

Updated COVID-19 pandemic regulations (valid from 11th January 2021)

The COVID-19 pandemic regulations applicable throughout Germany will be extended until 31st January 2021. We have summarised the regulations applicable in Lower Saxony for you here:

Private gatherings

All contact shall be limited to essential contact only.

- It is only allowed to meet **one other** person who is not from the same household or is a relative of the household. This is falling back on a regulation that applied last spring.
- There are no longer exceptions for children who are not older than 14 years of age.
- This regulation is **not linked to a specific incidence figure**.
- Meeting two or more persons outdoors is not allowed. Here too, the regulation from 11th January shall be that gatherings with a maximum of one person from another household are allowed. Furthermore, contact shall be reduced to essential contact only.
- This regulation also applies to relatives from another household.

Schools and nurseries

For the remaining three weeks of the school semester, Lower Saxony will implement highly restricted school operation. The Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs will announce how the second school semester will be organised approximately one week before it starts.

- There will be home tuition for primary schools, special needs schools/schools for children with learning difficulties in the first week after the holidays. Classroom teaching using an alternating model with classes divided into groups is planned from 18th January 2021.
- Secondary schools start with home tuition from 11th January 2021.
- There will be classroom teaching for final year classes.
- Vocational schools will change to home tuition. Exceptions using an alternating model are possible, e.g., for final year classes.
- There will be skeleton supervision for pupils in classes 1-6 who are not in the classroom teaching group.

- Nurseries will change to skeleton supervision with 50 percent of places. This means that, normally speaking, there will be skeleton care for 8 children in a nursery, 13 children in a kindergarten, and 10 children in a day care centre.
- Due to the extended closure of schools and nurseries, the Federal Government wants to legislate that the allowance for taking caring of sick children will be increased by 10 additional days per parent and by 20 days for single parents for this year.

Restriction of movement in corona hotspots

For districts in which more than 200 persons per 100,000 inhabitants become infected over seven days, the federal states should restrict the movement of citizens to 15 km from their place of residence unless there is a good reason for traveling.

What applies in Lower Saxony?

Lower Saxony is examining whether the regulation will be applied. A decision has not been taken yet.

Am I still allowed to travel to my place of work if there is restricted movement?

If movement has been restricted to 15 km for a place of residence, there must be a good reason for leaving the 15 km radius. The following are considered good reasons:

- Going to the place of work
- Going to the doctor
- Going to buy groceries

The following are not considered good reasons:

- Holiday trips
- Excursions

Retirement and nursing homes

There should be increased testing in retirement and nursing homes until vaccinations have been completed. To this end, volunteers should support the homes temporarily in carrying out extensive quick tests in the facilities.

Arriving from risk areas

The following applies when arriving from risk areas:

- Persons arriving from risk areas must do a corona test.
- In addition to the corona test, persons arriving from risk areas must go into quarantine.
- Quarantine can be ended after 5 days and a negative corona test.