



# Baden-Württemberg

MINISTRY FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND INTEGRATION  
PRESS OFFICE



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **New rules for entry from foreign risk areas**

**The federal government is regulating mandatory testing and entry registration – three types of risk areas in future**

**Improved protection from virus mutations by strengthening quarantine requirements**

Given the still very tense situation due to the coronavirus pandemic, the federal government has imposed stricter rules for people returning from risk areas from last Thursday. The state of Baden-Württemberg has therefore adapted its coronavirus regulation for quarantine on entry on this basis once again. The new regulations apply from Monday, January 18.

The federal government has now determined the rules for testing and digital registration upon entry from risk areas for the whole country. This procedure corresponds to the two-test strategy established by the state premiers' conference resolution and the chancellor on January 5, 2021. For entry into Germany from risk areas, in addition to the existing ten-day mandatory quarantine, which can be terminated early as soon as a negative corona test result can be presented no sooner than the fifth day of quarantine, an additional test upon entry has been introduced as mandatory. Baden-Württemberg had already implemented the two-test strategy in the state on January 10, 2021.

In addition, to improve monitoring, there is a nationwide digital reporting obligation for people entering from risk areas (including determination of their identity, contact details and presentation of a negative test), which they have to complete before entry, as well as the obligation of carriers and operators of airports, ports and railroad stations to provide

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information to incoming travelers.

Finally, the new federal government regulation stipulates that from March 1, people entering are to be given information via SMS about the applicable entry and infection protection measures that apply in Germany.

In future, a distinction will be made between three types of risk areas abroad. In addition to the known risk areas, areas have been defined in which there is a particular risk of importation due to especially high numbers of cases (high incidence area) or the spread of mutations of the virus (virus variant area). The classification as a risk area is undertaken by the Federal Ministry of Health, the Foreign Office and the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community and is posted by the Robert Koch Institute on its website; it is regularly updated. Incoming travelers should therefore obtain information before crossing the border. For those traveling from risk areas and high incidence areas, the same exemptions from mandatory quarantine apply. There are only very few exemptions from mandatory quarantine for those traveling from virus variant areas. No high incidence areas have currently been identified. So far, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Ireland and South Africa have been classified as virus variant areas.

The quarantine obligations continue to be regulated by the federal states. For those entering from virus variant areas, there will be further restrictions in Baden-Württemberg in future. Otherwise, no distinction will be made under quarantine between a risk area and a high incidence area. The exceptions that have already existed for risk areas will continue to apply in Baden-Württemberg.

### **The following applies in detail**

The registration, testing and quarantine obligations apply to incoming travelers who have been in a risk area during the last ten days. The test must have been carried out no more than 48 hours before entry. A POC antigen rapid test is generally sufficient. Proof of the negative test should be retained for ten days and presented to the responsible authority upon request. Children under the age of six are exempt from the obligation to test.

### **Entry from a risk area (which is not a high incidence or virus variant area)**

- Obligation to register electronically. Only a few exceptions (e.g. individuals who are entering from border regions under the 24-hour rule).
- Obligation to be in possession of a negative test no later than 48 hours after entry. Therefore, the test can also be carried out shortly after entry. Only certain groups of people are exempt from mandatory testing, e.g.
  - o Transiting travelers
  - o People entering from border regions under the 24-hour rule
  - o Cross-border commuters
  - o Individuals who transport people, goods or merchandise across borders as part of their occupation
  - o People who enter to visit a first-degree relative or partner for less than 72 hours
- Mandatory quarantine in general. However, with the exceptional circumstances that have been in force previously, which apply in particular to the aforementioned groups.

### **Entry from a high incidence area**

- Obligation to register electronically. Only a few exceptions (e.g. individuals who enter from border regions under the 24-hour rule).
- You must bring a negative test with you upon entry. Exceptions from this testing requirement only in a few cases.
- Mandatory quarantine in general. The same exemptions apply as for risk areas.

### **Entry from a virus variant area**

- Obligation to register electronically without exception.
- You must bring a negative test with you upon entry. No exemptions from mandatory testing.
- Quarantine obligation. Only very few exceptions (e.g. for cross-border commuters). No possibility of shortening the duration of quarantine.

### **Background information**

**Current information** on the classification of risk areas, high incidence areas and virus variant areas is available at <https://www.rki.de/risikogebiete>.

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

**FAQ** on the coronavirus regulation for quarantine on entry is available at <https://www.baden-wuerttemberg.de/de/service/aktuelle-infos-zu-corona/faq-tests-fuer-reiserueckkehrer/>