

## **Information about the coronavirus for homeless people in the State of Berlin who are living on the street**

### **How is the coronavirus transmitted? How can I protect myself?**

The coronavirus can be transmitted from person to person. To lower the risk of infection, the same guidelines apply as for all infectious diseases: follow good hand hygiene and keep a minimum distance of 1.5 m from other people.

Transmission via imported foods and other imported goods such as toys has not yet been documented. Based on what is currently known, the virus cannot be transmitted from pets to people, nor from people to pets.

### **What are the symptoms of the novel virus?**

Coughing, sniffing, throat irritation and fever: an infection with the novel coronavirus can lead to these symptoms. Some patients also report diarrhoea. Breathing problems and lung inflammation are possible. The signs are often similar to a cold or flu.

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

In some patients the virus may be more severe with breathing problems and lung inflammation. Older people (around 60 years of age or older), smokers, and people with pre-existing conditions (of the lungs) are more susceptible. For these groups it is especially important that the risk of infection be lowered. So it is crucial to wash hands, maintain a safe distance, and reduce social contacts.

### **What should I do if I suspect I have been infected?**

Anyone who has had personal contact with someone who has a lab-verified case of the virus should immediately contact a doctor or information office in Berlin (e.g. Charité in Mitte, Wenckebach-Klinikum Tempelhof, DRK Klinik Westend) over the phone at first. Please do not go directly to the waiting room of the doctor's office! You can also contact the health office responsible for the district where you spend the majority of your time.

[\(https://service.berlin.de/standorte/gesundheitsaemter/\)](https://service.berlin.de/standorte/gesundheitsaemter/)

### **How great is the risk of catching the coronavirus in Germany?**

The overall health of Germany's population is currently considered highly endangered. The likelihood of severe manifestations increases with age and prevalence of pre-existing conditions.

### **Can I continue sleeping on the street/spend time on the street?**

If you are not infected with the coronavirus, you may continue living on the street. Please note that you should keep a distance of 1.5 metres from others in order to prevent infection.

You should also not spend time in groups. Cough and sneeze into the crook of your arm when possible. Do not share your bottle, other drink containers or cutlery with others.

**I am no longer receiving money from passers-by and am not finding any bottles. How can I eat?**

Daily updates of services that are still available can be found at: <https://www.kaeltehilfe-berlin.de/>

Here are the Gabenzaun locations where you can stock up on necessities: [https://kaeltehilfe-berlin.de/images/Essensausgaben\\_Wochenübersicht.pdf](https://kaeltehilfe-berlin.de/images/Essensausgaben_Wochenübersicht.pdf)