

FLÜCHTLINGSRAT BERLIN e.V.

Menschenrechte kennen keine Grenzen

Flüchtlingsrat Berlin e.V.
Greifswalder Str. 4
10405 Berlin
Tel: (030) 22 47 63 11
Fax: (030) 22 47 63 12
buero@fluechtlingsrat-berlin.de
www.fluechtlingsrat-berlin.de

Status: April 24th, 2020

The Coronavirus in Berlin – Information for refugees

Wrong information and conspiracy theories about the Coronavirus are circulating online or via WhatsApp. This sheet of information offers an overview over the situation for refugees in Berlin. It is based on official and reliable sources.

It is available online in German, English, Italian, Arabic, Farsi, Tigrinya, Russian, French, Turkish, Spanish:

<https://fluechtlingsrat-berlin.de/corona>

In general: Reduce any physical contact to other people to an absolute minimum, except for to those people who live in the same household and partners. It is important to keep 1,5 meters between two people whenever possible.

The situation can change. We are describing the current situation here in Berlin on April 24th, 2020.

1) How are the public authorities and courts working?

Landesamt für Flüchtlingsangelegenheiten LAF:

There are only very few personal appointments taking place. Stay informed about the current situation via their web- site: www.berlin.de/laf/ Find out via phone, Email or Fax whether your appointment will take place as planned. Your home will organize the extension of cost coverage for your accommodation. You will be sent a notification concerning the cost coverage. File a written application, via fax or email. Ask for an appointment for cash payout in case you don't have a bank account. Ask the LAF via phone, email or fax about other options for receiving cash, for example a „barcode“ for a pay- out at the supermarket checkout.

Ankunftszenrum für Asylsuchende Berlin (Arrival Center for asylum seekers Berlin)

The „Ankunftszenrum Berlin“ is still accepting requests for asylum. It is open 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. It is located in Haus 2 (House 2) on the premises of the former psychiatric hospital *Karl Bonhoeffer Nervenlinik*. There are initial medical examinations as well as identification procedures. Tests for Coronavirus are conducted if required, followed by quarantine when appropriate.

For the first 14 days the obligation to stay overnight in the "Ankunftszentrum" (arrival centre) applies. During this time the LAF wants to observe whether the asylum seekers develop symptoms of illness. You can leave the arrival centre during the day. After 14 days you will be assigned to another accommodation.

If you have the opportunity to live **privately with a person you know free of charge**, submit a written application to the "Ankunftszentrum" (arrival centre) for release from the obligation to live in the centre, in accordance with § 49 Para. 2 Asylgesetz. In addition, you can also cite health reasons. Ask to receive the dates for the further registration process at the LAF in Bundesallee in advance, by telephone or by post.

If you or your relatives are "Risikopersonen" (persons at risk) because of a heart or lung disease, cancer or other serious chronic illness or age 60 or older: It is imperative that you tell the doctor and also the LAF officials when you register! Tell them which medicines you need! Insist on the allocation of **a separate room with a bathroom** if you do not have private accommodation!

The newly arriving asylum seekers receive accommodation, social benefits and a notification of health insurance. In the arrival centre, a "Formularantrag" (form application) for asylum is filled out, signed by the applicant personally and sent to the BAMF. Personal asylum hearings at the BAMF take place as soon as this is possible again. Occasionally "asylum interviews" are already taking place.

Adress: Oranienburger Straße 285, Haus 2, 13437 Berlin-Reinickendorf U-Bahn/S-Bahn Karl Bonhoeffer Nervenklinik.

www.berlin.de/laf/ankommen/

Landesamt für Einwanderung LEA, Ausländerbehörde (Regional Office for Immigration):

The LEA has now switched to **online and written procedures**:

www.berlin.de/einwanderung/aufenthalt/artikel.909816.php

You can **apply online** for a provisional **extension** of your residence document:

Category 1: You have **booked an appointment** or the validity of your residence permit or „Fiktionsbescheinigung“ (fictional certificate) is expiring?

www.berlin.de/einwanderung/termine/termin-vereinbaren/formular.909797.php

Category 2: You have a „Aufenthaltsgestattung“ (residence permit), „Duldung“ (toleration), „Grenzübertrittsbescheinigung“ (border crossing certificate), „L 4048 Bescheinigung“ (L 4048 certificate) or „Passeinzugsbescheinigung“ (passport collection certificate)?

www.berlin.de/einwanderung/termine/termin-vereinbaren/formular.909347.php

Attention: After filling out the forms online, you will not receive a confirmation by email. You must either print the completed form or save it as a PDF (under the "print" section you can also select "pdf" on your computer or mobile phone). The PDF is valid for employers, job centres, etc. for the time being as a confirmation of their further permitted stay. The "Landesamt für Einwanderung" (Regional Immigration Office) will contact you to find out how to proceed.

Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge BAMF (National Office for Migration and Refugees):

The BAMF is currently not open to the public. "Interviews" take place sporadically. There are no reviews in the appeal procedures („Widerrufsverfahren“).

<https://www.bamf.de/SharedDocs/Meldungen/DE/2020/20200316-am-covid-19.html>

In order to **apply for asylum**, it is still necessary to present **in person** at the **Ankunftszentrum Berlin (Arrival Center Berlin) in Oranienburger Straße 285, Haus 2, 13437 Berlin-Reinickendorf** (see above) and to be registered as asylum seeker. There are initial medical examinations as well as identification procedures. The asylum seekers receive accommodation, social benefits and a notification of health insurance. A "**Formularantrag**" (form application) will be filled in at the arrival center, **signed personally** by

the applicant and sent to the BAMF. Personal asylum hearings at the BAMF will take place as soon as possible. Individual "interviews" are already being held in individual cases.

Jobcenter and social service departments („Sozialamt“):

Jobcenter and "Bezirksämter" (district authorities) are currently only seeing clients in very few cases. 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. If necessary, file a written application, via fax or email. In case you do not have a bank account ask whether there are other ways of receiving cash, for example a „barcode“ for a payout at the supermarket checkout.

Administrative court („Verwaltungsgericht“)

www.berlin.de/gerichte/verwaltungsgericht/

For the moment dates for oral hearings at the Administrative court Berlin are cancelled. It is only possible to take up complaints and applications at the legal application office ("Rechtsantragsstelle") after making an appointment by telephone, telephone 030 9014 8602 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. If necessary, file a written application, via fax or email.

2) Contact restrictions, distance rules, stay outside

Reduce contacts: You must reduce contact with other people to an absolute minimum. You are only allowed to stay at home and in public, e.g. in the supermarket, on the street, in parks etc. **alone** or together with **members of your family household**, i.e. the people who live in your flat or room. Your **spouse** or **steady partner** also belongs to the family household, even if you do not live in the same apartment. The family household also includes **children** for whom you have custody and access rights, even if you do not live in the same house.

You are also allowed to stay in public with **one other person who** is not part of your family household, provided that you keep at least 1.5 metres distance.

Keep a distance: In public, e.g. in the supermarket, on the street, in the waiting area at the doctor's office, you must keep a **minimum distance of 1.5 metres** to other people than members of your own household.

Staying outside: It is allowed to stay outside with members of your **family household**, and additionally with **at most one person** not belonging to the household. In Germany - unlike in some other countries - it is therefore still **permitted to stay on the streets and in parks**, to go for a walk or to ride your bicycle, even if you are not going shopping, to the doctor or to work. If you are travelling with a person who is not part of the household, you must keep a minimum distance of 1.5 metres, even when doing sports.

Sitting outside: It is permitted to sit outside in the street, in parks, etc. on permanently installed **benches** if you keep a distance of at least **1.5 metres**. In parks, you are allowed to sit on the **grass** if you keep at least **5 metres distance** from other people. You do not have to keep a distance to members of your family. It is forbidden to barbecue or offer open meals.

Of course, you are also **allowed to go to work**, to emergency care for children, to go shopping, to visit a doctor, to make appointments with authorities, to take exams, to help others, etc.

3) Supermarkets, other shops, pharmacies and doctor's practices, compulsory masks in BVG and S-Bahn

Doctor's practices will remain open. Personal care service providers such as hairdressers, beauty salons, massage studios, tattoo studios etc. will remain closed. Medically necessary treatments (e.g. physiotherapy) are permitted. **Hairdressers** are allowed to reopen under hygiene restrictions from 4 May onwards.

Supermarkets and pharmacies in Berlin will remain open. This also counts for the **post office, weekly markets, banks**, health care supply stores, drug stores, dry cleaners and laundrettes, newspaper stores, shops supplying gardening and building material, bicycle shops, craft businesses, pet supply stores and wholesale.

