



Press release

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Meeting between Federal Chancellor Merkel and the Minister-Presidents of the Länder to discuss the coronavirus

The Federal Chancellor and the Minister-Presidents of the Länder have adopted the following decision:

The rapid spread of the coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) in Germany in recent days is alarming. We must do everything in our power to prevent an uncontrolled rise in the number of cases and to ensure that our healthcare system continues to function properly. Taking steps to reduce the level of social contacts is therefore vitally important.

The Federation and the Länder have agreed on an extension of the guidelines adopted on 12 March for reducing social contact:

- I. Members of the public are required to reduce their contact with people other than the members of their own household to an absolute minimum.
- II. In public, as far as possible, they must keep a distance of at least 1.5 metres from all those other than those mentioned in point I. above.
- III. Visiting public places is only permitted alone, with one other person who does not live in your household, or in the company of members of your own household.
- IV. Travel to work or to provide emergency care, shopping for essentials, doctors' appointments, attendance of meetings, necessary appointments and examinations, assistance for others or sport and exercise individually out of doors, as well as other necessary activities will, of course, continue to be possible.

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- V. Groups meeting for parties in public areas, homes and private institutions are unacceptable in view of the serious situation in our country. Compliance with social distancing is to be monitored by the authorities responsible for public order and the police, and violations will be penalised.
- VI. Restaurants and cafés are to be closed. This does not include the delivery and collection of food that can be taken away and consumed at home.
- VII. Service providers in the personal care sector such as hairdressers, cosmetics studios, massage salons, tattoo parlours and similar establishments are to be closed, because physical proximity is unavoidable in these professions. Necessary medical treatments will still be permitted.
- VIII. It is important that all enterprises, particularly those open to the public, adhere to the hygiene regulations and implement effective protective measures for staff and visitors.
- IX. These measures will apply for at least two weeks.

The Federation and the Länder will work together closely to implement these restrictions as well as to assess their effectiveness. Further regulations owing to specific regional or epidemiological circumstances in the Länder or districts will remain possible.

While the Federation and the Länder are aware of the fact that these are particularly radical measures, they are necessary and proportionate in view of the right of the population to health, which must be protected.

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The Federal Chancellor and the Minister-Presidents of the Länder wish to express their particular thanks to those working in the healthcare system, the public sector and in the sectors that are working to maintain daily life, as well as all members of the public for their sense of responsibility and their willingness to adhere to these rules in order to continue to slow down the spread of the coronavirus.