

Courtesy translation by Bavaria USFLO

Subject: Translation: Restrictions agreement paper Apr 15

Rough translation of the paper issued after the Merkel / Mins Pres meeting:

Restrictions in public life to contain the COVID19 epidemic

The Federal Chancellor and the Heads of Government of the Länder take the following decision:

The high dynamics of the spread of the coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) in Germany in the first half of March has led to the Federal Government and the Länder having to impose severe restrictions on citizens in order to protect people from infection and avoid overburdening the healthcare system. Our heartfelt thanks go to the vast majority of the population who comply with these measures with public spirit and patience, and especially to those who ensure that the measures are put into practice and, of course, to those who provide their services in the health system.

As a result of the restrictions we have achieved that the rate of infection in Germany has decreased. That is good news. At the same time, however, we have also learned that without restrictions the rate of infection increases very quickly, while slowing down takes a lot of time and requires drastic measures.

That is why we must do everything we can to ensure the successes of the last few weeks.

The guiding principle for our actions in the coming period is that we want to protect all people in Germany as well as possible from infection. This is particularly true for older people and those who are already ill, but there are also severe cases of younger infected persons. That is why infection prevention and hygiene measures are particularly important everywhere and especially where contact is necessary, for example in certain working environments.

We will work in small steps towards restarting public life, allowing citizens more freedom of movement again and restoring the disrupted value chains. However, this must be well prepared and accompanied in each individual case by protective measures in such a way that the emergence of new infection chains is prevented as far as possible. The yardstick remains that the dynamics of infection must remain moderate enough to ensure that our healthcare system can provide the best possible treatment for every infected person and minimise the number of serious and fatal courses of infection.

We must all be aware that the slowing of the chains of infection in recent weeks has not enabled us to cope with the epidemic, it is continuing. Therefore we cannot return to the accustomed life of the time before the epidemic, but we must learn how to live with the epidemic for a longer period of time.

That is why the Chancellor and the heads of government of the Länder agree:

1. The joint decisions of 12, 16 and 22 March 2020 and the accompanying ChefBK/CdS decisions as well as the decisions of the Corona Cabinet remain valid. The ensuing decrees will be extended until 3 May, unless otherwise specified below (Annex 1 provides an indicative overview of the measures still in force).

2. The most important measure in the coming period as well remains to keep a distance. For this reason, it remains crucial that citizens maintain a minimum distance of 1.5 metres in public places, and that they stay there only alone, with another person not living in the household or with members of their own household. This remains binding and violations of these contact restrictions will be sanctioned accordingly by the regulatory authorities.

3. In order to quickly identify infection chains in the future, carry out targeted testing, ensure complete contact tracing and provide professional care for those affected, considerable additional personnel capacities are being created in the local public health services, at least one team of 5 persons per 20,000 inhabitants. Additional teams from the Länder are to be deployed in particularly affected areas and the Bundeswehr will also support such regions with trained personnel in contact tracing and care. The aim of the Federal Government and the Länder is to trace all chains of infection and to interrupt them as quickly as possible. In order to optimise the reporting of case numbers and to improve the cooperation of the health services with the RKI in contact tracing, the Federal Office of Administration is conducting online training courses. In addition, the Federal Ministry of Health is planning a funding programme for technical equipment and upgrading as well as training of local health services. In order to gain a better understanding of the context in which the infections occur and thus to have a better basis for deciding where contact-restrictive measures are still particularly necessary, the suspected infection context is to be recorded as completely as possible in the future, as also laid down in the Infection Protection Act.

4. The use of digital "contact tracing" is a centrally important measure to support the rapid and complete tracing of contacts. The Federal Government and the Länder support the architectural concept of "Pan-European Privacy-Preserving Proximity Tracing" because it follows a pan-European approach, provides for compliance with European and German data protection regulations and only stores epidemiologically relevant contacts of the last three weeks anonymously on the user's mobile phone without recording the movement profile. In addition, the use of the app is to be based on a voluntary basis. As soon as a broadly applicable application software (app) is available on the basis of the basic software already presented, it will be important that broad sections of the population use this option to quickly learn that they have had contact with an infected person so that they can react quickly. The federal and state governments will call for this. Furthermore, all those who are working on tracing apps independently are urged to use the underlying architecture concept so that all offers are compatible. A patchwork of non-interacting systems would destroy the success of the measure.

