

## **Quarantine information**

due to the coronavirus in housing for homeless people in the State of Berlin

### **Why are there strict safety requirements in housing right now?**

The coronavirus has triggered a pandemic. People are catching and dying of this novel virus around the world every day. The virus can infect anyone, regardless of gender or age. The symptoms may be especially severe in people with pre-existing conditions and a weak immune system, and in elderly people. You are thus in the risk group. Even if you do not have the virus, it can be transmitted to you and it poses a risk to others. That is why these rules apply to everyone: wash your hands thoroughly and often, keep your home clean, keep a minimum distance of 1.5m from others, and avoid physical contact as much as possible.

### **What does quarantine mean? Why can I not leave the housing? How long will this last?**

If someone in the housing has the virus, it is reported to the health office. The doctors there can then place a 2-week ban on going outside: the person cannot leave the housing to go to work, school or an apprenticeship, nor to go shopping or meet with friends. This is known as quarantine.

### **What's going on with office appointments?**

Please do not come to office appointments during the quarantine. Please write an e-mail or speak with the operator, who will contact the authorities.

### **What happens if I break the quarantine and leave the housing?**

The facility employees are instructed to report violations of the quarantine. Breaking the quarantine can be punished with a fine or imprisonment of up to two years. If you infect someone, you may also be sued for negligent bodily harm.

### **If I am staying at housing that does not only offer a place to sleep:**

#### **Must I stay in my room?**

Due to the high risk of infection, everyone is strongly recommended to stay in their housing as much as possible. This applies for everyone, including children and adolescents. They could infect others while playing.

#### **Who will cook for me and my family?**

Leaving the building and shopping is prohibited during the quarantine. Breakfast, lunch and dinner may be delivered to people during the quarantine if arranged with your housing operator.

#### **If I am already working, how do I inform my employer?**

Your employer must be informed of the quarantine by phone, e-mail or WhatsApp. A written confirmation of the quarantine period must only be provided to the employer after the quarantine has ended. The health office will issue this confirmation on request. You have nothing to fear with regard to your employment contract.

### **I constantly take medication. How can I obtain it?**

People who constantly require medication will still be able to obtain it. Please inform the health office and your operator of your need.

### **How can I obtain daily necessities?**

Your operator is generally able to help order hygiene products such as nappies and detergent powder, as well as tobacco products. These are delivered by supermarkets, and the prices are stated before the order is made. Please ask your operator.

### **Where can I find more information on the coronavirus and its consequences?**

There are various sources, some of which are not reliable. The following pages are recommended: <https://www.berlin.de/corona/>

More information about the coronavirus in other languages can be found on the homepage of the Integration Commissioner: <https://www.berlin.de/lb/intmig/service/corona-info/>

Thank you for your patience and support.

**Please, let's all stay healthy!**