

Conference of the Head of the Federal Chancellery with the Heads of the State and Senate Chancelleries of the Länder on 25 May 2020

Decision

1. Contact restrictions

The number of new SARS-CoV-2 infections in Germany is still at a low level one month after we began to ease the restrictions. This success is largely due to the fact that in the last few weeks distancing and hygiene measures have been well implemented and adhered to in all relevant spheres. Our thanks go out to all members of the public who have made this possible and have rigorously adhered to these regulations.

However, the virus is still with us and would spread very quickly without such measures – this was clear to see in mid-March before the restrictions were imposed in Germany as well as in many other countries and is now evident from the local outbreaks in establishments or following gatherings.

In view of the gradual opening up of all areas of public life and the resulting increase in contacts, it is therefore essential that the distancing and hygiene measures remain integrated into daily life until a vaccine or a drug has been found and the pandemic has been overcome. Until then, contact tracing will also have to be continued.

For business as well as for the different areas of public life, such as sport, culture or transport, the Federation and the Länder have agreed on distancing and hygiene strategies with the relevant organisations and these strategies will be implemented as areas of public life are re-opened. For visits to public places, the binding contact restrictions which the Chancellor and the Minister-Presidents of the Länder initially agreed to keep in place until 5 June and which were implemented by way of ordinances or general administrative acts of the Länder continue to apply.

Against this background, the Head of the Federal Chancellery and Heads of the State and Senate Chancelleries have adopted the following decision:

1. In order to prevent the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and to protect individuals from infection, members of the public must continue to maintain a **minimum distance of 1.5 metres**. This measure is being supplemented by an obligation to wear a mask in certain public areas.

2. In order to minimise the risk of infection, the binding contact restrictions will be in force at least until 29 June. The Länder can now allow **gatherings in public places** of up to 10 persons or of the members of two households.
3. The number of people with whom an individual has contact must be kept to a minimum and this group of persons should be kept as constant as possible.
4. Distancing and hygiene measures should also be implemented in **private gatherings at home** in closed spaces. The number of persons permitted depends on the space available and thus the possibility to adhere to the rule on distancing. What is more, adequate ventilation must be ensured. The number of persons should be restricted accordingly. Wherever possible, private gatherings should be held outside where there is a considerably lower risk of infection. The identities of the participants should be known.
5. Different rules will apply to kindergartens and schools, as well as events and assemblies, for which separate hygiene strategies will be implemented.
6. Wherever the regional rate of infection renders it necessary, further-reaching contact restrictions should be imposed within the framework of the envisaged measures in order to contain the outbreak and prevent a rise in infections beyond the region.

Statements:

Thuringia: In the view of the Free State of Thuringia, the rate of infection (including the development of the reproduction number, the ratio between the number of new infections and the number of people recovered, the period it takes for the number of infections to double) is essential when it comes to imposing containment ordinances curtailing fundamental rights on the basis of the Protection against Infection Act. If it is clear that there are no longer new infections occurring in a larger area, then the principle of proportionality requires that the restrictions be applied accordingly. Thuringia therefore reserves the right to adopt different regulations on visits to public places (number 2), insofar as the rate of infection allows. Given the current rate of infection, Thuringia now believes that it is possible to dispense with special restrictions on contacts in relation to private gatherings at home and instead to draw the public's attention to general hygiene and conduct rules. Furthermore, Thuringia is in favour of trusting in the public's sense of responsibility and restraint.

Hesse: For the time being, Hesse will retain the restriction that individuals can go outside either on their own or together with one other person of another household or with members of their own household.

Lower Saxony: Lower Saxony reserves the right to uphold its regulation limiting contact to two households.