

Nordrhein-Westfalen setzt vereinbarte Maßnahmen zur Bekämpfung des Corona-Virus konsequent um

Press release - 907/10/2020

North Rhine-Westphalia implements agreed measures to combat the coronavirus

The state government has issued the following statement:

The state government is implementing the measures agreed on 28 October during the advisory meetings between the heads of the state governments and the chancellor.

"The situation is very serious," says Minister President Armin Laschet. "We need a national effort to prevent a health emergency. To do so we must quickly and consistently reduce our contacts with others so that we can once more successfully inhibit the spread of infection. The health care system must not be overwhelmed. At the same time, we want to avoid a complete shutdown. We want to keep day cares, schools and businesses open. Solidarity is needed. North Rhine-Westphalia can do this. We proved that back in March and April."

"The number of infections with the coronavirus is rising sharply," says Minister of Health Karl-Josef Laumann. "We are now seeing a continuous, highly dynamic spread in nearly every region in North Rhine-Westphalia. Only a decisive approach can help stop this trend. We have to reduce social contacts to a minimum in order to break the infection chains. And we must do everything to protect the most vulnerable among us."

On the morning of 30 October 2020, the RKI reported 5,398 new COVID-19 infections in North Rhine-Westphalia, 4,291 of which were reported yesterday alone. The national weekly incidence rate (case numbers of the last seven days based on 100,000 residents) has been increasing, and reached 140 today. "Currently, every infected person is

infecting at least 1.2 people. If this continues uninhibited, we must expect that the free beds in emergency rooms with breathing apparatuses will be occupied by COVID-19 patients this year," says Minister Laumann. He continues, "Then other measures would have to be taken to expand the capacity, especially for breathing devices. It is similar to March, when hospitals had to be instructed to postpone treatments when possible, or the rehabilitation clinics in North Rhine-Westphalia had to be used."

Against this backdrop, the current Coronavirus Protection Ordinance – first scheduled to end on 31 October – has been extended by one day to 1 November. The new regulations will then apply in North Rhine-Westphalia as of 2 November, as agreed at the federal level.

The new ordinance will, among other things, further elucidate the important DHM rule (distance – hygiene – mask) and make its purview more uniform. Thus, as of 2 November, a mask must be worn in all buildings with customer and visitor traffic. The new ordinance contains another important message: in order to break this wave of infection, all contacts not pertaining to school, apprenticeships and work must be kept to the possible minimum throughout November.

Specifically, this means:

- Meetings in public are only possible with persons from one's own and one other household. More than ten persons are prohibited, even in this instance.
- In private, meetings with persons from outside one's own household are urgently discouraged, and if this is not possible then adhering to the DHM requirements is strongly recommended.
- Overnight accommodations for tourism purposes are prohibited. Overnight accommodations for trips that began before 29 October are not affected. Tourist bus trips and other group trips with buses for tourism purposes are prohibited.

- Food service facilities must close. This excludes delivery or pick-up of meals for home consumption when possible.

- All entertainment and recreational events must be cancelled.

- The following must close:
 - theatres, operas, concert halls and similar facilities
 - conferences, exhibits, annual markets, flea markets
 - cinemas, amusement parks, zoos and other recreational activities (indoors and outdoors)
 - casinos, bookies and similar facilities
 - recreational and amateur sports on and in all public and private athletic facilities, except for single-person sports outdoors
 - swimming pools and water parks, gyms and similar facilities
 - brothels, places of prostitution and similar facilities

- Services involving close physical proximity are also prohibited, except for hair salons and foot care as well as medically necessary treatments, such as physical therapy.

"Even though there will be comprehensive compensation regulations for the businesses that are closing, our measures are serious and we are aware of this," says Health Minister Karl-Josef Laumann. "They affect many businesses that have worked hard in recent months in order to protect their customers and guests from the virus. But we are convinced that the harm to food service, culture, sports and recreation will be far more severe if we fail to inhibit the spread of the virus through decisive action."

The new Coronavirus Protection Ordinance is in effect until 30 November and can be downloaded [here](#).

Please direct citizen inquiries to: telephone 0211 855-5.

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

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