

Press release - 610/07/2020

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State government establishes coronavirus testing centres in North Rhine-Westphalian airports / Travellers from risk areas can receive free testing in Düsseldorf, Cologne/Bonn, Dortmund, Münster/Osnabrück

The Ministry for Labour, Health and Social Affairs has issued the following statement: In cooperation with the Associations of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians (ASHIP) of North Rhine-Westphalia-Lippe, the state government is establishing coronavirus testing centres at the airports in Düsseldorf, Dortmund and Münster/Osnabrück. Travellers from risk areas defined by the Robert Koch Institute will receive the opportunity to have a free test at these locations. The testing centres in Düsseldorf and Dortmund are commencing operations on Saturday (25 July 2020). The testing centre at the airport in Münster/Osnabrück is scheduled to start testing on Tuesday (28 July 2020). The state government is planning to integrate the testing centre operated by the city of Cologne and Johanniter Unfallhilfe at the airport in Cologne/Bonn.

"The testing centres will be set up at all North Rhine-Westphalian airports with regular flight connections from risk areas," says Health Minister Karl-Josef Laumann. "This is another important step in inhibiting the spread of the coronavirus, especially during the holiday season. I am grateful to everyone involved in this process for making it possible in so swiftly, unbureaucratically and pragmatically a manner, in particular the Associations of Statutory Health Insurance Providers and the airport operators."

Says Chairman of the ASHIP Nordrhein, Dr Frank Bergmann, "We are happy to help the NRW Health Ministry in Düsseldorf with their goal of offering a coronavirus test to return travellers from risk areas directly at the airport. We have, within just a few days and in close cooperation with the Ministry, met the requirements for large-scale testing at Düsseldorf Airport. Two to three doctors are able to swab patients in parallel, with adherence to the necessary safety measures. The tests are sent right to the lab four times per day. Generally the travellers can check their test results online within three days."

"With the direct coronavirus testing of return travellers from risk areas at the airports, we are making a significant contribution to the further inhibition of the spread of the virus in Germany. At the same time we are making it possible for return travellers to considerably shorten their home quarantine period if their results are negative," says Dr Volker Schrage, Deputy Chairman of the ASHIP Westfalen-Lippe. "Thanks to the good and simple cooperation with the airports in Westphalia-Lippe, we have been able to set up the testing centres quickly!"

The testing centres at the airports Düsseldorf, Dortmund and Münster/Osnabrück are organised by the ASHIPs. Contracted doctors and corresponding medical personnel perform the tests. At the airport Cologne/Bonn, Johanniter Unfallhilfe will continue to organise and perform the tests. At all four airports, the Ministry for Labour, Health and Social Affairs will distribute informational materials about incoming travel during the pandemic, available in four languages (German, English, French, Turkish) (<https://www.mags.nrw/coronavirus>).

Health Minister Laumann also emphasises that all residents must adhere to the requirements of the [Coronavirus Incoming Travel Ordinance](#): "The regulations are legally binding for everyone. And everyone travelling to a travel area must know why they are there. I thus expect that anyone travelling to a risk area undergo quarantine upon their return or verify a negative test result that is no more than 48 hours old. With the testing centres at the airports we are providing an additional service at the expense of the shared risk community. We all must follow the rules so that we can combat the virus together as effectively as possible."

Background information:

Based on current figures, more than 160 airplanes with approximately over 15,000 passengers arrive at the airports in Düsseldorf, Cologne/Bonn, Dortmund and Münster/Osnabrück, coming from places currently identified by the RKI as risk areas. The [list of areas](#) is continuously updated by the RKI. According to the requirements of the Coronavirus Incoming Travel Ordinance of North Rhine-Westphalia, incoming travellers from abroad who have been in a risk area within the 14 days prior to entering NRW are obligated to undergo quarantine and notify the respective health office. This obligation does not apply to, among others, individuals who can verify a current, negative test result.

Violations of these requirements can be punished as administrative offences as per the Infection Protection Act, and are subject to fines of up to 25,000 euros.

Please send any questions to the press office of the Ministry for Labour, Health and Social Affairs, telephone 0211 855-3118.

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

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