

Regulations for international researchers entering Germany: Quarantine Regulations

Since August 8th, 2020, all travellers who have spent time in a **high-risk area**, at any time within 14 days prior to entering Germany, must be tested either up to 48 hours before flying or free of charge 72 hours after arriving in Germany. Unless they have tested negative for Covid-19, passengers arriving from a risk area are required to quarantine themselves at home or another suitable accommodation for two weeks. Risk areas are defined as countries or regions that have an increased risk of infection with Covid-19. Directly before embarking on your journey, please check whether you have spent time in one of these areas in the last 14 days before entering Germany. This does not apply if you were a transit passenger in the risk area only and you do not show any symptoms. The Robert Koch Institute publishes a continuously updated [list](#).

1. Covid-19 Test before travelling

You do **not** have to go into home quarantine if you can prove you tested negative for a Covid-19 infection within 48 hours before entering Germany (**RT-PCR test**). If you are going to stay in Hesse, the test is enough. Some federal states in Germany require additionally to the negative test a **medical certificate** issued by a doctor confirming the test results (please check the quarantine regulations in your destination).

Please note: Only Tests and medical certificates issued in one of [these countries](#) are accepted. Only certificates **in German or English** are valid.

2. Covid-19 Testing at the Airport

If you do not have a negative Covid-19 Test before entering Germany, you are required to do a test up to 72 hours after arriving. There are two test providers at the Frankfurt Airport that offer free test for travellers returning from **high-risk areas**.

a. The German Red Cross:

- It is not possible to make an appointment. Please go straight to the testing station and register there while presenting your boarding pass.
- The Test Centre is located right at the airport on the pedestrian bridge connecting Terminal 1 and the long-distance train station. (Opening hours: daily 5:30-23.30)

b. Centogene:

- After [registering](#) via the Test Portal, a throat swab can be taken at the Airport Test Centre without an appointment. Please bring your registration, facemask and passport. Please do not eat, drink, or brush your teeth 15 minutes before the test.

Please note: Entering Germany **without** a valid negative **Covid-19 Test** means, you need to go into quarantine directly after you entered Germany until you receive such a certificate. If this is the case, please contact the local health office **before** entering Germany (see: Home Quarantine for contact details).

For further information on the test centres, please visit the following website of [Lufthansa](#) and the [Airport](#).

3. Home Quarantine

In principle, you are required to proceed to your own home or another suitable accommodation immediately after your arrival and remain in quarantine for a period of 14 days.

Your local health office needs to be informed of your arrival in Germany. If you arrive by plane, the airline will automatically notify the health authorities after your arrival. Otherwise please contact the responsible authority **before your arrival in Germany**, usually the local health office (“Gesundheitsamt”) of [your place of residence](#). If you live in Frankfurt, please send an E-Mail to corona@stadt-frankfurt.de with the following information:

- a. First- and surname
- b. date of birth
- c. your address in Frankfurt
- d. phone number
- e. the country you are arriving from
- f. date of entry in Germany
- g. as well as any symptoms you may have.

You are allowed to use public transportation on your way to quarantine.

If you were not able to do the test at the Airport or you arrived by **train** or **car**, please contact your local health office. They can give you a permission to leave the quarantine to do a test. Here you can find suitable [medical practice](#) or a [test centre](#) for the test. This tests are only free, if you do them up to 72 hours after arriving in Germany.

Please note: If you are forced to go into quarantine and need help with e.g. doing your groceries, please contact the GWC as soon as possible, ideally before your arrival. The International Office of Goethe University offers a **Home-Isolation-Buddy-Program** for internationals. If you want to take up this service, you must have money in cash available so that your HI-Buddy can do your groceries.

4. Tests for departing passengers and visitors: PCR-Test and Medical Certificate issued at Frankfurt Airport

Additionally to the free tests for travellers coming from high-risk areas you can find paid offers for tests at the airport, e.g. if you want to travel abroad.

- a. **Centogene:** In a [test centre](#) at the airport, you can both complete the RT-PCR test as well as receive a medical certificate.
Please [register](#) for the test in time. You usually receive the result within
 - i. 8-10 hours (standard test, 59€)
 - ii. 4 hours (express test, 139€).

Additionally to the negative test some federal states in Germany require a medical certificate issued by a doctor confirming the test results (If you are going to stay in Hesse, you do not need such medical certificate; otherwise please check the quarantine regulations in your destination). The medical certificate costs another 25€ and can be issued by a doctor at Frankfurt Airport on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and on weekends from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- b. [Medical Centre](#) (Fraport): The Medical Centre at the Airport provides three different test:
- i. Voluntary nose/throat swab (molecular PCR test) to detect a potential infection with the SARS-CoV-2 virus and medical examination, including when there are no signs of infection – approx. 216€
 - ii. Voluntary combined antibody test and nose/throat swab for SARS-CoV-2 and medical examination – approx. 268€
 - iii. Voluntary antibody testing by a certified laboratory and medical examination; currently, this is not a rapid test – approx. 88-111€ (**this is not a PCR-Test**)

You can register for an appointment via this [link](#).

Please be aware that you have to cover the costs of these tests by yourself.

5. [Entering Germany without having been in a Risk-Area](#)

If you enter Germany, have not been in a risk area in the last 14 days before your entry and do not show any symptoms, you are not affected by the above mentioned requirements. However if you show symptoms, please follow the instructions under point 3: Home Quarantine.

Further Information:

Registering with the city

- After entering Germany and moving into your apartment, you must register your residence with the city within 14 days. If you have to go into quarantine, you have up to four weeks' time.
- Due to the Covid-19 regulations, you need to make an appointment for the registration online. The time slots are open two days in advance (from 00:00 o'clock) and are always quickly booked out (more [Information](#) and [booking](#)).

For further information on entering Germany during the Covid-19 pandemic, please visit the website of the [Federal Ministry of Health](#) and [Robert Koch Institute](#).

For further information on the regulation regarding quarantine in Hesse please see the following link: [Quarantine in Hesse](#)