

Occupational health and safety information

Information on protection to prevent infections

Large numbers of cases of illness (COVID-19) caused by the coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) were initially identified in China. Now, a growing number of infections has also been reported from various regions in other countries. 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 VR China and risk areas in Iran, Italy and South Korea should also be postponed. In Germany, the first cases were confirmed at the end of January 2020. Further infections have been reported here, too.

Important questions and answers about the coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2):

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 **moderate**.

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?

Persons who have been in a [risk area](#) within the past 14 days or have had contact with persons who have been tested positive for the SARS-CoV-2 virus by a laboratory, are to contact their local health authority immediately irrespective of whether they are experiencing any symptoms. Persons who experience symptoms of the disease (e.g. cough, sneezing, sore throat, fever) are to contact a general physician's practice by phone for an appointment.

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**. They should also be adhered to in the context of office hours.

Is it helpful to use additional hand sanitiser or wear face masks?

In general, hand disinfection is not necessary. You should avoid shaking hands and touching your nose, eyes and mouth. Apart from that, **washing your hands thoroughly** is sufficient: **Wet your hands - apply soap all over them for 20-30 seconds - rinse thoroughly - dry carefully**

Wearing a face mask for your own protection is not necessary. If required, doctors will recommend that an ill person wear one if they move in public.

For further information, please follow the links and QR codes on the right.

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Travel advice for [China](#), [Iran](#), [Italy](#) and [South Korea](#) from the Federal Foreign Office (German only)



[Information about the coronavirus from the Federal Centre for Health Education](#)



[Advice for the public from the World Health Organization](#)



[List of risk areas](#)
("Risikogebiete" - German only)