



Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Weekly Situation Report from the Robert Koch Institute

CALENDAR WEEK 20/2021 - CURRENT STATUS FOR GERMANY

Since 6 March 2021, the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) has been publishing the English version of the COVID-19 situation reports for Germany on a weekly basis. Information on the daily epidemiological situation is available on the RKI's online COVID-19 dashboard. In addition, the RKI's website provides daily situation reports in German, information on vaccination data and from the intensive care registry, as well as other regularly uploaded data. [Information sources as provided at the end of this report].

The following information is provided in this situation report: Overview on the epidemiological situation, demographic distribution of cases, surveys on laboratory tests of SARS-CoV-2 in Germany, and information from additional RKI-based surveillance systems.

– Changes since the last report are marked *blue* in the text –

The current epidemiological situation in Germany

As of 20 May 2021

Confirmed cases		7-day incidence (7-di)			Vaccination monitoring	DIVI-Intensive care register
Total¹	Active cases²	Total population	No. of districts with 7-di > 50/100,000 pop		No. of vaccinations reported in last 24h	Change to previous day for no. of cases currently in ICU
+12,298 (3,626,393)	-5,500 [ca. 181,500]	68 cases/100,000 pop	-24 [293/412]		1st vaccin. + 550,376 2nd vaccin. + 508,685	-114 [3,594]
Recovered³	Deaths	60-79 years	80+ years	No. of districts with 7-di > 100/100,000 pop	Total no. of people vaccinated with one/two vaccine dose/s and share of population	No. of deaths in ICU compared to the previous day
+17.500 (ca. 3,358,000)	+237 (86,902)	38 cases/100,000 pop	28 cases/100,000 pop	-16 [60/412]	N1: 32,178,636 (38,7 %) N2: 10,432,968 (12,5 %)	+110

Note: DIVI = the German intensive and emergency care society. ICU= Intensive Care Unit

As of 20/05/2021, 3,626,393 laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases as well as 86,902 deaths associated with COVID-19 were shared with the RKI. The current national 7-day incidence is 68 cases per 100,000 population.

Since 26/12/2020, a total of 32,178,636 people in Germany have been vaccinated at least once (vaccination uptake 38.7%) and 10,432,968 people have been vaccinated twice against COVID-19 (vaccination uptake 12.5%).

On 20/05/2021 (12:15 PM), 3,594 patients with COVID-19 were in intensive care. +354 patients with COVID-19 were newly admitted. The resulting number of cases under treatment was -114 compared to the prior day. +110 patients with COVID-19 died in ICU since the previous day.

Geographical distribution of cases

Table 1 shows the number of laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19 reported to and validated by the RKI.

Table 1: Number and cumulative incidence (per 100,000 population) of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths for each federal state electronically reported to RKI, Germany (20/05/2021, 12:00 AM). The number of new cases includes positive cases reported to the local health department on the same day as well as on previous days.

Federal State	Cumulative cases			Last 7 days		Cumulative deaths	
	Total number of cases	Number of new cases	Cases/100,000 pop.	Cases in the last 7 days	7-day incidence/100,000 pop.	Number of deaths	Number of deaths/100,000 pop.
Baden-Wuerttemberg	483,056	2,103	4,352	9,079	82	9,780	88
Bavaria	630,509	1,767	4,804	9,032	69	14,699	112
Berlin	176,497	462	4,810	2,067	56	3,416	93
Brandenburg	107,234	307	4,252	1,296	51	3,690	146
Bremen	26,716	91	3,922	380	56	470	69
Hamburg	75,334	190	4,078	648	35	1,541	83
Hesse	281,797	1,046	4,481	4,729	75	7,189	114
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania	43,330	108	2,694	757	47	1,094	68
Lower Saxony	254,251	932	3,181	3,722	47	5,529	69
North Rhine-Westphalia	792,263	2,642	4,414	13,472	75	16,408	91
Rhineland-Palatinate	150,197	540	3,669	2,552	62	3,672	90
Saarland	40,017	147	4,055	772	78	988	100
Saxony	280,262	1,035	6,883	3,481	85	9,483	233
Saxony-Anhalt	97,127	275	4,425	1,380	63	3,252	148
Schleswig-Holstein	62,122	174	2,139	913	31	1,571	54
Thuringia	125,681	479	5,891	2,278	107	4,120	193
Total	3,626,393	12,298	4,360	56,558	68	86,902	104

Note: Quality checks and data cleaning by the health authorities and regional offices can lead to corrections to cases that were previously shared with RKI, such as retrospective detection of duplicate reports. This can occasionally lead to a slight reduction in the number of new cases.