5. Germany has a high testing capacity of up to 650,000 tests per week to detect corona infections (PCR tests). The Federal Government secures additional test capacity for Germany by purchasing test equipment and - as far as possible in the current world market situation - by

securing individual kits, reagents and consumables through tripartite contracts with the participation of the Federal Government as the acceptance guarantor. An essential success factor in combating the epidemic is to test in a targeted manner and at the right time. For this reason, the testing activities are closely coordinated between the Robert Koch Institute and the health services of the federal states and local authorities in order to identify sick people quickly and reliably and to immediately initiate the necessary quarantine, contact tracing and treatment.

6. The Federal Government supports the Länder and the associations of statutory health insurance physicians in procuring medical protective equipment for the health care system. In addition to procurement, primarily abroad, production capacities for the relevant products are also being built up under high pressure in Germany. The primary objective is to ensure that health care facilities and nursing staff are fully supplied with medical protective masks that protect the wearer from infection. Additional capacities are to be used in areas of occupational safety where, for professional reasons, it is not always possible to maintain contact distances. With regard to the wearing of masks in public areas, the recommendations of the Robert Koch Institute apply to everyday use, according to which the wearing of so-called (non-medical) everyday masks or community masks in public areas where the minimum distance cannot be guaranteed as a rule (e.g. public transport) can reduce the risk of infection. In particular, they protect bystanders against the ejection of solid or liquid particles by the (possibly asymptomatic but infectious) wearer of the masks. In this respect, citizens are strongly recommended to use appropriate everyday masks, especially in public transport and when shopping in retail stores.

7. for vulnerable groups, and in particular for nursing homes, homes for the elderly and institutions for the disabled, special protective measures must be taken in accordance with local conditions and in the institutions concerned. Here, the protection of vulnerable groups must be a priority and the risk of infection spreading in the facilities must be the main yardstick. However, it must also be taken into account that appropriate regulations must not lead to complete social isolation of the persons concerned. For this reason, a specific concept should be developed for the respective facility with the help of external expertise, in particular from specialists in hospital hygiene, and this should be developed and adapted closely in the further course of the project with regard to the occurrence of infections in the respective environment.

8. Prior to the opening of kindergartens, schools and universities, a preliminary phase is necessary so that the necessary preparatory measures can be taken on site and, for example, school transport can be organised. The school authorities, transport providers and the school community are informed as early as possible. Emergency care will be continued and extended to other occupational and requirement groups. Examinations and exam preparation for the final classes of this school year should be able to take place again after appropriate preparations have been made.

From 4 May 2020, priority will also be given to pupils in the final classes and qualification-relevant years of general education and vocational schools who will take their examinations in the next school year, and to the last class of primary school. The Conference of Education

Ministers has been instructed to submit a concept by 29 April for further steps on how to resume teaching overall under special hygiene and protective measures, in particular taking into account the need for distance through reduced learning group sizes. In addition to lessons, this should also take into account breaks and school bus operations. Every school needs a hygiene plan. The Federal Chancellor will consult with the heads of the Länder governments on the timing of the start of lessons in the respective class levels and of kindergarten care, taking into account the development of infection figures. In university teaching, in addition to the acceptance of examinations, practical events which require special laboratory or work rooms at universities can be resumed under special hygiene and protective measures. Libraries and archives can be opened under conditions of hygiene, access control and to avoid queues.

9. Major events play a major role in the dynamics of infection, which is why they remain prohibited at least until 31 August 2020.

10. The following shops may reopen under additional conditions regarding hygiene, access control and avoidance of queues:

- all shops up to 800 square meters sales area
- and, irrespective of the sales area, car dealers, bicycle dealers, bookstores.

11. Among the service businesses where physical proximity is indispensable, hairdressing businesses should first prepare themselves to resume operations from 4 May onwards, subject to conditions relating to hygiene, access control and the avoidance of queues, and the use of personal protective equipment.

12 The Federal Chancellor and the heads of government of the Länder are aware that the practice of religion is a particularly valuable asset and that, particularly against the background of the difficulties which this epidemic and its consequences are causing for many people, living faith gives strength and confidence. However, after all we know about the role of meetings in the spread of the virus and about the risk of infection and the serious consequences for vulnerable groups, it is still urgently necessary to limit ourselves to the transmission of religious content through the media.

Meetings in churches, mosques, synagogues as well as religious ceremonies and events and the meetings of other religious communities are not to take place for the time being. The Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Homeland Affairs, together with representatives of the Prime Minister's circle, will begin talks with the major religious communities this week in order to discuss a way forward that is as consensual as possible.

