UPDATE – New Information on Covid-19 and Government Measures
Information from 23rd of March 2020.

The massive efforts at all levels of the Public Health Service continue to pursue the goal of detecting the infections in Germany as early as possible and delaying the further spread of the virus as far as possible.

Please do your best to contribute to a flatter curve!

Yesterday(22nd of March) the federal government and the minister presidents of the Länder agreed on further measures to reduce public life and social contacts in order to flatten the infection curve. Please find the guidelines below.

From the evening of the 22nd of March on a wide-reaching contact restriction applies.

It is required to reduce contact with people other than the members of your own household to an absolute minimum.
In public a distance of at least 1.5 meters, preferably two meters has to be kept from all people other than the members of your own household.
Visiting public places is only permitted alone, with one other person who does not live in your household, or when accompanied by the members of your own household.

Groups meetings for parties in public areas, homes and private institutions are unacceptable in view of the serious situation in our country.

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.

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, still be possible.

Service providers in the personal care sector such as hairdressers, cosmetics studios, massage salons, tattoo parlours and similar establishments are to be closed.

Necessary medical treatments will still be permitted.

These measures will apply for at least two weeks (this means at least until 05th of April). Everyone needs to organize their movements and their lives in accordance with these clear stipulations for the coming weeks.

These guidelines aren’t simply random recommendations by the state. They are rules that must be kept in the interests of us all. The authorities responsible for public order will monitor compliance, and where they find that rules are being violated, there will be consequences and penalties.
The general rules from 16th of March still apply, as long as they are not contradicted by new regulations.

Bars, clubs, discos, pubs and similar establishments, theatres, opera houses, concert halls, museums and similar establishments, trade fairs, exhibitions, cinemas, theme parks, zoos, providers of leisure activities (indoor and outdoor), specialized markets, amusement arcades, casinos, betting shops and similar establishments, all public and private sport venues, swimming baths and adventure pools, gyms and similar establishments, retail outlets not specified in here, outlet centers and playgrounds are closed to the public.

Food retail outlets, weekly markets, collection and delivery services, beverage shops, pharmacies, medical supply stores, drugstores, petrol stations, banks and savings banks, post offices, dry cleaners, launderettes, newsagents, DIY stores, garden centers, pet supply stores and wholesalers will NOT be closed. They remain open under special conditions regarding hygiene, control of access and the avoidance of queues. Stores will additionally be allowed to open on Sundays from 12am to 6pm.

All healthcare facilities will remain open under stricter hygienic conditions.

Gatherings in clubs, sporting and leisure facilities, lessons and courses in adult education centers, music schools, public and private educational establishments, coach tours and gatherings in churches, mosques, synagogues as well as gatherings of other religious communities are banned.

Hospitals, care and rehabilitation centres, nursing homes and special types of social housing will issue visiting hour regulations in order to restrict visits. Overnight accommodation (Hotels, etc.) in Germany can only be used for essential purposes NOT for touristic reasons.

The following measures to prevent yourself and the whole society from the coronavirus (COVID-19) are recommended:

1. Regular and thorough hand washing, proper coughing and sneezing
2. Keeping distance from sick persons, refrain from shaking hands
3. Avoid going on trips, using public transport or meeting in groups.
4. Work from home if possible
5. Reduce contact to others to the bare minimum, avoid crowds – social distancing!
6. If you feel sick, contact the International office as soon as possible to get a doctors appointment – until the appointment stay at home and avoid social contact.

Please keep yourself informed, as the situation is constantly changing. If you need any help or have any questions don’t hesitate to contact the international office.
Sources of information:

New measures related to the coronavirus
https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/themen/coronavirus/statement-chancellor-1733322

FAQs on the Coronavirus

Agreement of the federal government and the minister presidents of the Laender 16th of March

Daily updates on the corona virus in English

Information page of the city of Mainz (German only)

Government of the federal state of Rhineland-Palatinate (German only)

Risk assessment of the Robert-Koch-Institute (German only)
https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Risikobewertung.html

Daily situation assessment of the Robert-Koch-Institute (English version available)
https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Situationsberichte/Gesamt.html

Key hygiene tips:
https://www.infektionsschutz.de/fileadmin/infektionsschutz.de/Downloads/200309_BZgA_Atemwegsinfektion-Hygiene_schuetzt_3x_03_EN.pdf