Other shops, e.g. clothing and shoe shops, electronics shops, etc. with an area of less than 800 square metres have been allowed to open again since 22 April. Larger shops will remain closed.

Ordering online and **online delivery** will still be possible.

Mandatory use of masks in public transport from 27 April: A new requirement is the obligation to wear a **mask that covers mouth and nose** in BVG (underground, tram and bus) and S-Bahn (suburban railway). BVG and S-Bahn travel less frequently than usual. It is strongly **recommended** that you also wear a mask **when shopping and visiting a doctor.**

4) Schools, children's daycare centers (KITA), language courses

You can **apply for the emergency childcare** if you work in a **systemically relevant professions** ("systemrelevanter Bereich", e.g. work in a food store, in medical care, cleaning in hospitals, water and energy supply). You can also apply if you are a **single parent and working**. The form is available in German, English, Turkish and Arabic: <https://www.berlin.de/sen/bjf/coronavirus/aktuelles/#selbstkita>

The schools will be gradually reopened from 27 April 2020. The emergency day care ("Kita-Notbetreuung") will be extended in stages from 27 April 2020. Private, particularly neighbourly organised care assistance for up to three children will be permitted from 27 April. This allows parents who are friends to take turns in childcare, for example.

Until further notice there will be **no integration courses** or other language courses will take place.

5) Leisure centers, restaurants, hospitals, places of worship, religious events, clubs, demonstrations

Restaurants, bars, smoking establishments, clubs, amusement arcades and cinemas remain closed. It is only permitted to deliver or collect food to take home from restaurants and snack bars, if hygiene, access control and avoidance of queues is ensured.

Playgrounds will be reopened from 30 April. **Libraries and museums** may reopen from 4 May 2020, as long as they comply with hygiene rules.

Adult education centres, sports facilities, swimming pools, saunas, steam baths, fitness studios, etc. will remain closed. Contactless sports on outdoor sports facilities are permitted if they are practised alone, with members of one's own household or a single other person without any other group formation. The minimum distance of 1.5 metres must be kept.

Meetings and gatherings of any kind, including **meetings of clubs, private parties**, etc. are prohibited. Exception: Private or family gatherings of up to 20 people are possible for **funerals, weddings**, baptisms and for accompanying the dying. In such cases, an attendance list with first and last name, address and telephone number of all participants must be drawn up and kept for four weeks.

Demonstrations in fixed locations or open-air meetings with up to 20 participants, from May 4th 2020 up to 50 participants will be allowed **on request**, provided that minimum distance and hygiene rules are guaranteed.

Worship services, churches, mosques, synagogues: From May 4th 2020, religious services with up to 50 participants are permitted, provided that minimum distance and hygiene rules are guaranteed. Physical contact is forbidden, even during religious acts. No objects may be passed around. An attendance list with the first and last name, address and telephone number of all participants must be drawn up and kept for four weeks. **Until May 3rd all religious events are prohibited.**

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**.

6) berlinpass and Berlin-Ticket S

Currently the *berlinpass* is no longer being issued or extended. You can use the Berlin-Ticket S even if your berlinpass has expired. If you don't yet have a berlinpass, you can use the Berlin-Ticket S as long as you have your notification that you receive social benefits („Sozialleistungsbescheid“) with you and have written the reference number on the Berlin-Ticket S.

www.berlin.de/sen/ias/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/pressemitteilung.909495.php

7) Pay during illness or quarantine

In case you are **ill** you need a „Krankschreibung“ (sick leave/sick note) from the doctor. For the first week you can currently also ask for this at your doctor's via telephone. For up to six weeks your employer is legally bound to continue paying your normal wage. From the seventh week onwards you can apply for „Krankengeld“ at the health insurance. If you are **not ill** but cannot work due to quarantine you need the "Quarantänebescheid" (notification of quarantine) from the Public Health Office ("Gesundheitsamt"). For up to six weeks your employer is legally bound to continue to pay you your normal wage in case of quarantine. From the seventh week onwards you can apply for compensations at the Senate Department for Finance. **ATTENTION: Do not sign a termination or cancellation agreement!** Your employer is not permitted to terminate your contract due to the current situation!