13. Even in the event of a pandemic, we want to make it possible for industry and small and medium-sized enterprises to work as safely as possible. Economic activities with considerable public traffic remain excluded. Employers have a special responsibility for their employees to protect them from infections. Chains of infection that arise in the company can be quickly identified. For this reason, every company in Germany must implement a hygiene concept based on an adapted risk assessment and company pandemic planning. Among other things,

the aim is to avoid unnecessary contacts within the workforce and with customers, to implement general hygiene measures and to minimise the risk of infection in the event of necessary contacts by means of special hygiene and protective measures. The companies are still called upon to allow homeworking wherever this is feasible. The authorities responsible for occupational health and safety and the accident insurance institutions advise the companies in this regard and carry out checks. The Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs is in discussion with the social partners, the federal states and the DGUV and will present a concept for this in the near future.

14. in many cases, production problems and production downtime have occurred in recent weeks independently of ordered closures because essential components were no longer delivered. The federal and state governments are supporting the economy to restore disrupted international supply chains. To this end, the federal and state ministries of economics are setting up contact points for affected companies. At the political level, these contact points should help to ensure that the manufacture and supply of necessary supplier products can be restored smoothly wherever possible. On the federal side, the Federal Foreign Office, the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure, the Federal Ministry of Finance, which is responsible for customs, and the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Homeland Affairs are also involved in this contact point.

15. In order to prevent the virus from spreading as far as possible, citizens are urged to refrain from private travel and visits, including by relatives. This also applies within Germany and to day trips by day tourists. The worldwide travel warning is maintained. Accommodation offers in Germany will continue to be made available only for necessary and expressly non-tourist purposes. A two-week quarantine will continue to be ordered for persons entering and returning to Germany in accordance with the provisions of the model ordinance of 8.4.2020 agreed between the Federal Government and the Länder. For goods traffic, commuters and other business travellers, entry into and exit from Germany will continue to be possible in principle as before.

16. in the further course of the epidemic, it must be taken into account that the epidemic is not spreading evenly in Germany. While some administrative districts are still hardly affected, other regions are experiencing overburdened health care and public health services. This results in a dynamic infection process, which favours the spread of the virus in Germany. For this reason, the Federal Government and the Länder will provide quickly available support measures for particularly affected areas and will coordinate closely between the crisis teams of the Federal Government and the Länder. If the success achieved throughout Germany in slowing down the spread of infection is not to be jeopardised, an immediate response must be made to regional dynamics with high numbers of new infections and a rapid increase in the infection rate. This includes maintaining the current comprehensive restrictions there or, after interim easing, immediately reintroducing them consistently. In addition, restrictions on unnecessary mobility into and out of the particularly affected areas may also be necessary in individual cases.

17. Achieving timely immunity in the population against SARS-CoV-2 without a vaccine is not possible without overburdening public health services and the risk of many deaths. Therefore, vaccine development is of central importance. The Federal Government is supporting German companies and international organizations in advancing vaccine development as quickly as possible. A vaccine is the key to a return to normal everyday life. As soon as a vaccine is available, sufficient vaccine doses for the entire population must be available as quickly as possible.

18. In addition to vaccine development, research is making other important contributions to the management of the pandemic. With the support of federal and state research institutions, a SARS-CoV-2 database is being set up to document and evaluate inpatient treatment. In conjunction with studies on various drugs, this will help to identify the best approaches for preventing and treating severe disease progression. With this initiative, Germany is participating in the "WHO Solidarity Trial". Another focus is on determining immunity to SARS-CoV-2 in the overall population and specific population groups. To this end, test capacities are being expanded and support is being provided for the development and optimisation of tests. The first regional studies have already started and large-scale studies are planned. This information will be continuously incorporated into the assessment of the further course of the pandemic in Germany.

19. With this decision, the Federal Government and the Länder are taking numerous measures to control the chains of infection even better. Some of these are taking immediate effect, others need more time. It is therefore right to monitor the dynamics of infection regularly, around every two weeks, and in particular to take a close look at the capacity utilisation of the health care system (especially in the area of ventilation capacities) and the performance of the public health service (especially complete contact tracing). Afterwards, it must be decided in each case whether and which further steps can be taken. In accordance with this logic, the first steps described here are initially valid until 3 May. In good time before 4 May, the Federal Chancellor and the heads of government of the Länder will jointly reassess the development of the incidence of infection and the economic and social situation in Germany and decide on further measures in the light of the results.