



**Press release - 569/07/2020**

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page 1 of 2

## **Minister Laumann: "Continue to follow basic regulations against new infections – use freedoms responsibly"**

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### **Cabinet passes changes to the Coronavirus Protection Ordinance and Coronavirus Incoming Travel Ordinance / extension to 11 August**

**The Minister for Labour, Health and Social Affairs has issued the following statement:**

The cabinet of North Rhine-Westphalia today passed changes to the Coronavirus Protection Ordinance and Coronavirus Incoming Travel Ordinance and extended them until 11 August 2020. The Ministry for Labour, Health and Social Affairs will soon pass the ordinances accordingly.

"The ongoing positive developments in the infection figures provides us with minor relaxations that we wish to use responsibly for more freedom," says Minister of Health Karl-Josef Laumann. "But we must not forget that the pandemic is not yet over, and we have to remain highly alert and responsible. This is illustrated by the 'hot spots' in certain regions. Along with the general hygiene regulations, the three basic regulations are still imperative: the distance requirement, the requirement to wear mouth and nose protection, and ensuring the traceability of infection chains."

The current changes to the Coronavirus Protection Ordinance will increase the limits on event participants. This chiefly concerns events for special occasions, especially weddings, which may now be celebrated by up to 150 people with adherence to contact traceability of the guests. This also applies to funerals. The limit at which a hygiene concept must be provided has been raised from 100 to 300 people for cultural and other events. The participant limit for indoor contact sports will be increased from 10 to 30 people. The permissible spectator limit will also be raised from 100 to 300.

There are also important changes concerning incoming travel from risk areas. Effective immediately, the Coronavirus Incoming Travel Ordinance will consider the fact that there are sufficient testing capacities to conduct the desired testing of incoming and returning travellers from the risk countries specified by the Robert Koch Institute. The exemptions from the mandatory quarantine have been reduced accordingly. Employees of "critical infrastructures" who are now spending their holiday in a risk area are no longer automatically exempt from the mandatory quarantine unless they pass a test with a negative result. This also applies if the employees visited relatives in a risk area. "The more freedoms that are possible, the more crucial it is that we identify infected individuals as quickly as possible and, if necessary, impose brief contact restrictions. This especially applies to greater risks of infection such as visiting a risk area, which is particularly important during the summer holidays."

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

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