



Baden-Württemberg

MINISTRY FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND INTEGRATION
PRESS OFFICE



Impulsprogramm
der Landesregierung

PRESSEMITTEILUNG
Nr. 309/2020

06.11.2020

 New Corona Ordinance on Entry Quarantine of the State of Baden-Württemberg to come into force on 8 November

As a rule, 10 days quarantine obligation from now on / Some exceptions allowed / Significant concessions for border regions to remain

Beginning on Sunday, 8 November 2020, the new Corona Ordinance on Entry Quarantine will apply in Baden-Württemberg. It is based on a model ordinance developed by the Federal Government and the German federal states that ensures a uniform procedure as far as possible. A major change concerns the reduction of the quarantine period from 14 days to 10 days. This takes account of the scientific evidence that COVID-typical symptoms occur 5 days on average, but no later than 10 days after infection.

Health Minister Manne Lucha: “The new Entry Quarantine Ordinance is intended to minimise the risk of carrying new centres of infection into the state when entering Baden-Württemberg during the very dynamic and serious infection situation.”

The main changes at a glance:

The quarantine period is reduced from 14 to 10 days. However, an immediate exemption from the quarantine obligation upon presentation of a negative test result on entry will no

Else-Josenhans-Str. 6 · 70173 Stuttgart · Telefon 0711 123-3550 · presse@sm.bwl.de

www.sozialministerium-bw.de · www.baden-wuerttemberg.de

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longer be generally possible. What is new, though, is the possibility of shortening the quarantine period by presenting a negative test result. In this case, the test may be carried out on the **fifth day** after entry at the earliest.

The new ordinance also takes account of various exceptions to the quarantine obligation:

The existing provisions for cross-border commuters and border residents who travel daily or weekly to or from a risk area for the purpose of work, study or training will remain in place. Thus, **cross-border commuters and border residents are largely exempt from the quarantine obligation**. As before, all persons resident in the border region may enter Baden-Württemberg from border regions for less than 24 hours without quarantine obligation. Anyone travelling from Baden-Württemberg to a risk area in the border region may also do so for less than 24 hours without any subsequent obligation to isolate himself or herself and without any special reason. Irrespective of this, possible restrictive regulations on staying abroad must be taken into account (such as the current curfew in France).

A new provision exempting people from the quarantine obligation after stays in the risk area or when entering Baden-Württemberg **for up to 72 hours** if, among other things, **first-degree relatives** are visited during this time, if it is necessary to maintain public health or if **urgent medical treatment** is required.

Furthermore, certain entrants are exempted from the obligation to isolate if they can **present a negative test**. For example, this could benefit **doctors and nurses, judges and lawyers, parliamentary and government officials, law enforcement officers**, but also **athletes** competing in sports. Negative tests may also be presented in the French language now.

With special consideration of economic interests, persons are also exempt from the quarantine obligation upon presentation of a negative test if they have been **in a risk area for urgent and unavoidable reasons, including professional grounds**, for up to five days or if they enter the state of Baden-Württemberg.

Subject to additional regulations, **seasonal workers** are also **exempt** from the quarantine obligation, provided that they take up work in Baden-Württemberg for at least three weeks.

If the entry is from a risk area, the exemption from the quarantine obligation must be **credibly substantiated** upon request. Certain exceptions require **certificates** that must also confirm the essential requirement for entry: For example, cross-border commuters and border residents (who are not covered by the 24-hour exemption for border traffic with border regions) must be able to present a certificate from their employer, principal or educational institution. Baden-Württemberg does not impose any particular formal requirements regarding these certificates. They may be written in English, French or German.

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Integration repeats its appeal to the people in Baden-Württemberg and in all border regions to take the protection against infection very seriously and to voluntarily restrict themselves accordingly. Health Minister Manne Lucha: “Not everything that is allowed is currently recommended. Containing the pandemic is a task that can only succeed if all parties pull together across borders.”