Demographic distribution of cases

The age-specific 7-day incidence is shown using a heat map (Figure 1). Age-specific case numbers and age-specific 7-day incidences can be accessed through the following link: www.rki.de/covid-19-altersverteilung.

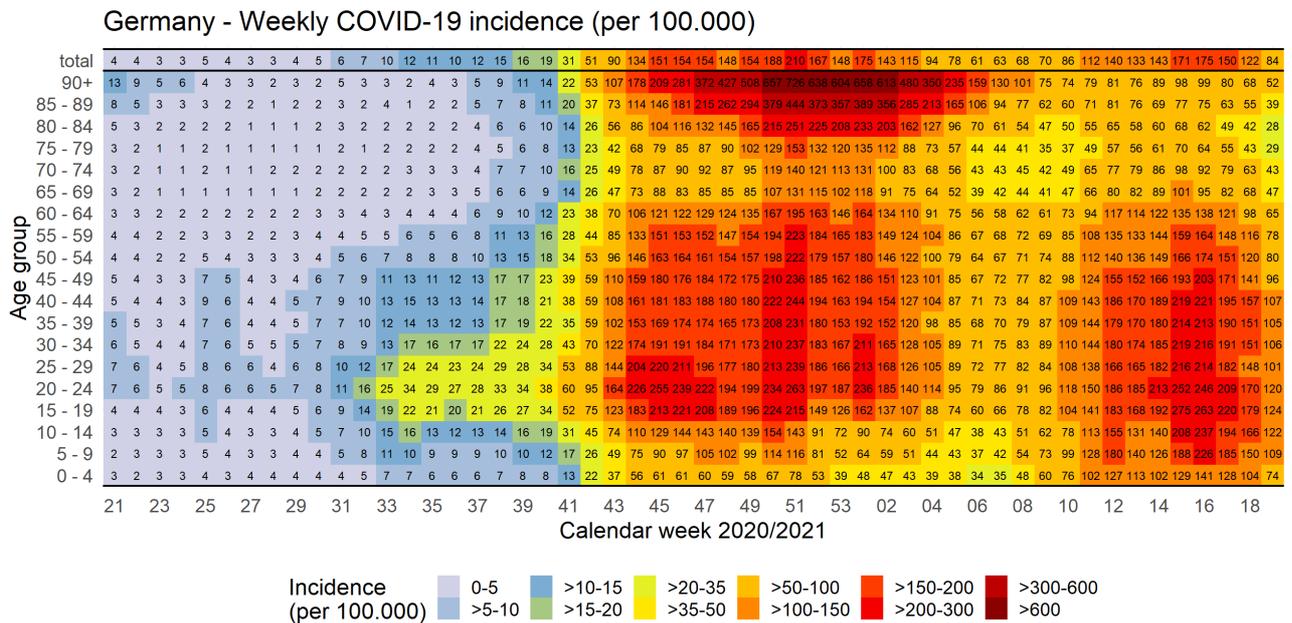


Figure 1: 7-day-incidence of reported COVID-19 cases by age group and reporting week (n=3,424,599 cases with respective data in the weeks 21 to 53, 2020, and weeks 01-19, 2021 (as of 18/05/2021, 12:00 AM). Data source: The mandatory surveillance system according to the German Data Protection Act.

Figure 2 shows the total number of cases with or without COVID-19-relevant symptoms as well as the proportion of hospitalised and deceased cases. Since deaths occur on average 2-3 weeks after infection, additional reports of deaths are expected for the most recent three weeks. The data used for this figure can be accessed through the following link: www.rki.de/covid-19-tabelle-klinische-aspekte.

