



# Covid-19 Rules – FAQ

These rules are based on the new Coronavirus Protection Ordinance (CoronaSchVO) of the state of NRW which has been in force since 20 August 2021.

- Who is considered to be an immunised person?
  - Who is considered to be a tested person?
  - What rules apply for restaurants, cafés and bars?
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# Who is considered to be an immunised person?

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Anyone who is fully vaccinated or recovered is considered to be an immunised person.

## **Fully vaccinated persons are:**

1. persons whose last required vaccination was administered at least 14 days ago and
2. persons who have recovered from Covid-19 and have received one vaccination.

## **Recovered persons are:**

1. persons that have no symptoms and possess a proof of recovery.

# Who is considered to be a tested person?

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## **Tested persons are:**

1. persons that have a negative test result from a rapid antigen test that is no later than 48 hours old and that is certified in accordance with the Covid-19 Test and Quarantine Directive (CoronaTestQuarantäneVO), or
2. a PCR test that is no later than 48 hours old and that has been certified by a recognised laboratory.

**As such, self-performed tests are generally not sufficient.**

## **Exceptions:**

1. Children and teenagers with school IDs who required to go to school are considered to be tested persons due to their participation in mandatory school testing.
2. Children below school age are considered to be equal to tested persons with being required to take a Covid-19 test.
3. For educational services, children and youth activities and sports activities for children and young people, the requirement to have a test can be fulfilled by a jointly supervised self-test. For events that take place across several consecutive days with a fixed group of attendees, it is sufficient for tests to be performed twice a week as a minimum.

## What rules apply for restaurants, cafés and bars?

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In bars, cafés and restaurants, it is required to wear a medical mask (surgical mask) when indoors. At fixed seats or standing places, masks are not required provided there is a safety distance of 1.5 metres between tables or physical barriers separating the tables.

Indoor hospitality services can only be used or visited by immunised or tested persons. This does not apply when the service is limited to the take-away of food and drinks. Staff must also be immunised or tested.

If indoor events with more than one hundred attendees are to take place without fixed seating, a hygiene concept specific to the establishment must be presented to the health authorities before opening for the first time.

In the case of dancing events, including private parties with dancing, a PCR test is required for non-immunised persons.

## What rules apply for hotels and lodgings/tourism?

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**Accommodation facilities** (e.g. hotels/guest houses/hostels) may only be used by immunised or tested persons. This also applies for the offering of the services, i.e. for staff in accommodation facilities. Non-immunised persons must present a negative test on arrival and then after each subsequent period of four days.

It is required to wear a medical mask (surgical mask) when indoors.

**Tourist bus trips as well as children and youth excursions and family holidays** organised by public and independent children and youth aid providers are restricted to immunised and tested persons. This also applies for the offering of the services, i.e. for staff.

It is required to wear a medical mask (surgical mask) when indoors in rooms that are accessible to several visitors.

## What rules apply for the service sector?

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Services with close contact to customers such as hairdressers, cosmetic studios, body and foot care providers can only be used and performed by immunised and tested persons. In general, this also applies to medically required services (such as physiotherapy, medical massage); however, it does not include urgent medical treatment where the urgency of the situation or state of the person's health do not allow for prior testing.

# What rules apply for public transport?

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In public transport (short and long distance), business travel in vehicles including taxis and school buses as well as within closed vehicles (trains, boats, planes, etc.), passengers must wear a medical mask. Medical masks must also be worn in queues in front of the boarding area.

# What rules apply for religious gatherings?

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Churches and religious groups set their own rules for religious gatherings that ensure a comparable level of protection to this directive.

Churches and religious groups that have not set any such rules are subject to the provisions for religious gatherings set down in the CoronaSchVO.

# Where are masks required?

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## **Medical masks (surgical masks) must be worn:**

1. In public transport services (short and long distance) including hired vehicles used for the transport of persons, including for business purposes, including taxis as well as school buses and other closed vehicles (trains, boats, planes etc.).
2. In indoor rooms where several persons come together, provided these rooms are also accessible to customer or visitors – with or without entrance checks.
3. In queues and waiting areas as well as directly next to points of sale, checkout areas and similar service desks.
4. At sporting, cultural and other events outdoors with more than 2,500 visitors.

## **Exceptions include:**

1. In private rooms at exclusively private gatherings.
2. When working in indoor rooms, vehicles or similar if
  - a) a minimum social distance of 1.5 metres is safely observed or
  - b) all employees that meet are immunised or
  - c) only immunised or tested employees meet at fixed workspaces or in fixed teams, provided masks are

- not required for reasons of workplace safety (e.g. due to jobs involving high aerosol emissions).
3. In bars, cafés and restaurants when in fixed seats or standing places if a distance of 1.5 metres is kept between tables or physical barriers are in place.
  4. If it is required to enable a service or medical treatment.
  5. Persons that cannot wear a mask for medical reasons are exempt from the requirement to wear a mask. Medical reasons must be verified by a medical certificate, which must be presented on request.
  6. Children below school age are exempt from the requirement to wear a mask. If children from school entry to the age of 13 years cannot wear a medical mask due to it not fitting, they can wear a cloth mask as an alternative.

## What is classed as an event?

An event within the meaning of the CoronaSchVO is a planned event that is limited to a certain time and location, has a defined goal or intention, is in the responsibility of an organiser and is attended by a specific group of people who are attending either as contributors or visitors.

Examples:

- A visit to a cinema or theatre
- Tours in a museum or zoo
- Football training with multiple persons
- Private gatherings (whereby legal consequences from the CoronaSchVO are only linked to private gatherings in public spaces).

## What rules apply for events?

Events in private spaces are not affected by the access regulations.

If indoor **events** with more than one hundred attendees are to take place without fixed seating, a hygiene concept specific to the establishment must be presented to the health authorities before opening for the first time.

Only immunised and tested persons may participate in **indoor** events in public spaces.

Only immunised and tested persons may participate in outdoor events with more than 2,500 active participants, visitors and spectators.

In the case of dancing events, including private parties with dancing in public spaces, a PCR test is required for non-immunised persons.

See details on [“Where are masks required?”](#) and [“What is classed as an event?”](#)

The above regulations also apply for staff.

## What rules apply for sports?

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Only immunised and tested persons may participate in **indoor** sports activities (e.g. gyms, sport halls, tennis halls, dance studios). This also applies for trainers, staff, etc.

Only immunised and tested persons may participate in **outdoor** sports activities with more than 2,500 active participants, visitors and spectators.

Showers, changing rooms and other closed rooms can only be used by immunised and tested persons.

## How is the incidence rate calculated?

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The “incidence rate” refers to the 7-day incidence rate, where the incidence is shown as the number of new infections per 100,000 people over a period of seven days. Every day, laboratories, hospitals and doctors – as well as the testing centre in the theatre at Marientor on weekdays – report positive test results to the health authorities. From there, the reports are sent to the Robert Koch Institute (RKI), which publishes the current 7-day incidence rate online under <https://www.rki.de/inzidenzen>.