

Current corona rules in North Rhine-Westphalia with an incidence above 100

(Updated: 26

April 2021)

What happens if the 7-day incidence is over 100? What about over 150? And what about over 165?

From an incidence of more than 100 new infections per 100,000 inhabitants in the last 7 days in a district (the figures reported to the RKI are decisive), a nationwide "emergency brake" takes effect. Specifically, this means: If the incidence is above 100 on three consecutive days, the additional measures mentioned in the new Infection Protection Act apply from the day after next.

If the incidence rises above 150 for several days, shops that do not serve basic needs must close.

If the incidence rises above 165 for several days, schools also change to distance learning and the on-site care in the day-care centres ends with the exception of emergency care.

What if the incidence falls back below 100, below 150 or below 165?

If the 7-day incidence in the affected district or independent city falls below the value of 100, 150 or 165 again on five consecutive working days, the measures assigned to the respective threshold value shall cease to apply there from the day after next.

From when and until when do the new regulations in the Infection Protection Act (the "federal emergency brake") apply?

The new regulations in the Infection Protection Act ("federal emergency brake") came into force on 23 April 2021 and will take effect from 24 April 2021 at the earliest, depending on the incidences in the respective district or district-free city. The Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs announces from which day in which districts and independent cities which regulations will take effect. The measures of the "federal emergency brake" will expire on 30 June 2021 at the latest.

Where can I find the current incidences?

An overview of the Robert Koch Institute's data on incidence rates in the districts or independent cities that are relevant for the "federal emergency brake" can be found here: www.rki.de/inzidenzen.

What applies to private meetings where there is an incidence above 100?

Private meetings in public and private spaces are only permitted for members of one's own household with one person from another household, but this person may be accompanied by children under 14 years of age belonging to their household.

If the incidence is over 100, what is the curfew?

There is a curfew from 10pm to 5am. Between 10 p.m. and midnight, however, outdoor physical activity, e.g. walking, cycling, jogging, remains permitted for individuals. In addition, valid reasons for an exception to the curfew are, for example, the exercise of professional or official activities, (veterinary) medical emergencies, the exercise of custody and access rights, the care of persons in need of support or minors, the accompaniment of dying persons or the care of animals. Finally, the curfew does not apply to gatherings under the Assembly Act and gatherings for the purpose of practising religion.

What applies to sport if the incidence is over 100?

The non-contact practice of individual sports alone, in pairs or with members of one's own household remains permitted outdoors (also on outdoor sports facilities). For children under 14 years of age, sport is permitted in groups of no more than 5 people; they may be accompanied by instructors.

What applies to public transport?

In local and long-distance public transport, including taxis, there is now a general obligation to wear a respiratory protection mask (FFP2 or comparable), even if the incidence is less than 100. A surgical mask is no longer enough.

Which shops are allowed to stay open if the incidence is over 100?

All shops may remain open up to an incidence of 150. However, differences in access rules apply.

Above an incidence of 150, only certain shops may remain open. In detail:

Weekly markets, grocery stores (including kiosks), beverage markets,
health food stores, baby stores, pharmacies, medical supply stores, drugstores,
opticians, hearing aid providers,
petrol stations, newspaper sales outlets,
bookshops,
florists,
garages,
post offices, banks,
laundrettes,
pet supply stores, feed stores and garden centres
and the wholesale trade

always remain open.

From an incidence of 100, however, a stricter upper limit of persons applies: only 1 customer per 20 m² or part thereof of sales area (up to an incidence of 100: 1 per 10 m²). Visits to bookshops and garden markets are only permitted with an appointment and limited to 1 customer per 40 m² or part thereof of sales area, irrespective of incidence.

All other trades remain open up to an incidence value of 150. Purchasing after prior booking of an appointment ("Click&Meet") is permissible - however, from an incidence of 100, only in the presence of a daily negative test result. Only one customer per 40 square metres or part thereof of sales area is permitted.

If the incidence value exceeds 150, the shops must remain closed; however, it is still possible to pick up ordered goods ("Click&Collect").