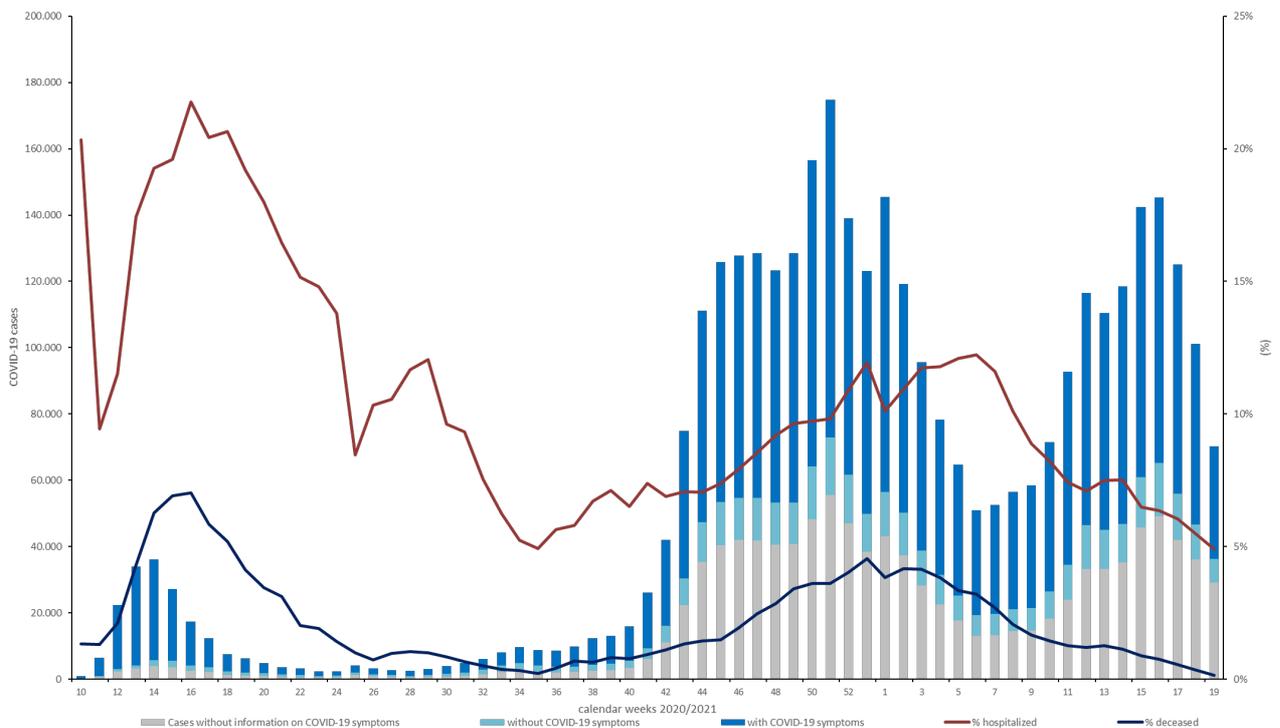


Figure 2: COVID-19 cases with or without COVID-19-relevant symptoms and the proportion of deceased and hospitalised cases for the weeks 10-53, 2020 and weeks 01-19, 2021 (18/05/2021, 12:00 AM). These numbers/proportions may change as a result of delays to reporting and data corrections. Data source: The mandatory surveillance system according to the German Data Protection Act.

Note: This report is a current snapshot and is updated on a weekly base.

Figure 3 shows the reported deaths associated with COVID-19 by calendar week according to the date of death. For recent weeks, further reports of deaths among reported cases can be expected.

