

Occupational health and safety information

Information on protection to prevent infections

There are currently increasing numbers of cases of a disease caused by a new type of coronavirus in China (COVID-19/2019-nCoV). At the moment, the province of Hubei, where the metropolis of Wuhan is located, and certain cities in the Zhejiang province are particularly affected. Due to the current developments, the Federal Foreign Office of Germany has issued a partial travel warning for Hubei province. Trips to other parts of PR China should also be postponed. Other countries have subsequently also reported infections. In Germany, the first cases were confirmed at the end of January 2020.

Important questions and answers about the coronavirus (COVID-19/2019-nCoV):

How likely is it that further cases will occur in Germany?

The introduction of individual cases into Germany is possible. Individual transmissions within Germany are also possible. However, the risk of infection in Germany is currently considered **low**.

How is the virus transmitted?

Corona viruses are primarily transmitted by droplet infection. It is currently assumed that, after infection, it can take up to 14 days before symptoms of the disease appear. Within these 14 days, the virus can already be spread further.

Is there a therapy/vaccine?

A specific therapy does not yet exist, but treatment of the symptoms is possible. Vaccines against corona viruses are in development but not yet available.

When is there a justified suspicion of a COVID-19 infection and what should be done?

If persons have clinical symptoms (e. g. cough, head cold, sore throat or fever) **and** if they have been in a [high-risk area](#) within the last 14 days before their illness or have had contact with diseased persons who returned from a [high-risk area](#), a suspicion is justified. Persons who experience symptoms of the disease are to stay at home and contact a general physician's practice by phone to discuss further steps.

Protective measures - What can individuals do?

The most effective measures for your personal protection as well as for the protection of other people from infection are: **proper coughing and sneezing etiquette, keeping a distance (of about two meters) from people who may be ill as well as proper hand hygiene.**

Is additional hand disinfection useful?

In general, hand disinfection is not necessary. **Washing your hands thoroughly** is sufficient: **Wet your hands - apply soap all over them for 20 - 30 seconds - rinse thoroughly - dry carefully.**

Please refer to the websites below for further information (see QR codes):

- [Information about the corona virus and travel to China from the Federal Foreign Office](#)
- [Information about hygiene from the Federal Centre for Health Education](#)
- [Advice for the public from the World Health Organization](#)

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Information about the coronavirus and travel to China by the Federal Foreign Office



Information on the coronavirus provided by the Federal Centre for Health Education



Advice for the public from the World Health Organization



List of high-risk areas ('Risikogebiete' - German)