What applies to cultural institutions with an incidence above 100?

Concerts and performances in theatres, opera houses, concert halls and cinemas, with the exception of drive-in cinemas, are prohibited - including for incidences below 100.

Museums, art exhibitions, galleries, castles, memorials and similar institutions are open up to an incidence of 100 by prior appointment booking. If the incidence exceeds 100, they have to close.

What applies to zoos and botanical gardens with an incidence above 100?

Up to an incidence of 100, zoos and botanical gardens are fully open after booking an appointment in advance; if the incidence exceeds one 100, only the outdoor areas are open; in addition, visitors must then present a negative test result for the day (except for children under 6 years of age).

What applies to other recreational facilities with an incidence above 100?

Gyms, amusement parks, indoor playgrounds, swimming pools, clubs, amusement arcades, gambling houses, prostitution establishments will remain closed, betting shops and solariums will be closed.

If the incidence is over 100, what applies to the hospitality and accommodation sectors?

As with an incidence of less than 100, the following applies in North Rhine-Westphalia:

Hospitality establishments are only allowed to sell outside the home.
Overnight stays for private purposes are not permitted unless they are urgently required for reasons of medical or nursing care or for socio-ethical reasons.

What applies to body-related services with an incidence above 100?

Body-related services are prohibited - with the exception of medical, therapeutic, nursing or pastoral services. In addition, hairdressers and chiropodists are allowed to remain open. It is compulsory to wear a respiratory protection mask (FFP2 or comparable); for hairdressing and chiropody visits, a daily negative test result is also required.

What applies in schools from an incidence of 100 and from an incidence of 165?

Due to the tense pandemic situation in the whole of North Rhine-Westphalia, schools are only being run on an alternate basis until further notice; final-year classes and special schools are exempt.

The participation of students and teachers in the face-to-face classes requires two tests per week.

With a regional incidence of more than 165, alternate teaching ends and distance teaching takes place. Final-year classes and special schools are exempt. Regional here means that it depends on the incidence in a district or an independent city. The incidence value in a single district municipality is not decisive.

Examinations, in particular final examinations, are not teaching within the meaning of the Federal Act and therefore remain unaffected by the restrictions on attendance.

Educational support services are in place.

What applies in kindergartens and day-care centres from an incidence of 100 and from an incidence of 165?

Up to an incidence of 165, limited normal operation takes place in the respective district or independent city.

If the incidence of 165 is exceeded, on-site care ends. A needs-based emergency care service is in place.

What applies to offices?

Regardless of the 7-day incidence, the following applies: In the case of office work, companies must offer their employees the opportunity to perform this work in their own homes, unless there are compelling operational reasons not to do so. The employees must accept the offer unless there are reasons to the contrary on their part. Employers are obliged to offer two tests per week to employees working in attendance.

Will churches stay open if the incidence is over 100?

Meetings that serve the practice of religion (in the sense of Article 4 of the Constitutional Law) remain permitted in accordance with the stipulations in Section 1 (3) of the Corona Protection Ordinance.

What if a state has stricter rules than the new federal emergency brake?

Then these stricter rules provided by the state apply.

Who checks whether the rules are being observed?

Compliance with the measures under the Infection Protection Act continues to be monitored by the competent authorities - public order office, public health office, police.

Why is the incidence used as a basis and not other factors?

New infections are an early indicator of an increasing incidence of infection. The resulting increase in the burden on the health care system (especially intensive care units and ventilators) and deaths only become noticeable with a considerable time lag. The 7-day incidence averages the daily fluctuations of new infections, it is published daily and is easily comprehensible for everyone.

Why were these incidence limits chosen and not others?

The threshold value of a 7-day incidence of 100 is identical to the threshold for the additional protective measures previously provided for in the ordinances of the federal states and also summarised under the term "emergency brake". If the incidence of infection is significantly higher than this, the federal legislator considers more far-reaching measures to be necessary: if the incidence exceeds 150, the closure of shops that do not serve primary care, and if the incidence exceeds 165, the prohibition of classroom teaching.