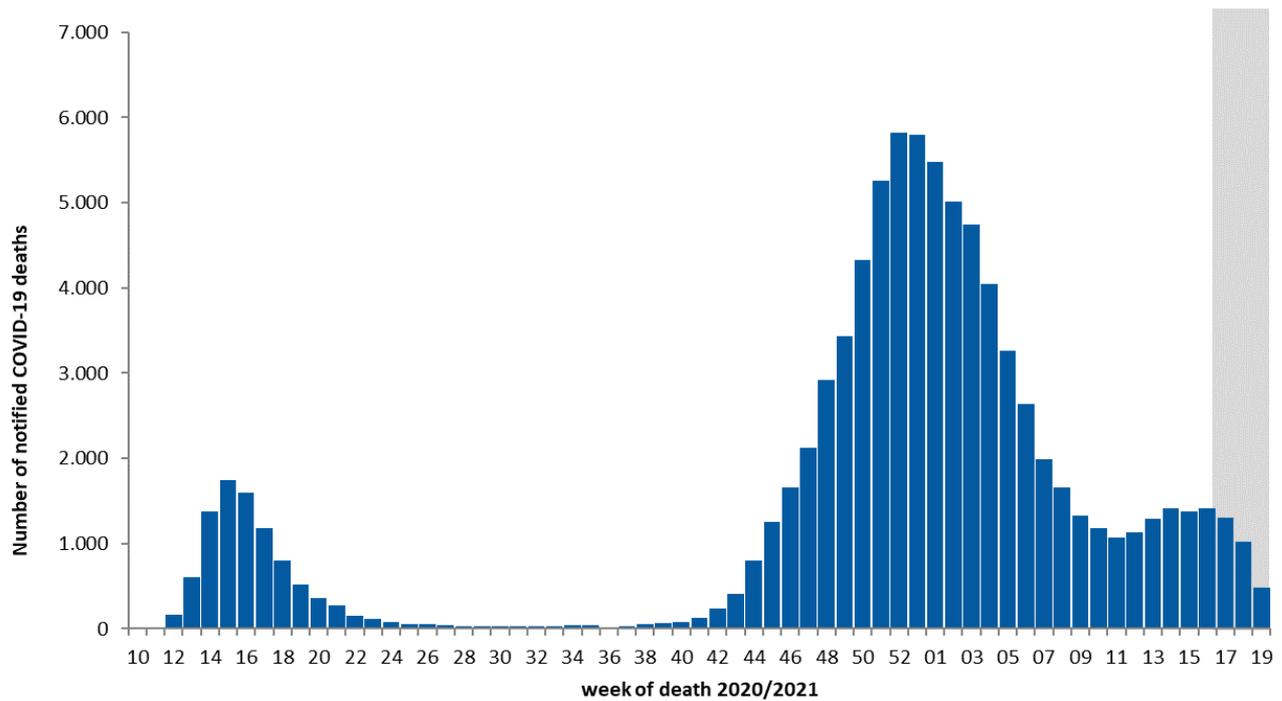


Figure 3: Number of reported deaths associated with COVID-19 according to week of death for the reporting weeks 10-53, 2020, and weeks 01-19, 2021 (18/05/2021, 12:00 AM). Further reports of deaths are expected for weeks 17-19/2021.

Information on SARS-CoV-2 laboratory tests in Germany

The RKI assesses the number of PCR tests for SARS-CoV-2 carried out in Germany on a weekly basis by merging data from university hospitals, research institutions as well as clinical and outpatient laboratories throughout Germany. These data are shared voluntarily with the RKI from the following sources: An internet-based RKI test laboratory survey, the network for respiratory viruses (RespVir), the laboratory-based SARS-CoV-2 surveillance established at the RKI (an extension of the Antibiotic Resistance Surveillance (ARS)), and the enquiry of a professional association of laboratory medicine.

Table 2 shows the number of tests, the proportion of positive tests, as well as the number of reporting laboratories since the start of testing in Germany. Since laboratories can register and correct the tests from previous calendar weeks at a later date, it is possible that the ascertained numbers can change retrospectively. It should be noted that the number of tests is not the same as the number of people tested, since the data may include multiple tests from the same individuals within a time period of a few weeks (Table 2). Complete data since the beginning of testing are available through the following link:

<http://www.rki.de/covid-19-testzahlen> (in German). The current testing criteria can be found through the following link: www.rki.de/covid-19-testkriterien (in German).

Table 2: Number of SARS-CoV-2-laboratory tests carried out in Germany (as of 18/05/2021 12:00 PM)

Calendar week	Number of tests	Positive tests	Proportion positive (%)	Number of reporting laboratories
Up to & incl. week calendar week 7/2021	46,361,014	2,763,828		
10/2021	1,280,050	85,655	6.69	215
11/2021	1,367,247	107,827	7.89	209
12/2021	1,415,220	131,857	9.32	206
13/2021	1,178,378	128,814	10.93	207
14/2021	1,169,510	140,935	12.05	209
15/2021	1,312,602	163,464	12.45	210
16/2021	1,427,509	177,250	12.42	211
17/2021	1,360,792	152,086	11.18	210
18/2021	1,242,437	127,733	10.28	207
19/2021	1,082,880	89,408	8.26	204
Total	59,197,639	4,068,857		

Information from additional RKI-based surveillance systems on acute respiratory illnesses

GrippeWeb (“FluWeb”) is a platform at RKI for monitoring the activity of acute respiratory illness (ARI) within the population in Germany. In **week 19, 2021**, the total ARI rate **remained stable**. The ARI rate **increased** in children 5 to 14 years, but **remained stable or decreased in all other age groups**. The total ARI rate is **similar to the low values** seen during 2020. Further information can be found through the following link: <https://grippeweb.rki.de/>.

