



PRESS RELEASE
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 **Department of Moselle classified as virus variant area**

Stricter quarantine and test obligations upon entry / general obligation to isolate for 14 days

The federal government classified the **French department of Moselle** as a **virus variant area** as of today, Sunday February 28. From **midnight on Tuesday**, stricter entry regulations will apply to any individuals who have been in the department of Moselle in the last 10 days before entry.

The classification was enacted, as the virus variant B.1.351 has been detected clearly and frequently in the department of Moselle and is now widespread there (accounting for over 50 per cent of all tested samples).

For this reason, **far stricter quarantine requirements** are now in force. In general terms, all those entering from a virus variant area must go into **domestic isolation for 14 days**. Reducing this quarantine period (via a negative test) is not possible. Exceptions from quarantine obligations exist **only** for the following groups of people in Baden-Württemberg.

- Transients; however, these people must leave the area of the state of Baden-Württemberg again as quickly as possible in order to complete their journey in transit.
- For stays of less than 72 hours, those who transport people, goods or merchandise across the border for work-related reasons.

- For stays of less than 72 hours, individuals whose work is urgently required and indispensable for maintaining the health system.
- **Cross-border commuters and residents** (work, studies, training), who either live in the state of Baden-Württemberg or in a virus variant area and return to their place of residence at least once a week. The compelling need and compliance with appropriate protection and hygiene programs must be certified by the respective employer, contractor or educational institution.
- People who have recovered from a coronavirus infection. This only applies if a doctor's certificate is submitted upon entry in relation to an infection with the coronavirus confirmed by a PCR test at least 21 days and no more than three months before.

Without exception, the obligation to provide a test and evidence applies as well as the obligation to **register your entry digitally**. According to the federal government coronavirus entry ordinance, all those entering from virus variant areas **must already carry proof with them of a negative coronavirus test upon entry, whose swab was taken no more than 48 hours before**. A rapid antigen test is sufficient as proof.

Carriers in cross-border **rail, bus, ship and air traffic** must **refrain** from **transporting people** from a virus variant area to Germany. This is prescribed by the federal government's coronavirus protection ordinance. The transport ban does not apply to people with residence and the right to remain in Germany.

For **cross-border commuters and residents** a **test program** is provided in Baden-Württemberg **free of charge**. Commuters must submit a **certificate from their employer**, stating that their presence at the workplace is urgently required and that no working from home or similar arrangements are possible. Commuters can have the test conducted at general practitioners' offices and practices focusing on the coronavirus. The Association of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians also operates major test centers. Pharmacies also provide these tests. **However, even cross-border commuters must also submit a test upon entry that is no older than 48 hours.**

You can find all the information about testing requirements when entering Baden-Württemberg at: <https://www.baden-wuerttemberg.de/de/service/aktuelle-infos-zu-corona/fragen-und-antworten-rund-um-corona/faq-testpflicht-bei-der-einreise-nach-baden-wuerttemberg/>. You can also retrieve the proof of authorization for cross-border commuters as well as overview maps of the test options in Baden-Württemberg. The information is also included in French and English.

Due to the virus mutations especially, the infection situation is still very tense. You are therefore urgently advised against travel that is not absolutely necessary. In particular, please note that private visits are no longer possible without quarantine if people are entering from a virus variant area or are returning after staying there.

Background information

Up-to-date information to classify risk areas, high incidence areas and virus variant areas can be found at: <https://www.rki.de/risiko-gebiete>.

Information on the recognition of diagnostic tests for SARS-CoV-2 upon entry from a risk area into Germany: <https://www.rki.de/covid-19-tests>.

FAQs on the coronavirus ordinance entry quarantine can be found here: <https://www.baden-wuerttemberg.de/de/service/aktuelle-infos-zu-corona/faq-tests-fuer-reiserueckkehrer/>.

Information about the free testing program for cross-border commuters: <https://www.baden-wuerttemberg.de/de/service/aktuelle-infos-zu-corona/fragen-und-antworten-rund-um-corona/faq-testpflicht-bei-der-einreise-nach-baden-wuerttemberg/>