

Guidelines for travellers returning from high-risk areas

The guidelines on entering North Rhine-Westphalia during the coronavirus pandemic (*Coronaeinreiseverordnung*, valid from 12 August 2020) regulate travel to the state by persons coming from abroad (whether by land, sea or air) who also visited an area currently considered at higher risk for coronavirus any time in the 14 days prior to arrival.

Accordingly, these travellers to NRW are legally required to enter a 14-day at-home quarantine as well as report to their local health authority (*Gesundheitsamt*) that they visited a high-risk area in the past 14 days and are now currently in Germany. See the following list for areas currently deemed "high-risk":

https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Risikogebiete_neu.html.

In addition, as of 8 August 2020, travellers to Germany who were recently in a high-risk area must be tested for the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus.

1. Mandatory at-home quarantine

All travellers to North Rhine-Westphalia who were recently in a high-risk area must immediately enter into quarantine by travelling to their home or to other suitable accommodation via the most direct route possible after arrival. There they must remain for a period of 14 days or until they have received a negative test result via a recognised coronavirus test. Persons quarantining at home are not permitted to receive visitors, unless said visitors are a member of the same household.

2. Reporting to local health authorities

Travellers to NRW who were recently in a high-risk area are required to report to the local health authority immediately after arrival. Reports can be submitted online via the following form: <https://www.kreis-kleve.de/de/fachbereich5/reiserueckkehrer-formular/>

Travellers can also contact the Kleve health authority by telephone (02821-594-950) in order to provide the following information:

- Title, surname, first name
- Date of birth
- Address in Germany
- Telephone number
- Email
- Travel itinerary (which high-risk area did they visit and for how long)
- Any flu-like symptoms? (which ones? from when to when?)

As of 6 August 2020, all travel companies which transport passengers from high-risk areas abroad to Germany (whether by train, bus, air or ship) are required to submit personal information on its passengers to the responsible local health authority.

However, even if you travelled to Germany by a travel company, you are still strongly advised to submit the form linked above to your local health authority.

3. Mandatory testing

Travellers from high-risk areas are required to submit a medical certificate in German or English to their local health authority.

You can receive a molecular-biological test (or PCR test) capable of detecting the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus at your local physician, at airports in Germany or at designated testing stations within Kleve county within 72 hours of arrival.

You can also receive an appointment for a testing station in Kleve after reporting to the local health authority.

Test results from other countries (specifically those on the following list of the Robert Koch Institute: https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Tests.html) can also be accepted if the results are from within 48 hours of arrival in Germany.