The Influenza Working Group (AGI) monitors ARI through a sentinel primary care network. In **week 19, 2021**, the total number of patient visits (consultations) due to ARI (ARI consultation rate) decreased **substantially**. The ARI consultation rate decreased in all age groups. Through virological surveillance of the AGI, respiratory viruses were detected in **37 of 80** sentinel samples (**46%**) in **week 19, 2021**. Among those, human seasonal coronavirus (hCoV) was found in **23 (29%)** samples, rhinovirus in **10 (13%)** samples, SARS-CoV-2 in **four (5%)** samples and Parainfluenzavirus was found in **one (1%)** sample. Further national and regional information can be found through the following links: <https://influenza.rki.de/> and <https://influenza.rki.de/Diagrams.aspx?agiRegion=0>.

A third ICD-10 code-based system monitors severe acute respiratory illness (SARI) in newly hospitalised patients (ICD-10 codes J09 to J22: primary diagnoses of influenza, pneumonia or other acute infections of the lower respiratory tract). The total number of SARI cases **decreased substantially** in **week 18, 2021**, **especially in age groups above 14 years**. **Despite the decrease, the number of SARI cases in the age group 35 to 59 years was considerably higher than in previous years**. Of all reported SARI cases in **week 18, 2021**, **55%** were diagnosed with COVID-19 (ICD-10 code U07.1!) (Figure 4). Please note that due to data availability, only patients with an ICD-10 Code for SARI as the main diagnosis and hospitalisation duration of up to one week were included in this analysis.

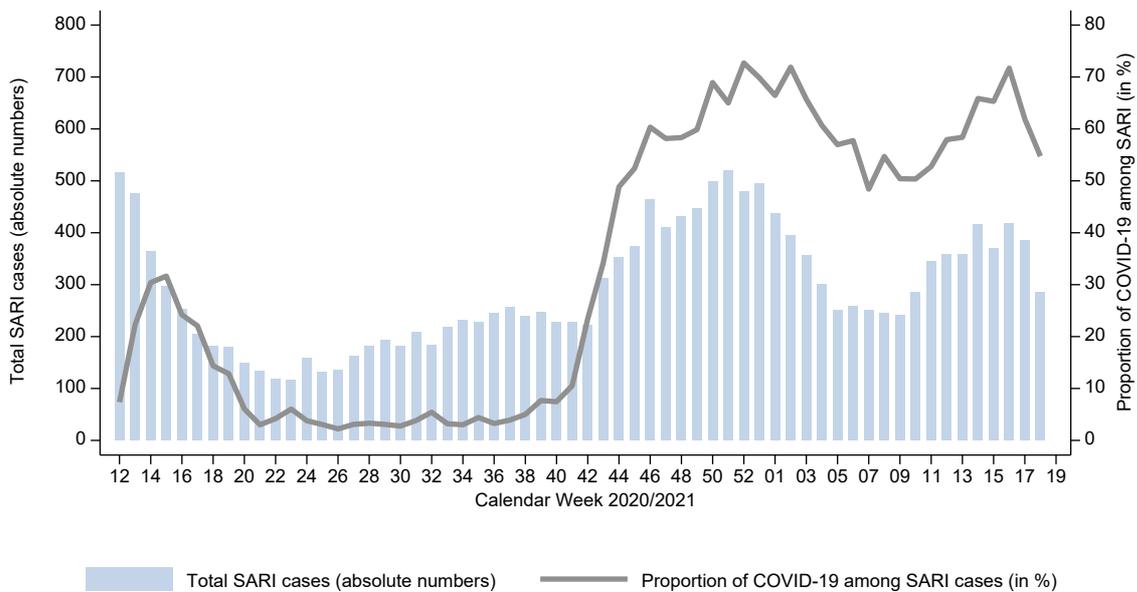


Figure 4: Weekly number of newly hospitalised SARI cases (ICD-10 codes J09-J22) and proportion of cases with a diagnosis of COVID-19 (ICD-10 code U07.1!) among SARI cases with duration of hospitalisation of up to one week and with date of admission in weeks 12, 2020 to 18, 2021. Data are derived from 71 sentinel hospitals.

Risk Assessment by the RKI

In view of the, [despite the recent decrease in case numbers](#), high case numbers of COVID-19 and the concerning dynamic of the SARS-CoV-2 variant distribution, the RKI assesses the threat to the health of the general population in Germany to be **still very high**. It highlights the ongoing community transmission of SARS-CoV-2 as well as the occurrence of many outbreaks, particularly in households, day-care facilities for children and increasingly in schools, as well as in occupational settings.