Information in several languages on labour law:

www.berlin.de/lb/intmig/service/corona-info/fragen-zum-arbeitsplatz/

8) 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 their opening hours please call the medical on-call service "**Bereitschaftsdienst der Kassenärztlichen Vereinigung**", tel.: **116117**

You can try to get support **via the Public Health Office in your residential district („Gesundheitsamt“)**: <https://service.berlin.de/standorte/gesundheitsaemter/>

You can try to get information via the **Health senate's Hotline** (up until now only in German): tel. 030/90282828, every day 8-20 o'clock.

In case you have **acute severe shortness of breath** call the fire brigades rescue service: **112**

You can **try to get a test for the Coronavirus 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 Public Health Office („Gesundheitsamt“) has recommended the test for you.**

You must be prepared for a long wait.

Addresses and opening hours can be found under this link: www.berlin.de/corona/untersuchungsstellen/

Information for people without health insurance:

Please contact:

Clearing center by the Berliner Stadtmission for people without health insurance

www.berliner-stadtmission.de/clearingstelle

clearingstelle@berliner-stadtmission.de

Tel: 030 690 33 5972, Fax: 030 690 33 5979

Telephone hours: mon & tue 9.30-16 o'clock, wed 11-17 o'clock, thu 17-19.30, fri 9-15

Hotline by Open Med Berlin

www.gesundheit-ein-menschenrecht.de

0176 631 52094

There is support for severe conflicts concerning the handling of the Coronavirus 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

9) What does quarantine at home mean?

If you or one of the members of your family are infected with the Coronavirus 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. This decision is not up to the home management or the LAF, it is decided by the public health officer ("Amtsarzt") of your **district's Public Health Office** ("Gesundheitsamt").

Together with other residents you can think about what your demands towards the responsible authorities could be. For example, you could ask for free Wi-Fi in the home. You could also talk about how the food supply could be organized in the case of being quarantined.

There is a **quarantine accommodation** for refugees in Berlin-Pankow. You can be sent there if you have tested positive for Corona or have had contact with such a person. There is medical care in the accommodation. If the suspicion of infection is not confirmed or you are healthy again, you will be sent back to your previous accommodation.

No matter whether you have been quarantined in your previous accommodation or in the quarantine accommodation Pankow: Always ask for a written document - "Bescheid über die Anordnung zur häuslichen Absonderung (Quarantäne)" (notification of the order for domestic isolation (quarantine)) - from the health authority. If you do not understand something, insist on a translation into your first language.

Ask for legal advice if you do not agree with the quarantine. Contact a counselling centre or the Refugee Council („Flüchtlingsrat“):

<https://fluechtlingsrat-berlin.de/asylberatunginfoblatt>

10) Where can I get further information?

Corona info pages of the Berlin Refugee Council („Flüchtlingsrat“) with information in several languages:
www.fluechtlingsrat-berlin.de/corona

Flyers in several languages for asylum counselling via telephone and online in Berlin:

<https://fluechtlingsrat-berlin.de/asylberatunginfoblatt>

and

https://fluechtlingsrat-berlin.de/awo-asylberatung_akuz

Information site concerning Corona by the Senate of Berlin:

www.berlin.de/corona/

Collection of Information concerning Corona by the German government in several languages, updated on a daily basis: www.integrationsbeauftragte.de/ib-de/amt-und-person/amt-und-aufgaben/corona-virus-1730818

Information, updated day-to-day, in German, Arabic, English, Persian, French, Pashtu

<https://handbookgermany.de/de/live/coronavirus.html> <https://handbookgermany.de/ar/live/coronavirus.html>

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

<https://handbookgermany.de/fr/live/coronavirus.html> <https://handbookgermany.de/ps/live/coronavirus.html>

Further multilingual corona information and instructions for infection protection

<https://www.berlin.de/lb/intmig/service/corona-info/schutz-vor-covid-19/>

Robert-Koch-Institut, current specialist information about the Corona-Virus

www.rki.de/EN/Home/homepage_node.html (English)

www.rki.de/covid-19 (German)

Diese Information ist als Teil des Projekts „Gut Beraten, gut Ankommen! Beratung für Asylsuchende und Qualifizierung für Beratende in Berlin“ kofinanziert aus dem Asyl-, Migrations- und Integrationsfonds AMIF der Europäischen Union.

★ ★ ★
Europa fördert ★
Asyl-, Migrations-, Integrationsfonds
★ ★ ★



Europäische Union