

**Video conference between the Federal Chancellor and the
Heads of Government of the Länder
on 2 December 2021**

Item 1: Measures for overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic

The situation in our country is very serious. Incidence rates in many regions of Germany are rising and the burden on hospitals is reaching its limit in many places, especially in the south and the east. The pandemic is hitting our entire country hard. We are all closely interconnected through the solidarity-based redistribution of intensive care patients.

We will therefore work together in an **act of national solidarity** to reduce the number of infections once again, and to relieve the burden on our healthcare system.

Against this backdrop, the Federal Chancellor and the Heads of Government of the Länder have adopted the following decision:

1. The existing decisions of the Federal Chancellor and the Heads of Government of the Länder shall continue to apply unless other stipulations are made in this decision. The Länder will amend their own regulations accordingly.
2. An expanded **Federal Government and Länder crisis unit** will be set up in the Federal Chancellery to identify and resolve problems in logistics, vaccine delivery and vaccine distribution at an early stage.
3. The Federal Government and the Länder will work together to enable all those who opt for a first vaccination, and all those who are due for a second vaccination or a booster, to be **vaccinated** by Christmas. With high demand from the population, this could require up to 30 million vaccinations.

4. The Federal Government will also significantly **expand** the group of **people who are authorised to administer vaccinations**. In the short term, this will be done via delegations, by means of which doctors may delegate the administering of vaccinations to pharmacists and nursing professionals, for example in nursing homes. In addition, the legislation will be amended for pharmacists, dentists and others, in order to expand the group of people authorised to administer vaccinations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

5. As the protection offered by the currently available vaccines against the predominant virus variants decreases steadily from around the fifth month onwards, the **vaccination status**, i.e. the period of recognition as a fully vaccinated person, will have to be changed, unless a booster is administered. Discussions are now taking place at European Union level that vaccination status should remain valid for nine months after the second vaccination. Under consideration of the vaccination campaign and the vaccines available, the Federal Government and the Länder will by the end of the year reach agreement on as of when, and how, a corresponding regulation should apply in the Federal Republic of Germany.

6. Nationwide, **admission** to cultural and leisure institutions and events (cinemas, theatres, restaurants, etc.) is **only possible for those who are vaccinated or recovered** (2G), irrespective of the incidence rates. A current test may also be required in addition (2GPlus). Exceptions are to be made for people who cannot be vaccinated and for those for whom there is no general vaccination recommendation. Exceptions are also possible for children and young people up to the age of 18.

7. The **2G rules** will be extended to all **shops and retail outlets** nationwide, irrespective of the incidence rates. Admission is only possible for those who are vaccinated or recovered. This does not apply to retail for daily needs.¹ Entry must be monitored by the retailers.

¹ In deciding what exceptions to make, the Länder will be guided by the corresponding catalogue in the Federal emergency brake.

8. **Strict contact restrictions will be imposed on unvaccinated people** in all Länder. **Private gatherings** in public or private places in which unvaccinated and non-recovered people participate shall be restricted to **the own household and no more than two people from one other household**. Children up to the age of 14 are not counted as part of this figure. Spouses, partners and partners in a de facto marital relationship are considered to be one household, even if they do not have a shared residence. Private gatherings in which only vaccinated and recovered people participate are not affected by this restriction. The Federal Government will amend the ordinance governing exemptions to COVID-19 protective measures accordingly.
9. **Inter-regional sporting, cultural and comparable major events** will be significantly restricted. Limits will be set for capacity utilisation and an absolute upper limit for the number of spectators. For indoor events, only 30 to 50 percent of the capacity may be used, up to a maximum total number of 5,000 spectators. For outdoor events, only 30 to 50 percent of the capacity may be used, up to a maximum total number of 15,000 spectators. Medical masks must be worn. As also applies elsewhere, admission is only permitted for those who are vaccinated or recovered (2G). In addition, a current test may also be required for spectators (2GPlus). Events in Länder with high infection rates must be cancelled if possible and sports events held without spectators.
10. At the latest from an incidence of more than 350 new infections per 100,000 inhabitants in seven days, indoor **clubs and discotheques** will be **closed**. From the Federal Government's perspective, this is already legally possible, but the reform of the German Protection against Infection Act will resolve this beyond doubt. However, the Länder can already use this option across the board, where necessary.
11. All contacts must be reduced in districts with an incidence of more than 350 new infections per 100,000 inhabitants. A **participant limit** of 50 people (vaccinated and recovered) in indoor areas and 200 people (vaccinated and recovered) in outdoor areas is therefore applicable **for private parties and gatherings**.

12. Wearing a **face mask is mandatory** for all year groups in **schools**.
13. **Strict checks** for all rules will be ensured. This applies in particular to checks of the vaccination status, which should be carried out using apps wherever possible.
14. Lawmakers are asked to **supplement the Protection against Infection Act with further regulations** so that Länder and regions with a high infection rate continue to have adequate additional measures available (e.g. temporary closures of restaurants, prohibition of the sale of alcohol or alcohol consumption, restriction of gatherings, restrictions on overnight stays at hotels). In addition, lawmakers are asked to extend the transitional period for protective measures in the Protection against Infection Act, which came into force by 25 November 2021, beyond 15 December 2021. It will be clearly legislated that these measures can also be implemented in a regionally differentiated manner (e.g. by district).
15. All the above-mentioned measures represent **uniform minimum standards applicable throughout Germany**. Many Länder and regions which currently have low incidence rates are therefore tightening their rules in order to mitigate the wave and to proactively relieve the burden on their healthcare systems. The **Länder which are particularly badly affected** will also continue to **go beyond these minimum standards** with their own regulations.
16. The Federal Government intends to introduce **facility-based mandatory vaccination** for employees, e.g. in nursing care facilities and hospitals.
17. The Federal Government and the Länder welcome the fact that the German Bundestag plans to promptly deliberate on **general mandatory vaccination**. This can take effect as soon as it can be ensured that all those still to be vaccinated can also be vaccinated in a timely manner, i.e. from around February 2022. The Federal Government and the Länder request that the German Ethics Council develop a recommendation on this by the end of the year.

18. A **panel of experts made up of scientists** will be set up in the Federal Chancellery. It should meet once a week and issue joint recommendations.

19. A nationwide ban on all gatherings will be in force on **New Year's Eve and New Year's Day**. Fireworks will also be banned in areas frequented by many people, to be defined by the municipalities. The sale of fireworks before New Year will be banned this year, and there is a general, urgent recommendation not to let off any fireworks, partly because of the high risk of injury and the fact that the healthcare system is already seriously stretched.

As was the case last year, appropriate compensation should be provided to the companies affected through the financial assistance measures.

20. The Heads of Government of the Länder welcome the term sheet on **interim financial help IV** presented by the Federal Government, the aim of which is to create an aid instrument to implement the decision of 18 November 2021 for the Christmas markets, which are particularly affected by COVID-19 protective measures. This should be implemented quickly. The hardship relief measures, the special fund of the Federal Government for trade fairs and exhibitions, the special fund of the Federal Government for cultural events, the **COVID-19 aid programme for professional sport** and the KfW special programme are to be extended. They also welcome the fact that the Federal Cabinet has extended the main **special arrangements for reduced hours compensation benefits** until 31 March 2022. They ask the Federal Government to keep an eye on further developments.