



Baden-Württemberg

MINISTRY FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND INTEGRATION
PRESS OFFICE

PRESS RELEASE

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RKI classifies the Grand Est region and the canton of Zurich as risk areas / mandatory quarantine for inbound travelers

Exceptions apply among others to short stays in Baden-Württemberg of less than 24 hours, for commuters, students or couples

On Thursday October 15, the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) classified with effect from Saturday October 17, the French Grand Est region and the Swiss canton of Zurich among others as risk areas due to the high infection rates there. The Corona Regulation on Inbound Quarantine and Testing (CoronaVO EQT) applies to anyone entering Baden-Württemberg from risk areas. An exception to the quarantine obligation for short stays in Baden-Württemberg of less than 24 hours was added. This change takes effect on Saturday. The rules apply until the new regulation based on the federal model ordinance comes into force.

The German-French border areas, like the German-Swiss border area, are especially affected by these regulations due to the high number of border crossings that occur overland every day. "We are aware that quarantine measures are onerous for the people they affect in many ways. This applies particularly in European border regions that have grown together in such an ideal manner and fortunately whose borders hardly anyone notices any more in their everyday lives these days," said Health Minister Manne Lucha in Stuttgart on Friday, October 16. The well-coordinated regulations of the CoronaVO EQT take account of this in particular. The general obligation to quarantine upon entry from a risk area should be compared with the different types of exception regulations.

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Here is a summary of the most important information about the quarantine regulation.

- The CoronaVO EQT does not regulate the question of who is allowed to enter Baden-Württemberg nor does it even order border closures. The state of Baden-Württemberg and therefore the Ministry for Social Affairs and Integration cannot regulate who may enter the Federal Republic of Germany. This is decided by the federal government, specifically the Federal Ministry of the Interior, based on the Schengen Agreement.
- The borders for entry from the French border area to Baden-Württemberg will therefore continue to be open.
- The CoronaVO EQT only deals with regulations under infection protection law, so it regulates in particular the question of whether individuals have to go into isolation at home (quarantine) upon entry and under what conditions they are exempt from it.
- **Exceptions** from mandatory quarantine are provided in particular for
 - Entries into Baden-Württemberg from border areas for less than 24 hours (specifically in Austria the state of Vorarlberg, in the principality of Liechtenstein the entire national territory, in Switzerland the cantons of Appenzell, Aargau, Basel, Basel-Landschaft, Jura, Schaffhausen, Solothurn, Sankt Gallen, Thurgau and Zurich, in France the departments of Bas-Rhin, Haute-Rhin),
 - The cross-border movement of individuals, goods and freight,
 - Occupationally necessary entries from the risk area (e.g. commuters, kindergarten children, schoolchildren, students, providers of labor and services),
 - For required medical treatments
 - And for people such as commuters who have only stayed in the risk area for a short time (less than 48 hours).
 - Also employees who have to enter the risk area for unavoidable work-related reasons, such as installation technicians, do not have to go into quarantine upon reentry. In particular, commuters for work or study are therefore exempt from the quarantine obligation from the start.
 - Married spouses or individuals in a steady relationship are also exempt from the quarantine obligation.

In addition, the CoronaVO EQT enables flexible and situation-appropriate solutions, as the obligation to quarantine at home is no longer required if you submit a negative test result (as of October 16, 2020).

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Integration appeals to the people of Baden-Württemberg, the Grand Est region and the canton of Zurich to take infection protection very seriously and to impose restrictions on themselves voluntarily in order to protect themselves from infection. Minister Lucha says, "Not everything that is allowed is currently recommended. Containing the pandemic is a task we can only succeed in if we all make sure we stick together across our borders."

Background information

The CoronaVO EQT is available at https://sozialministerium.baden-wuerttemberg.de/fileadmin/redaktion/m-sm/intern/downloads/Downloads_Gesundheitsschutz/201016_SM_CoronaVO_EQT.pdf

FAQs on the CoronaVO entry quarantine and testing are at <https://www.baden-wuerttemberg.de/de/bibliothek/corona-faq-sammlung/#c110814>

In French at https://www.baden-wuerttemberg.de/fileadmin/redaktion/m-sm/intern/downloads/Anhang_PM/20201016-PM-VO-EQT_FRZ.pdf