

## **Report about the coronavirus in Raunheim (Germany)**

### **Measures:**

The measures taken because of the coronavirus are not universal in Germany. The regulations can be determined individually by the 16 federal states, the approximately 300 districts or the approximately 11.000 municipalities. However, a few basic measures apply to the entire Federal Republic and thus also in Raunheim with about 17.000 inhabitants.

The following applies throughout Germany: Keeping distance (at least 1,5 metres), paying attention to hygiene (proper coughing and sneezing, as well as regular hand washing) and wearing a mask in closed buildings (supermarkets, shops and public facilities), as well as in railway stations or airports and on public transport.

Large events are not allowed in Germany until the end of 2020, many well-known celebrations (such as the city festival or the funfair in Raunheim) had to be cancelled this year.

Unique for Germany is the "Corona-Warning-App" offered by the federal government. This app is voluntary and helps determine whether you have come into contact with an infected person and whether this creates a risk of infection. With the help of this app, infection chains can be interrupted faster.

### **Town hall:**

In the town hall of the city administration Raunheim there is a general mask obligation for citizens and employees. However, employees are not obliged to wear a mask at their own workplace. Employees in offices with multiple people have a glass pane between the individual workplaces to protect against viruses and bacteria. Citizens must leave their contact details in case of a follow-up and disinfect their hands when entering the town hall. The town hall has been open again at regular opening hours since 17.08.2020.

### **Schools:**

In the state of Hesse there is no general mask requirement for students during lessons in the classroom. However, the mask requirement applies for the stay in the rest of the school building and on the school grounds. In order to curb the spread of the coronavirus, a hygiene concept must also be drawn up by each school. These regulations all apply in the Pestalozzischule (primary school) and in the Anne-Frank-School (integrated comprehensive school) in the small town of Raunheim.

### **Events and celebrations:**

In the district of Groß-Gerau, two wedding parties with more than 300 guests were recently held, on which several people have been infected with the coronavirus. For this reason, there was a temporary mask requirement for students in the north of the district (including in Raunheim) during lessons. In addition, events had been limited to a maximum size of 150 people as a result of this incident. However, as the situation has calmed down somewhat and the number of infections in the district of Groß-Gerau is no longer rising so rapidly, these regulations have been repealed with effect from 02.09.2020. It is very clear that the measures will be adapted regionally and in the short term to the current situation.

### **Jobs and economy:**

A serious consequence of the coronapandemic, especially in the Rhine-Main region (in particular Raunheim) due to the widespread service sector, is short-time working. Short-time working is the reduction of normal working hours. This is usually granted for 12 months. Workers work less during short-time work, and in some cases no longer at all. Short-time working means a reduced income of 67 % of the original income for workers with a child in the first three months (or 60 % without a child). From the fourth month, this income with a child rises to 77 % (or 70 % without a child), and from the seventh month it rises to 87 % (or 80 % without a child). Supplementary social benefits may also be applied for.

### **General:**

Germany has worked very quickly with experts and, on the basis of their statements, has enforced strict measures. At the beginning of the crisis, events and meetings were also banned in small groups, and many shops and public institutions had to close for some time due to new regulations. However, as the situation in Germany has now calmed down a little, slow easing is possible again. Meetings in groups are allowed again and all shops were allowed to reopen in the meantime. This is due on the one hand to the fast and strict measures taken by the federal government, on the other hand to the citizens who adhere to the applicable rules. An important factor for this is also the very well-developed health system in Germany. Germany has about 83 million inhabitants. Of these, about 225.000 have fallen ill with corona to date and as a result about 9.000 have died. Without the cooperation of the federal government, citizens and the health sector, these numbers would have been much higher.