

Return from vacation: Free corona test for travelers

From 8 August 2020, all returnees from so-called risk areas must be able to show a negative Corona test that is no older than two days when entering Germany. If you cannot show such a test, you have to be tested. This applies to those arriving at the airports and those arriving in Germany by land or sea. Commuters close to the border are excluded.

If you return from a trip to a risk area, you must either have it tested within 48 hours before entry or within 72 hours after entry, e.g. directly at the airport, at the train station or in areas close to the border at a designated motorway service area.

Alternatively, you can call **116 117** to find out where you can take a test near your home.

The brief essentials:

- As of 8th August 2020, arrivals from international corona risk areas must be tested for the virus when they return to Germany.
- Alternatively, you can submit your own corona test. The testing should have happened within the last 48 hours.
- You can have the test done in many countries before your departure or in Germany after entering the country. The test in Germany is free of charge for you. Travelers who have been in non-risk area can also get a voluntary, free test.

In the fight against the spreading of COVID-19, returning travelers can now get Coronavirus tests free of charge.

- Anyone arriving from a non-risk area can have the free test carried out voluntarily.
- **On the other hand, anyone entering from a risk area is obliged to carry out such a test from 8th August 2020 on.**

The reason for the obligation: If you return to Germany from a risk area, without a test result you have to go into quarantine at your home or your destination for up to 2 weeks immediately after arrival. In addition, you must immediately report to your responsible health department. Entry regulations apply in the federal states, which also regulate exemptions for certain groups of people. You can only leave home quarantine once the result of the mandatory test is available.

Important: If you want to be tested by your family doctor, you should definitely call her or him in advance and make an appointment.

The test in Germany is free of charge for you.

Until a negative test result is available, you must quarantine yourself for up to 14 days and adhere to the quarantine rules.

You must then present the test result to the responsible health authority within 72 hours.

The test certificate must be written in German or English.

If you are traveling back from a risk area, but cannot prove that you have a test, you must be tested at the request of the responsible authorities upon arrival.

A negative test result can only be a snapshot. Therefore, a repeated test is advisable 5 to 7 days after the arrival. This is also expected to be free of charge. A repeat test can be ordered in individual cases by the public health service. The costs for both a first and a second test are presumably to be borne by the federal test ordinance.

Travelers from high-risk areas are obliged to report to the responsible health authority immediately after returning, to provide information about possible symptoms and to have a test carried out.

Source: This content was created by the consumer advice centers of North Rhine-Westphalia and Hesse for the network of consumer advice centers in Germany.