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The Corona-Virus in Berlin – Information for refugees

IMPORTANT: there is a lot of wrong information and conspiracy theories to be found on the internet. This sheet with information is based on official and reliable sources (dating back to the 16th march, 16 o'clock) and offers an overview over the situation for refugees in Berlin. It is available online: <https://fluechtlingsrat-berlin.de/aktuelles/news-und-termine/>

1) How are the public authorities and courts working?

Landesamt für Flüchtlingsangelegenheiten LAF:

We have no information about the restrictions. Stay informed about the current situation via their website: www.berlin.de/laf/

Find out via phone, Email or Fax whether your appointment will take place as planned and whether the extension of your benefits („Leistungen“) is possible via phone, email or fax. If necessary, file a written application, via fax or email.

Landesamt für Einwanderung LEA (Ausländerbehörde):

At the LEA customers without an appointment will no longer be served.

For people who live in Berlin and have not booked an appointment at the LEA, the following information applies:

- **Provided that a document for temporary residency in Germany expires (e.g. residence permit, „Duldung“, form to cross the border “Grenzübertrittsbescheinigung“ etc.) the LEA will consider it valid until the LEA has resumed working as usual**
- This also applies to all **the additional conditions**, especially a **work permit**
- People who nonetheless go to the LEA without an appointment will only be given a certificate referring to the currently valid document
- **Travelling abroad and reentering into Germany however is only possible with a valid residence permit**

Please stay informed about the current situation: www.berlin.de/einwanderung/

If necessary, ask via telephone, email or fax whether your appointment will take place as planned.

Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge BAMF:

So far, we have no information about restrictions. Inquire via telephone, email or fax whether your appointment will take place as planned. If necessary, file a written application, via fax or email.

Jobcenter and social service departments („Sozialamt“):

Jobcenters and social service departments are currently only in very few cases seeing clients. Please stay informed via the jobcenters' and district authorities' websites:

<https://service.berlin.de/jobcenter/>

<https://service.berlin.de/bezirksaemter/>

Find out via phone, email or fax whether your appointment will take place as planned and whether the extension of your benefits („Leistungen“) is possible via phone, email or fax. If necessary, file a written application, via fax or email.

Administrative court („Verwaltungsgericht“):

Currently many dates for trials and hearings are being cancelled. Inquire via phone, email or fax whether your appointment will take place as planned. If necessary, file a written application, via fax or email.

2) Are supermarkets, other shops, pharmacies and doctor's practices open?

Supermarkets and pharmacies in Berlin will remain open by all means. This also counts for the **post office, banks**, health care supply stores, drug stores, hairdressers, dry cleaners and laundrettes, newspaper stores, shops supplying gardening and building material, pet supply stores and wholesale. Other shops (e.g. supplying clothes, shoes or electronics) will be closed. **Doctor's practices** will remain open.

3) What about schools, children's daycare centers (KITA), language courses, leisure centers, places of worship?

In Berlin, all the **KITAs, schools and universities are closed at least until the 19th of april 2020.**

Daycare centers and schools can continue to offer an emergency care for children. You can **apply for the emergency childcare** if you work in a systemically relevant profession (e.g. work in a food store, in medical care, cleaning in hospitals, water and energy supply). The form is available in german, english, turkish and arabic:

<https://www.berlin.de/sen/bjf/coronavirus/aktuelles/#selbstkita>

Until further notice **no integration courses** or other language courses will take place. Libraries, museums, cinemas, bars, clubs and smoking establishments are closed. This also applies to sports clubs, gyms, swimming pools, casinos etc. It is not yet clear whether restaurants will remain open.

Strict rules apply for hospitals. Only patients under the age of 16 and the seriously ill may be visited by at most one relative for up to 1hour/day. This also applies to care homes.

Gatherings in churches, mosques, synagogues as well as gatherings of other religious communities are no longer allowed.

4) Where can I find help?

In case of a suspected infection:

Contact your doctor by telephone, don't go to your doctor's practice. Outside opening hours please call the **Bereitschaftsdienst der Kassenärztlichen Vereinigung, telephone: 116117**

You can also get information via the **Health senate's Hotline (up until now only in german): tel. 030/90282828, every day 8-20 o'clock** or via the health departement in your residential district („Gesundheitsamt“): <https://service.berlin.de/standorte/gesundheitsaemter/>

You can be tested for the **Corona-Virus at the following contact points**, for example if you have been in touch with a person who has been infected or have just returned from an at-risk area. It is required that your doctor or the health department („Gesundheitsamt“) has recommended the test for you:

- **Charité-Standort Virchow in Wedding** (Mittelallee 1; every day 8 to 16 o'clock)
- **Gemeinschaftskrankenhaus Havelhöhe in Spandau** (Kladower Damm 221, Haus 16, mon-fri 9-20 o'clock), please call the clinic hotline before you come, Tel. 030/36501-7222
- **Vivantes-Klinikum in Prenzlauer Berg** (Diesterwegstraße, mon-fri 10-19 o'clock, sat/sun 10-17 o'clock),
- **Vivantes-Wenckebach-Klinikum in Tempelhof** (Albrechtstraße, mon-fri 10-19 o'clock, sat/sun 10-17 o'clock)
- **Evangelisches Krankenhaus Königin Elisabeth Herzberge in Lichtenberg** (Herzbergstraße 79, Haus 19, mon-fri : 10-19 o'clock, sat/sun 10-17 o'clock)
- **DRK-Klinikum Westend in Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf** (Spandauer Damm 130, Haus 10, mon-fri: 9-15 o'clock)

Support for severe conflicts concerning the handling of the corona-virus in your home:

The following organizations are available to help deescalate the situation:

Arabic: BBZ (Beratungs- und Betreuungszentrum für junge Flüchtlinge und Migrant*innen - counselling and support center for young refugees and migrants):
Tel 030 66640720/23

Farsi: Yaar e.V.: Tel 030 23407217, info@yaarberlin.de and
Verein iranischer Flüchtlinge: Tel 030 62 98 15 30, VereinIranischerFluechtlinge@gmx.de

5) What does quarantine at home 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 when there are children involved and affected. 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 organized in the case of being quarantined.

6) Where can I get further information?

For the current situation in Berlin, please check the homepage of the newspaper „Tagesspiegel“:

Arabic: <https://www.tagesspiegel.de/berlin/----/25646660.html?fbclid=IwAR0OzX24aH-PQfqkaxvSluo1HVFEf0IoX7Xd8kt-VtwgJx2OBQyEu3Rz-sY>

English: <https://www.tagesspiegel.de/berlin/closures-hotlines-contact-points-coronavirus-in-berlin-what-you-need-to-know-and-where-you-can-get-help/25646676.html>

Turkish: <https://www.tagesspiegel.de/berlin/kreier-okullar-yasaklar-corona-virues-berlinde-bunlar-bilmeniz-gerekior-buralardan-yaradilabilirsiniz/25646838.html>

German: <https://www.tagesspiegel.de/berlin/coronavirus-in-berlin-schulen-und-kitas-geschlossen-was-sie-wissen-muessen-wo-sie-hilfe-bekommen/25616798.html>

The Bundeszentrale für gesundheitliche Aufklärung provides indications concerning the protection from infections in different languages: <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/themen/coronavirus/hygiene-advice-1730352> (German, english and french)

The Robert-Koch-Institut provides current specialist information about the Corona-Virus:

English: https://www.rki.de/EN/Home/homepage_node.html

German: https://www.rki.de/DE/Home/homepage_node.html

Handbook Germany: <https://handbookgermany.de/en/live/coronavirus.html>