling and other care services will resume parallel to instruction and for emergency care within the bounds of the spatial and staffing capacities.

As with the primary schools, students in grades 1 to 4 at special-needs schools will return to school on an alternating basis of one grade per day (with the exception of the areas of mental development, and physical and motor development) **as of 11 May**. Students from one to two grades from 5 to 9 will also return to the schools on a rolling basis if possible.

### 4. Inpatient health and care facilities

With a target date of **Mother's Day** and since **Saturday, 9 May**, visits to senior facilities and care facilities are possible with strict hygiene requirements. Visitors are asked to call the facilities beforehand so that they can better plan visits with regard to hygiene and infection protection. This will also apply to hospitals and rehabilitation facilities as of **20 May** (max. one visit per day and per patient by no more than two people). The facilities can specify

visiting times. Visiting bans for the entire facility or departments can be issued by the facilities if the current pandemic situation necessitates it. Individual hospitals may allow for visits **starting on 11 May**.

## 5. Athletics and leisure

The following phases apply to athletics and leisure:

**As of Thursday (7 May)**, non-contact popular and leisure sports have been permitted, provided the sport takes place in public/private open-air facilities or in public.

A distance of 1.5 metres between individuals and adherence to strict hygiene and infection protection measures must be ensured.

Showering/washing/changing/community areas and other shared spaces must not be used. Spectators are also prohibited for the time being. However, children up to 14 years of age are allowed to access the sports facility when accompanied by an adult.

Equestrian sports are permitted in indoor equestrian facilities and spaces.

**As of 11 May**, it is possible to open fitness studios, dance schools and sports halls/training spaces for contact-free leisure or popular sports clubs, under strict adherence to distance and hygiene regulations.

Open-air pools can open up **as of 20 May**, under strict adherence to distance and hygiene regulations. This excludes pools used solely for leisure.

**Starting on 30 May**, it will be possible to engage in sports involving unavoidable bodily contact in indoor areas, including indoor swimming pools. Athletic competitions in children, youth and amateur leagues will also be permitted, and the usage of changing and sanitation areas will be permitted with restrictions.

## 6. Food service, hotels, tourism

A gradual opening for food service, hotels and tourism is being worked toward.

The following are possible **as of 11 May**:

- The operation of restaurants, inns, pubs, carry-outs, (ice cream) cafes, public cafeterias and canteens, and other food service facilities, provided adherence to the distance requirement and the Ministry of Health's specified hygiene and infection protection standards is ensured indoors and (if applicable) outdoors.

Only people not subject to the contact ban (such as families, two domestic groups) may sit at the same table.

Buffets with exposed foods will remain prohibited.

- Tourist use of and accommodation in holiday homes and campgrounds (with adherence to contact restrictions).
- Opening amusement parks, cruise vessels (with approved hygiene concept), bicycle and boat rental services.

**As of 18 May** hotels, inns, youth hostels and similar accommodations will reopen, including for tourists who live in Germany. These are subject to strict requirements analogous to food service, with the Ministry of Health's hygiene and infection protection standards that apply to the food service industry, as well as the guarantee of distance regulations and contact restrictions.

Thermal baths and pools, leisure pools and wellness centres are intended to open starting on Pentecost (30 May 2020), with infection protection concepts for each respective facility.

Bars, clubs, discos and brothels will remain closed until further notice.

## 7. Retail and services

Businesses will be allowed to reopen **as of 11 May 2020** regardless of size, and with adherence to distance and hygiene regulations (1 person per 10 m<sup>2</sup> of sales space).

Specific hygiene and infection protection concepts developed by the Ministry of Health apply to salons, nail studios, manicures and massages. Tattoo studios must remain closed until further notice.

## 8. Large events and gatherings

Large events (such as fairs, annual markets, city/village/street festivals, shooting matches, wine festivals and similar events) will remain prohibited until **31 August**. The existing distance requirements apply to gatherings.

With a target date of **30 May**, conferences and conventions will be able to take place with safety concepts and restricted visitor and participant numbers.

## 9. Cultural services

**As of 11 May**, small concerts and other public performances will be permitted outdoors, or indoors with strict regulations, mouth-and-nose protection and a safety concept approved by the local authorities.

Ensembles with no more than six participants will be allowed in music schools.

Rehearsals will be permitted in cultural facilities with adherence to safety requirements. This excludes choirs and orchestras with wind instruments due to the higher risk of infection.

Starting on **30 May**, cinemas, theatres, operas and concert halls will be allowed to open, provided a minimum distance of 1.5 metres between visitors is ensured and there is an admission plan. Increased presence of security personnel will prevent gatherings in waiting and break areas.

At large theatres, operas and concert halls where adjustment to the pandemic conditions requires greater preparation, resumption of the regular performance schedule starting at the beginning of the next play season as of **1 September** is most realistic.

## 10. Colleges

**As of 11 May**, the restrictions on in-person instruction for educational and testing operations will be limited to "special spaces, amenities or other special conditions".

Educational and testing operations at medical schools and schools, institutes and similar facilities for public servants are now permitted with restrictions.

Colleges will mainly conduct lectures online for the summer semester.

## 11. Extracurricular educational facilities

**As of 11 May**, events at adult education facilities and other public, religious and private extracurricular educational facilities, incl. testing, have been permitted in large spaces if there are distance and hygiene regulations in place and no more than 100 participants. Contact-free athletic services for children and youth work have been allowed since 7 May.

**As of 30 May**, restricted normal operations will be possible for youth work, youth cultural work, youth social work, and child and youth protection services.  
Trips may be taken mainly to nearby destinations, including group trips (e.g. youth associations).

## **12. Religious services**

Religious services have been authorised since 1 May, under consideration of the churches' and religious communities' hygiene and safety concepts.

*This press text is also available online on the state government website at [www.land.nrw](http://www.land.nrw)*

[General data protection information](#)