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page 1 of 3

More steps of the North Rhine-Westphalia Plan are being implemented – targeted adjustment of coronavirus protection measures

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Loosening of contact restrictions based on federal-state agreement to allow up to ten people to meet in public / Attending cinemas and cultural events, and community and recreational sport competitions, possible pending requirements

The state government has issued the following statement:

As of Saturday, 30 May 2020, there will be further loosening of anti-coronavirus measures as part of the state government's North Rhine-Westphalia Plan. This includes, among others, the loosening of the contact restriction to exempt groups of up to ten people as per the latest agreement between the federal and state governments. Also included are regulations for holding events in cinemas, theatres, operas and concert halls, and other public or private cultural facilities, and community and recreational sport competitions.

"Since the initial relaxations on 20 April, the number of daily new infections in North Rhine-Westphalia has decreased by more than 75 per cent," says Minister President Armin Laschet. "Whereas the weekly average in April was well above 500, it is now 102 nationwide as of today. The people in our state are owed a debt of gratitude. The responsible, considerate conduct shown by the vast majority as they deal with the COVID-19 pandemic allows us to implement further steps from our North Rhine-Westphalia Plan. We can gradually continue on our prudent course of step-by-step relaxations so that we can take the next step toward responsible normalcy. We still rely on our state residents' sense of reason and responsibility. Distances must still be maintained, and we must still act responsibly toward ourselves and others, wherever possible."

The North Rhine-Westphalia Plan earmarks various stages with target data for specific areas that are to be implemented regardless of the continued development of the pandemic. This approach protects the health of citizens in North Rhine-Westphalia while facilitating the predictability and reliability of economic and public life. Relaxations will take place under constant evaluation and with the explicit caveat of how the pandemic develops. The aforementioned data are explicitly target data, and deviations from these are to be assumed.

The corresponding legal ordinance was announced on Wednesday, 27 May 2020 and comes into effect on 30 May 2020. It can be found at www.land.nrw.

The new regulations in detail

North Rhine-Westphalia's new corona protection ordinance earmarks the following relaxations as of 30 May 2020:

1. Contact restrictions and rules for conduct

The existing contact restrictions will be further developed in accordance with the agreement between the federal and state governments from 26 May 2020 such that, along with the previously approved groups (family or two households), a group of up to ten people will be allowed to gather in public. This is subject to the requirement that traceability of the people involved in the meeting is ensured.

Furthermore, the general distance rule of 1.5 metres still applies, as well as the obligation to wear mouth and nose protection in certain spaces.

2. Cultural facilities

Cinemas, theatres, operas and concert halls can reopen to visitors if they ensure hygiene and infection protection measures. This also applies to outdoor event venues. A special hygiene and infection protection plan is required if more than one quarter of the regular visitor capacity, or more than 100 people, are to attend.

3. Sports

Groups of people who are allowed to meet within the bounds of the contact restrictions will also be allowed to engage in contact sports outdoors. Competitions in community and leisure sports will be permitted outdoors, pending adherence to the hygiene and infection

protection plan – including the usage of changing and sanitation areas, pending certain requirements. Otherwise, all athletic, training and martial arts activities with unavoidable bodily contact will remain prohibited. Lane pools, including in indoor aquatic centres, may reopen.

4. Holiday services

Bus trips are now possible, pending the infection protection requirements. Students may spend their **summer holidays** with day trips, holiday recreation, suburban leisure and long-distance trips if they adhere to the hygiene and safety requirements.

5. Conventions, conferences, meetings

Technical conventions, conferences and meetings are once again permitted if they have corresponding safety plans.

This press text is also available online on the state government website at www.land.nrw

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