Information regarding quarantine in accommodations of the State Office for Refugee Affairs Berlin due to the Covid-19 virus

Why are refugees currently living in high security conditions?
Worldwide there is a new virus called Covid-19. In some countries, such as China, Iran or Italy, there have been many people that have become seriously ill and unfortunately many have died. The most affected are old or infirm persons with existing medical conditions. Younger people can transmit the virus even if they don't get sick. That is why it is important that the disease does not spread any further. The instructions for hygiene including regular hand washing, keeping the apartment clean, no physical contact have been hung up everywhere.

What does quarantine mean? Why am I not allowed to leave the accommodation? How long will it continue?
If a person has the virus on-site, this is reported to the Health Department. The doctors there can then ban contact to the outside for 2 weeks: You are then not allowed to leave the accommodation, i.e. not to work, school or apprenticeship, shopping or meeting friends. This is called quarantine.

What about appointments at the LAF or JobCenter?
Please do not visit public offices during the quarantine. Please write an email or speak to the operator who will inform the authorities. You also cannot go to the LAF or JobCenter and ask for other accommodation. You will not be let into the offices at all.

What happens if I break the quarantine and leave the house?
The accommodation's staff have been instructed to report quarantine violations. Those breaking the quarantine can be fined or imprisoned for up to two years. If someone gets infected, there is a risk of negligent bodily harm.

Do I have to stay in my room?
Because of the high risk of infection, it would really be best if the people affected stayed in their rooms. This applies to everyone in the accommodation, including children and teenagers. These can infect each other when playing.

Who then cooks for me and the family?
Breakfast, lunch and dinner are delivered to people in quarantine. Even shopping is not possible at this time.

If I am already working, how do I inform my employer?
Please inform your direct boss or supervisor or employer of the quarantine immediately, by phone, Whatsapp or email. The LAF will issue you with a confirmation of the time of the quarantine through the operator. Please present this to the place of work when you go back to work. You need not worry about your contract being affected.

I need continuous medication How can I get it?
People who need continuous medication will continue to receive it. The operator usually takes care of the organisation. Some pharmacies also have a delivery service. The medication would then be delivered to the property when ordered.

How do I get everyday things?
Hygiene items such as nappies or washing powder, but also tobacco products can usually be ordered through the operator and supplied by supermarkets. The prices will be announced before ordering.

In quarantine, can I still go to the washrooms to do laundry?
Cleanliness, especially with laundry, is even more important at the moment! There will continue to be washing times for the machines. Please use them, also to regularly clean bed linen!

Where can I get more information about the Corona virus and its consequences?
www.berlin.de/corona
https://www.berlin.de/laf/leistungen/gesundheit/infektionsschutz/
www.facebook.com/WillkommenszentrumBerlin

We thank you for your patience and support. Please, let's all stay healthy!

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www.berlin.de/laf/leistungen/gesundheit/infektionsschutz/