

# #Coronavirus

## Corona: What do we in Berlin need to know about the virus?

The number of people in Europe infected with the coronavirus continues to increase. The current measures aim to slow the spread of the virus. The fewer people who get infected at the same time, the better the treatment of seriously ill patients will be.

### How is the Corona virus transmitted? How can you protect yourself?

The Corona virus can be transmitted from person to person. To reduce the risk of infection, the same applies to all infectious diseases: good hand hygiene as well as maintaining distance to sick people. The information was sent to the operators of all refugee accommodation in Berlin in many different languages. If you have not noticed this information so far, for example in shared bathrooms, please ask for it! Transmission via imported food and other imported goods such as toys has not yet been documented. According to the current state of science, the virus cannot be transmitted from pets to people or from people to pets.

### What are the symptoms of the new virus?

Cough, runny nose, scratchy throat and fever: Infection with the new Corona virus can lead to these symptoms. Some sufferers also complain of diarrhoea. Breathing problems and pneumonia are also possible. The signs are often very similar to those of a cold or flu.

### For which groups of people is an infection with the virus particularly dangerous?

So far, four out of five disease courses have been mild. In some patients, the virus can lead to a more severe course with breathing problems and pneumonia. Older people (from around 60 years of age), smokers and people with previous illnesses (lungs) are more likely to be affected. It is particularly important to reduce the risk of infection for these groups. Therefore it is important: To wash your hands, keep your distance and reduce social contacts.

### What should I do if I suspect that I am infected?

Anyone who has had personal contact with a person who has been diagnosed with the virus in the laboratory should immediately contact a doctor or a clarification office in Berlin by telephone (e.g. Charité in Mitte, Wenckebach-Klinikum Tempelhof, DRK Klinik Westend). Please do not go directly to your family doctor's office and sit in the waiting room! If you don't speak enough German, ask a member of your family for help!

### How big is the risk of contracting the corona virus in Germany?

The overall risk to the health of the population in Germany is currently rated as high. The likelihood of serious illnesses increases with age and existing medical conditions.

### Are food shortages to be feared in Berlin?

Even if a product was at one time not on the shelves of the shops: There are no supply problems, the supply of food is still secured. The retail industry has promised to react to the increased demand and to expand the range.

### What do travellers who return from Corona virus risk areas need to consider?

Those who have had close contact with people that have had their infection detected in a laboratory or who have been in a risk area should avoid contact with other people. Those persons should contact the responsible health department immediately. Risk areas are, for example, Italy, Iran, parts of Austria.



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