



Lower Saxony Coronavirus Ordinance

Stricter contact rules and additional mask requirements

From now on, everybody may - in public as well as in their own apartment or house and yard - only spend time alone or with persons belonging to their own household and a maximum of one other person, or vice versa as one individual together with several persons from a joint household.

The term "household" is important here.

It describes a community of persons living together on a permanent basis.

Children of separated parents form a joint household respectively with each parent. Babies or infants up to the age of three do not count with regard to the 'one-household+one-person rule'.

- Direct encounters between people should be limited as much as possible in order to avoid infections.
- Meetings with one sole person are permitted. They help people living alone, in particular, to cope with loneliness, and enable children and young people to have a minimum of social contact with other youngsters of the same age.

Nevertheless, the virus should have as little chance as possible to spread from one person to another. Therefore, it would be good to always meet the same person(s), if possible.

People who are dependent on an accompanying person or caregiver due to a significant disability or a need for nursing care may be accompanied by another person.

Proof of the need for an accompanying person for people with disabilities is, for example, the letter B (for "Begleitperson", accompanying person) on a disabled person's pass.

Irrespective of this, under the Corona Ordinance the possession of a disabled person's pass is considered to be proof of a disability requiring accompaniment.

A need for nursing care is evaluated by the nursing care insurance fund in the form of an allocation of a level of nursing care (1 to 5).

If contact with one parent has to take place in the presence of a third person in the opinion of the family court due to aspects of the child's welfare, this third person may also be present.

It is also permitted to drop off and pick up children and youngsters at and from day-care centres and schools.

Likewise, it is permitted to look after children of friends or family.



Additional mask requirements:

In view of the highly contagious virus mutations which have now reached Germany, medical masks, which offer a greater degree of protection, are more suitable than cloth and other non-medical masks.

The term "medical masks" as defined in the Corona Ordinance means, above all, surgical masks, but also protective masks of the FFP2 category and masks of at least an equivalent standard (KN95/N95).

Protective masks with exhalation valves are not permitted. They only protect the wearer but not the people nearby.

In Lower Saxony, the obligation to wear a medical mask applies in particular in the following places/situations:

- in the businesses which are currently open, including: grocery stores, weekly markets, beverage stores, pick-up and delivery services, health food stores, pharmacies, medical supplies shops and drugstores, opticians and audiologists, banks, post offices etc.,
- on public transport, i.e. on public transport vehicles (buses, trains, taxis, ferries) as well as at stations, stops and in the waiting areas,
- whenever activities or services require the distance to be less than 1.5 m. This applies in particular to health care, nursing care and close contact services, as well as to doctor's surgeries,
- at religious services and other religious events in churches, synagogues, mosques and other enclosed premises, and also at gatherings of other faith and belief communities.

The obligation to wear medical masks in the above-mentioned places does not apply to children between their 6th and 15th birthday. A simple mouth and nose covering suffices for them. Children up to the age of 6 are generally exempt from the obligation to wear a mouth and nose covering.