

## **Meeting of the chancellor Angela Merkel with the heads of government of the German Federal States on 22 March 2020**

### **TOP Coronavirus infections**

*The Federal Chancellor and the Heads of Government of the German Federal States (Länder) take the following decision:*

The rapid spread of the coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) in Germany in recent days is worrying. We must do everything we can to prevent an uncontrolled increase in the number of cases and to keep our health system efficient. Reducing the number of contacts is crucial for this. The Federal Government and the German states agree on an extension of the guidelines for restricting social contacts adopted on 12 March:

- I. Citizens are urged to reduce contacts with other people outside the members of their own household to an absolutely necessary minimum.
- II. In public, wherever possible, a minimum distance of at least 1.5 m must be kept from persons other than those mentioned under I.
- III. The stay in public space is only permitted alone or with one other person not living in the household or with people from one's own household.
- IV. The way to work, emergency care, shopping, visits to the doctor, participation in meetings, necessary appointments and examinations, 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 in view of the serious situation in our country. Violations of the contact restrictions should be reported to authorities and the police and, in the event of violations, to be sanctioned.
- VI. Restaurants will be closed. Excluded from this is delivery and collection of takeaway food for consumption at home.
- VII. Personal hygiene services such as hairdressers, beauty salons, massage parlors, tattoo studios and similar establishments are closed. Medically necessary treatments remain possible.
- VIII. In all establishments and especially those open to the public, it is important to comply with hygiene regulations and to implement effective protective measures for employees and visitors.
- IX. These measures are in effect for at least two weeks.

The Federal Government and the German states will cooperate closely in implementing these restrictions and in assessing their effectiveness. Further regulations based on regional peculiarities or epidemiological situations in the German states or districts remain possible.

The Federal Government and the German states are aware that these are very drastic measures. However, they are necessary and they are proportionate with regard to the legal interest of public health to be protected.

The Federal Chancellor and the heads of the German state governments would like to thank in particular those working in the health care system, in the public service and in the industries that maintain daily life, as well as all citizens for their sense of responsibility and their willingness to abide by these rules in order to further slow down the spread of the coronavirus.