

Today, March 20, the State of Bavaria announced additional protective measures that begin tonight at midnight and are effective through the end of the day on April 3. These measures apply to all Soldiers, Civilians, Families, and Contractors. It is the responsibility of each of us to read the measures, be familiar with them and adhere to them. Host nation law enforcement will increase patrols to enforce compliance and citizens will have to provide credible justification to be in a public place. The new protection measures are additive to the measures already in place in the State of Bavaria.

In short, everyone is encouraged to reduce physical and social contact with those outside of their family to an absolute minimum and to keep a minimum distance of 1.5 meters between people.

The following are some of the prohibitions in effect:

- Restaurants are closed, except for take-out, drive-thru and delivery service only.
- Visits to hospitals, senior citizen and other group homes are not permitted, with the exception of fathers of newborns, a child in hospital in-patient care, and dying hospice patients.
- Home and garden stores are closed.
- Barber and beauty shops are closed.

Leaving your residence is only permitted if there is good reason. Some justifiable reasons include:

- Work and professional activities.
- Use of medical and veterinary services.
- Supply venues for everyday items (e.g. grocery store, pet supplies, pharmacies, banks, post office, gas station, car repair, etc.).
- Sport and exercise outdoors is allowed, however, must be conducted alone or with members of your own family and without any other group formation.

Please keep in mind that commanders may impose more restrictive measures on Soldiers and encourage civilian personnel to also follow those measures.

I cannot stress enough how important it is that you comply with all safety measures in place - both our own and those of Germany. We are all guests here and must honor German law. Moreover, the punishment for violating German law can be harsh! The monetary fine alone for violations of the Law on Protection against Communicable Diseases can be up to 25,000 Euros. Civilians who fail to comply with these safeguards may be reported to German authorities. While I certainly hope it never comes to that, if necessary, I will bar non-compliant people from this installation. I never want to do that, but my sacred charge is the protection of our entire community. We are all in this together, and COVID-19 does not distinguish between us based on whether or not we wear a uniform. With your help, we will remain 'The BEST (and healthiest) Hometown in Europe!'

For the complete State of Bavaria protection order, please visit

<https://home.army.mil/ansbach/index.php/about/Garrison/public-affairs/coronavirus-covid-19>.