

Mobility: Immigration

Alert

November 2020

Germany

Entry registration and quarantine requirements

Executive summary

Effective 8 November 2020 new entry and quarantine requirements are in force for anyone (including German and other EU/EEA citizens) who has been in a COVID-19 risk area anytime in the last ten (10) calendar days before arrival.

This includes travels where the individual has not come directly from the risk area (e.g. their last 5 days of stay is in a non-risk area, but the 5 days before the stay was in another country which is/was a risk area).

An official general overview can be found here:

https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/fileadmin/Datien/3_Downloads/C/Coronavirus/Infoblatt/2020-11-06_Infoblatt_fuer_Einreisende_engl_final.pdf.

Additionally, the following web page contains the most common FAQ:

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/coronavirus-infos-reisende/faq-tests-einreisende-englisch.html>

Background and current status

1. Entry registration

Standard: digital

There is an obligation to register before the arrival in Germany by means of a digital declaration of entry (<https://einreiseanmeldung.de/#/>). This can be completed online and afterwards the service sends the registrant a pdf-file which verifies the entry registration. It is necessary to

do this before boarding any carrier (plane, bus, train, ship, etc.) otherwise boarding will not be allowed. Therefore, the saved and/or printed confirmation should be brought on the trip and presented to the carrier or the border authority.

When completing the online form, the first step is to enter all countries the traveler has been staying at in the last ten (10) calendar days: where none of these countries are listed as risk area, the site will confirm that the digital entry registration is not necessary.

Travelers also may be checked whether a country is listed as risk area under:

https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Risikogebiete_neu.html.

The digital entry registration currently can be completed 5 days in advance before the planned arrival date at the earliest.

With the digital entry registration, the local health authority for the accommodation in Germany is informed automatically.

Exception: paper version

If the digital entry registration is not possible up front, e.g. due to urgency or technical restrictions, in exceptional cases a written substitute registration version may be used (https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/fileadmin/Datien/3_Downloads/C/Coronavirus/Infoblatt/Anlage_2_Ersatzmitteilung.pdf). In case a digital entry registration was not done, but the substitute document used, it is mandatory immediately after arrival from a risk area to inform the local German health authorities. The responsible local health

office can be determined on the following web page by entering the ZIP code or city/town of your accommodation in Germany: <https://tools.rki.de/plztool/>.

2. Quarantine

Anyone (including German and other EU/EEA citizens) entering Germany from a risk area must also follow a mandatory quarantine and go straight home or to another suitable accommodation immediately after entering Germany and must stay there continuously for a period of ten (10) calendar days after entry. Travelers are not allowed to leave this accommodation or meet anyone whilst the quarantine is ongoing. As this includes grocery shopping the support of neighbors, family members or any other person who is not under quarantine needs to be self-arranged to ensure access to necessary supplies. A temporary exemption from the quarantine regulations applies only for those who wish to be tested for COVID-19.

Fines can be levied on those found not to be following the quarantine.

It is not mandatory to undertake a test, unless the local health office requests either a test or a negative test result. If the individual comes into contact with nobody during quarantine and they are not getting tested on their own, the quarantine ends automatically after ten (10) calendar days provided the person does not show any symptoms.

In any event, it is possible to end the quarantine at the earliest from day five (5) of entry if the traveler obtains a negative test result. Depending on the state law applicable, the test may usually be carried out at the earliest five (5) days after entry. The entry registration should be brought along as the test is free of charge (until 1 December 2020) if obtained within 10 calendar days of entry.

General exemptions from the quarantine requirement depend on the local German state law and may include the following:

- ▶ Persons staying in transit only
- ▶ Cross border travelers (e.g. daily/weekly commuter)

These exemptions need to be checked on an individual basis due to variations between states and it cannot be assumed that business travelers will be exempt.

Next steps

Employers should ensure that employees travelling to Germany on business or for the purposes of home leave are aware of the potential limitations on their movement when in Germany.

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