



Flüchtlingsrat Brandenburg

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Information for refugees during the corona crisis in Brandenburg

Last updated 23 march 2020

1) What to do in case of suspected corona infection?

If you are afraid that you or others might be infected with coronavirus, please call your doctor or your local public health authorities (*Gesundheitsamt*). You can also call the medical on-call service: 116 117.

There you ask for a test. Tests are freely available, if you have been in direct contact with someone who is infected with coronavirus or if you have recently been to a risk area. Regions that are risk areas are updated daily here: https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Risikogebiete.html. If you live in a first reception centre or asylum centre, quickly inform the managers or social workers. More basic information on the coronavirus in many languages: www.fluechtlingsrat-brandenburg.de/mehrsprachige-informationen-zum-coronavirus/

2) How does the current situation impact my daily life?

Are supermarkets, pharmacies, other stores and practices still open?

Supermarkets and pharmacies remain open in any case. Post offices, banks, medical supply stores, drug-stores, petrol stations, beverage markets, pick-up services and delivery services, cleaning services, laundries, newspaper shops and hardware stores and garden centres also remain open. Doctors' surgeries also remain open. Before you visit a doctor it is important to make a phone call for an appointment so that infections can be avoided. There are strict rules in hospitals. Only patients younger than 16 and seriously ill patients are allowed to receive visitors: One close relative for one hour at most. The same applies to nursing homes. Visits of nascent or new fathers at birth stations are usually allowed.

What about schools, kindergartens, language courses, recreational facilities and houses of prayer?

Currently all kindergartens, schools and universities are closed at least until 19th April 2020. If you work in a systemically relevant sector (for example in food supply, care and health or as cleaner in a hospital) you can apply for a special day care (*Notbetreuung*) in your child's kindergarten or school. Furthermore, there are no integration courses or other language courses taking place at the moment. Libraries, museums, cinemas, restaurants, bars, clubs and smoking-saloons are closed. Sportclubs, swimming pools, gyms, gaming halls etc. remain closed. Children's playgrounds are closed as well. Gatherings in churches, mosques, synagogues and gatherings of other religious communities are not allowed for the moment. You can still use bus and train services.

Restrictions on leaving the house (starting 23 March 2020)

For now there is no general curfew. However there is contact ban for more than two people for at least the coming two weeks. This means only two people can meet each other at a time. Families and people who live together in one apartment are exempt from that regulation. Outdoors and for example in the supermarket it is important to keep a proper distance to other people of at least 1.5 meters (5 feet). You are supposed to only go outside when it is really necessary, for example to go to work, to the supermarket or to see a doctor. Additionally, doing sports, going for a walk or helping others can be a reason to go outside. But only by yourself, with one other person, with your family or the people you live with. Restaurants are closed, but you still have the opportunity to pick up food or to get it delivered. Hairdressers, cosmetics studios, massage practices, tattoo studios etc. are also closed. It remains important to stick to all hygiene standards.

What does domestic quarantine mean?

If you or one of the members of your family are infected with the Corona-Virus you and your family will be put under quarantine. This means that you are not allowed to leave your flat/your room (if you have your own bathroom with toilet) for at least 14 days. This is a very difficult situation, especially with children involved. It is important that you keep calm and stay in touch with your relatives and friends via telephone.

In case someone else in the home is infected it might happen that the whole home or a part of it is put under quarantine. Together with the other residents you can think about what you would like to demand from the management in this case. For example you could ask for free Wifi in the home. You could also talk to the operator about how the food supply can be organised in the case of being quarantined.

3) What changed in the work of public authorities and counselling centres?

Most of the public authorities have closed their offices for visitors or have very limited services. Mostly, you can only contact them by telephone.

Most of the counselling centres can only be reached by telephone. You can find their contact info here: www.fluechtlingsrat-brandenburg.de/adressen/.

Immigration authorities — What to do if my identity document expires?

The Ministry of the Interior encouraged the immigration authorities (*Ausländerbehörden*) of Brandenburg to issue so called emergency certificates (*Notbescheinigungen*) to holders of visa, residence permits or toleration certificates. These certificate are supposed to ensure that your residence permit or *Duldung* will remain valid. To be sure, you can write a letter to the relevant *Ausländerbehörde* and ask for an extension of your documents or for a confirmation that your documents are still valid.

Deportations

Unfortunately, there is still no general ban on deportations. Dublin-transfers do not take place. But: the time period of six months in the Dublin-procedure is only paused. This means when transfers are possible again the time period continues, it does not end.

Asylum interviews

The asylum authorities (*Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge/BAMF*) stopped personal interviews in the asylum procedures (except for „procedures relevant to security“). However, decisions on asylum applications (*Bescheide*) can still be delivered.

Dealing with asylum decisions

If you receive a negative decision on your asylum application (*Bescheid*) you can file a legal complaint against it and, if applicable, hand in an emergency appeal (*Eilantrag*). To do that there is only a short time period of one or two weeks. Please read the instructions on legal remedies which are sent to you in your language as well. In the case you receive a negative notice, please contact a counselling centre, lawyer or the legal application office of the relevant administrative court immediately. If need be, you can also file the legal complaint by yourself using [this template](#). Ask the social workers in your accommodation for support as well.

Legal application offices (*Rechtsantragsstellen*)

You can also file your legal complaint directly in the courts' legal application offices. There is limited access at the moment:

Verwaltungsgericht Potsdam (administrative court in Potsdam)

From Monday to Friday (9am – 12am).

Friedrich-Ebert Str. 32

14469 Potsdam

Tel.: 0331 2332-0

Fax: 0331 2332-480

Verwaltungsgericht Cottbus (administrative court in Cottbus)

Only written submission of claims.

Vom-Stein-Straße 27

03050 Cottbus

Telefon: 0355 4991-6400

Telefax: 0355 4991-6499

Verwaltungsgericht Frankfurt Oder (administrative court in Frankfurt Oder)

Only urgent cases. You can arrange appointments via phone call only.

Logenstraße 13

15230 Frankfurt (Oder)

Tel.: 0335 5556-0

Fax: 0335 5556-1880

4) Updated information and tips

Handbook Germany offers daily updated information in [Arabic](#), [English](#), [Persian](#), [French](#), [Pashtu](#) and [German](#). More multilingual information is available here: <http://corona-ethnomed.sprachwahl.info-data.info/>. The Berlin counselling centre for migration and decent work (BEMA) offers [multilingual information on legal questions at the workplace](#) in times of Corona. Current information on the corona situation in Brandenburg and its districts: <https://www.fluechtlingsrat-brandenburg.de/>

Dieses Projekt wird aus Mitteln des Asyl-, Migrations- und Integrationsfonds AMIF der Europäischen Union kofinanziert



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