Fragomen Germany: COVID-19 Crisis Update

Last updated 15 April 2020

BORDER CONTROLS / TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

A. AIR TRAVEL FROM OUTSIDE THE EU INTO GERMANY

The below applies to all travellers arriving in the European Union/Germany from third countries via airplane.

The European Commission recommended the Heads of State or Government of the Schengen Member States to apply a temporary restriction on non-essential travel from third countries into the EU+ area (all Schengen Member States including Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus and Romania as well as the four Schengen Associated States, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland).

The Federal Ministry of the Interior has therefore decided to reintroduce further travel restrictions until 15 May 2020.

Scope

The temporary travel restriction applies to all non-essential travel from third countries to the EU+ area.

Exceptions

Exceptions need to be limited to travel for essential purposes.

The travel restriction must exempt nationals of all EU Member States and Schengen Associated States, for the purposes of returning to their homes and applies to:

- All EU citizens (including UK citizens until the end of 2020) and citizens of the Schengen Associated States, and their family members
- Third-country nationals who are long-term residents under the Long-term Residence Directive and people deriving their right to reside from other EU Directives or national law or who hold national long-term visas who have already resided in Germany (registration at local town hall took place and registration confirmation is available). The travel restriction should also not apply to other travellers with an essential function or need, including:
  - Healthcare professionals, health researchers and elderly care professionals
  - Frontier workers
  - Transport personnel engaged in haulage of goods and other transport staff to the extent necessary
  - Diplomats, staff of international organisations, military personnel and humanitarian aid workers in the exercise of their functions
Passengers in **transit**

- Passengers travelling for **imperative family reasons**
- Someone in need of international protection or for other humanitarian reasons

Third-country nationals that do not meet the above requirements are not allowed to enter. Travellers are asked to carry **proof of the essential purpose** with them when travelling.

Coordinated and reinforced health checks should be carried out for the individuals allowed to enter the EU+ area.

---

**B. AIR TRAVEL TO GERMANY FROM AUSTRIA, DENMARK, FRANCE, ITALY, LUXEMBOURG, SPAIN AND SWITZERLAND, AS WELL AS LAND BORDER CROSSING TO AUSTRIA, DENMARK, FRANCE, LUXEMBOURG AND SWITZERLAND**

The Ministry of the Interior has decided to reintroduce border controls on a temporary basis at internal borders to:

- Austria, Denmark, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Spain and Switzerland
- From 19 March 2020 until 4 May 2020
- Travellers are not allowed to enter Germany without being able to prove an “essential purposes” or that they are part of the exemptions category. “Essential purposes” can be private reasons and will be assessed by the border officer based on the circumstances and exceptional reasons. The border officer’s decision is discretionary.

**Exemptions apply for:**

- Commuters
- German citizens
- EU/EEA/EFTA/UK / Foreign nationals holding a German Permit or registration

If allowed travellers show symptoms of COVID-19 infection, further measures will be discussed with the German health authorities at the border.

Commuters are asked to carry a letter explaining the need to cross the border on a regular basis.

---

**C. QUARANTINE AFTER A STAY ABROAD**

The German government recently introduced recommendations for 14-day quarantine obligation for people re-entering Germany after having spent several days abroad. The Federal States/Bundesländer now have implemented these quarantine regulations. All people crossing the border via air, ship or land crossing need to quarantine for 14 days after arriving in Germany.

These measures take place in addition to the above-mentioned measures.

**Exceptions**

Exceptions would apply to:

- Commuters
- Urgent business travels (e.g. business travellers or service technicians)
- Transport personnel engaged in haulage of goods and other transport staff to the extent necessary
- Passengers in **transit**

As the Federal States/Bundesländer are in charge for the implementation of the regulations, the obligations and rights for people re-entering Germany can differ from Federal State/Bundesland to Federal State/Bundesland. People returning should therefore inform themselves through the website of the specific Federal State/Bundesland or ask Fragomen for further advice.