

22 March 2020 - Press release by the Federal Parliament of Germany Meeting of Chancellor Merkel with the Prime Ministers of the Federal States on the Coronavirus

The rapid spread of the corona virus (SARS-CoV-2) in the past few days in Germany is worrying. We must do everything we can to prevent an uncontrolled increase in the number of cases and to keep our healthcare system functioning. The number of contacts is crucial for this.

The federal and state governments agree to expand the guidelines on March 12 to limit social contacts:

I. Citizens are encouraged to reduce contact with other people outside of their own household to an absolutely necessary minimum.

II. Wherever possible, a minimum distance of at least 1.5 m must be maintained in public from people other than those mentioned under I.

III. Spending time in public space is only permitted on its own, with one other person who does not live in the household or with members of your own household.

IV. The way to work, emergency care, shopping, visits to the doctor, participation in meetings, necessary appointments and exams, help for others or individual sports and exercise in the fresh air as well as other necessary activities remain of course possible.

V. Groups of people celebrating in public places, in apartments and private facilities are unacceptable given the serious situation in our country. Violations of the contact restrictions are monitored by the police and will be sanctioned in the event of violations.

VI. Restaurants are closed. This does not apply to the delivery and collection of take-away meals for consumption at home.

VII. Service companies in the field of personal care such as hairdressers, cosmetic studios, massage practices, tattoo studios and similar companies are closed because physical proximity is essential in this area. Medically necessary treatments remain possible.

VIII. In all companies and especially those with public traffic, it is important to comply with the hygiene regulations and to implement effective protective measures for employees and visitors.

IX. These measures should be valid for at least two weeks.

The federal and state governments will work closely together to implement these restrictions and assess their effectiveness. Further regulations based on regional peculiarities or epidemiological situations in the countries or counties remain possible.

The federal and state governments are aware that these are very drastic measures. But they are necessary and they are proportionate to the health of the population with regard to the legal property to be protected.

The Federal Chancellor and the heads of government of the federal states thank in particular the employees in the health system, in the public

service and in the sectors that maintain everyday life, as well as all citizens for their sense of responsibility and willingness to abide by these rules further slow the spread of the corona virus.