

Corona Regulations in Lower Saxony

What is permitted - what isn't?

Over the last few days, many measures have been gradually adopted to contain the corona crisis and protect the population. We have compiled the most important rules for you once again.

In the following you will find a list of the decrees and bans for Lower Saxony that have been passed so far. This list will be continuously expanded or adapted according to the legal situation. For further details, the decrees of the State of Lower Saxony can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.niedersachsen.de/Coronavirus/erlasse-und-allgemeinverfuegung/erlasse-und-allgemeinverfuegung-185856.html>

Contact ban for gatherings of more than two people

- Gatherings of more than two persons in public space are principally prohibited.
- Families and persons living in the household are to be exempted.
- Violations of the contact ban are to be controlled and sanctioned by regulatory authorities and the police.
- Catering services, hairdressers as well as beauty salons are to remain closed.
- Leisure facilities, barbecue areas and tourist destinations remain closed.
- Assistance to others as well as individual sports and exercise in the fresh air should still be possible.
- The pursuit of professional activities, including the necessary cultivation of agricultural and forestry land, remains permitted.
- Outpatient or inpatient care services that are medically urgently required, such as trips to the doctor or hospital stays, are still permitted.
- Participation in blood donations remains permitted.
- Visits within the scope of contact and custody rights remain permitted in the individual private sphere.

- Care of needy persons and minors remains permitted.
- Participation in weddings in the immediate family remains permitted.
- Accompanying the dying and participation in funeral ceremonies within the immediate family remains permitted.
- Pastoral care by individual clergymen is permitted.
- Accompanying and picking up children in the context of emergency care at schools and day care centres remains permitted.
- Visits to authorities and courts and other sovereign bodies remain permitted.
- The care, nursing and walking of self-owned animals or animals for which a duty of care exists remains permitted.
- The emergency response to immediate threats to the life or physical integrity of a person or property as well as comparable emergencies is also exempted.
- Conduct that is to be carried out on the order of a public authority, another administrative body or a court is exempted.
- It is permitted for press and media representatives to stay in public places for the purpose of media coverage.

Shops for daily needs remain open - even on Sundays

- Shops for daily needs such as retail outlets for food and animal feed, weekly markets, delivery services, pharmacies, medical supply stores, drugstores, petrol stations as well as banks and savings banks, post offices, newspaper sales, laundry services and wholesale trade remain open.
- In addition, Sunday sales bans for these shops are generally suspended until further notice.
- All other businesses remain closed.
- For further details: <https://www.niedersachsen.de/Coronavirus/erlasse-und-allgemeinverfuegung/erlasse-und-allgemeinverfuegung-185856.html>

Closure of establishments open to the public

- Playgrounds
- Bars, clubs, discotheques
- theatres, opera houses, concert halls, museums

- Trade fairs, exhibitions, leisure parks and zoos and providers of leisure activities (indoors and outdoors!), special markets, amusement arcades, casinos, car washes, betting shops, prostitution facilities, brothels
- Facilities where sports activities take place: sports facilities, swimming pools and fun pools
- Fitness studios
- Other retail outlets, especially outlet centres
- For further details: <https://www.niedersachsen.de/Coronavirus/erlasse-und-allgemeinverfuegung/erlasse-und-allgemeinverfuegung-185856.html>

Health care facilities remain open in compliance with the increased hygiene requirements.

Closure of catering establishments open to the public

- Restaurants, dining places, system catering, snack bars, canteens and the like shall be closed to the public.
- The delivery and collection of takeaway food for consumption at home remains permitted. The opening hours are limited to 6 am to 6 pm.
- Consumption is prohibited within a 50-metre radius of such establishments.
- For further details: [Erlass des Niedersächsischen Gesundheitsministeriums zur Schließung von Restaurants, Speisegaststätten und Mensen vom 20.03.2020](#)

Restriction of gatherings

- Gatherings in clubs and other sports and leisure facilities will be prohibited.
- Furthermore, adult education centres, music schools and other public and private educational institutions are also closed!
- Gatherings in churches, mosques, synagogues and the meetings of other religious communities are no longer allowed to take place!

Extension of visiting bans for hospitals, nursing homes, etc.

- Requirements for visiting arrangements for hospitals, nursing homes and similar establishments. For example, a maximum of one visit per day for one hour be possible. People with respiratory tract infections should be prohibited from visiting.
- In addition, a general ban on entering these areas, as well as universities, schools and kindergartens, should apply to all those who have been in risk areas abroad or in particularly affected regions in Germany in the last 14 days.

Strict requirements for other areas

- It will not be forbidden to make use of overnight accommodation offers **on business**. But such offers may **not be used for tourist purposes**.
- Tourists are prohibited from visiting the islands of Lower Saxony.
- Stricter requirements will be imposed on DIY, garden and pet supplies stores, mainly to avoid queues. Who has access and when is to be precisely regulated.

Important general rules of conduct

In addition to the legally relevant prohibitions, exemptions and decrees, there are also the following - extremely important - general rules of conduct, which EVERYONE should observe without fail:

- **Keep your distance (very important!).**
In public spaces, tram, supermarket, etc., a distance of 1.5 to 2 meters must be kept. At a distance of 2 metres, a transmission of the virus is almost impossible.
- **Wash your hands (very important!).**
Regularly, thoroughly (at least 20-40 sec.) and with soap.
- **If possible, do not touch the face.**
Avoid touching your face, rubbing your eyes, etc.

- **Keep to the cough and sneeze etiquette.**
As with influenza and other acute respiratory infections, the most important measures to protect yourself from infection are regular hand washing, proper coughing and sneezing (coughing etiquette).
- **Reduce social contacts to an absolute minimum (also see above)**
It is best to avoid social contacts where possible. In this way, you make a significant contribution to keeping the number of infections as low as possible. For this reason, all schools, day-care centres and other state institutions have been closed as a precautionary measure. For old people's homes and hospitals, the Ministry of Social Affairs recommends that visits should be avoided where possible.
- **Grandma and grandpa are bad babysitters at the moment.**
Even if day-care centres close: Grandma and Grandpa are actually taboo as babysitters now. For children can also get infected with the virus just as often, although (fortunately) they usually show fewer symptoms. But they are also carriers of the virus.
- **Show consideration and solidarity**
Take care of your health to avoid infecting others. Look in your surroundings to see if/where you can help people who belong to the risk target group (elderly or pre-sick people) (e.g. go shopping; keep in touch by telephone, etc.).
- The aim is to slow down the spread of the virus as far as possible - so that the health system does not reach its limits so quickly. **The protection of particularly vulnerable risk groups, i.e. the elderly and the chronically ill, should now have top priority.**