In light of the increase in variants of concern (VOC), which have higher infectiousness, a rigorous reduction of physical contacts, use of protective measures, as well as intensive efforts to contain outbreaks and chains of infections are necessary to reduce the number of new infections and to protect people who are vulnerable.

On **19/05/2021**, the risk assessment was updated. The current version can be found through the following link: <http://www.rki.de/covid-19-risikobewertung> (in German).

Measures taken in Germany

- 10th Report on variants of concern (VOC) in Germany (19/05/2021, in German)
https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/DESH/Bericht_VOC_2021-05-19.pdf?__blob=publicationFile
- Eight simple tips for daily life during the coronavirus pandemic (in different languages, 17/05/2021)
https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Buerger/Infografik_Tipps_Alltag.html
- Fact box: How safe and effective are COVID-19 mRNA vaccines for adults under the age of 60? (in different languages, 17/05/2021)
<https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/Infekt/Impfen/ImpfungenAZ/COVID-19/Faktenbox-Tab.html>
- Risk assessment in Germany: <http://www.rki.de/covid-19-risikobewertung> (19/05/2021, in German)
- Information on the designation of international risk areas: <http://www.rki.de/covid-19-risikogebiete> (14/05/2021, in German)
- Recommendation for contact management in Germany: www.rki.de/covid-19-kontaktpersonen (20/05/2021, in German)
- Epidemiological profile of SARS-CoV-2 und COVID-19: <http://www.rki.de/covid-19-steckbrief> (19/04/2021, in German)
- Information about seroepidemiological studies in Germany: www.rki.de/covid-19-serostudies-germany (20/04/2021)
- German electronic Sequencing-Data-Hub (DESH, Deutscher elektronischer Sequenzdaten-Hub, in German): www.rki.de/covid-19-desh
- Recommendations on COVID-19-vaccination: www.rki.de/covid-19-impfempfehlung (in German)
- Government decisions regarding additional containment measures:
<https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/themen/coronavirus/mpk-beschluss-corona-1834364> (in German)
- National Test Strategy for SARS-CoV-2 in Germany: www.rki.de/covid-19-teststrategie (in German)
- Important information and guidance on SARS-CoV-2 for travellers: www.rki.de/covid-19-reisende (12/05/2021, in different languages)
- Selected and regularly updated information on COVID-19: <https://www.rki.de/covid-19-en>
- Publication from the Ministry of Health in Germany on all measures implemented in Germany since 27/01/2020 : <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/coronavirus/chronik-coronavirus.html> (in German)
- Information from the Ministry of Health in Germany for travellers entering Germany: Frequently asked questions and answers : <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/coronavirus-infos-reisende/faq-tests-einreisende.html> (in German)
- Corona-Warn-App, the national contact tracing app: www.rki.de/covid-19-warnapp-en
- Information on regional control measure regulations such as physical distancing and quarantine: <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/themen/coronavirus/corona-bundeslaender-1745198> (in German)

Further information sources

- Information on COVID-19 provided the German government in multiple languages (Arabic, Dari, English, Farsi, French, Russian, Turkish): <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/themen/coronavirus/coronavirus-covid>
- COVID-19-Dashboard: <https://corona.rki.de/>
- Miscellaneous data tables:
 - Case numbers: www.rki.de/covid-19-fallzahlen
 - Age distribution: www.rki.de/covid-19-altersverteilung
 - Clinical aspects: www.rki.de/covid-19-tabelle-klinische-aspekte
 - Number of cases linked to outbreaks: www.rki.de/covid-19-ausbruchsdaten
 - Nowcasting: www.rki.de/covid-19-nowcasting
- Situation reports on COVID-19 for Germany: www.rki.de/covid-19-situationsbericht
- Information on vaccinations in Germany:
 - <http://www.rki.de/covid-19-impfquoten>
 - <https://impfdashboard.de/>
- Intensive care registry: <https://www.intensivregister.de>
- Report on SARS-CoV-2 variants in Germany, particularly VOC B.1.1.7_ www.rki.de/covid-19-voc-berichte

Annex

- ¹ The difference to the previous day is based on the date that cases are received by the RKI. Due to delays in data sharing, cases from previous days may be included in today's numbers.
- ² Active cases were calculated from the number of shared cases minus deaths and the estimated number of recovered cases.
- ³ The algorithm for estimating recovered cases takes into account information on disease onset and hospitalisation, but does not do so for late effects since these data are not recorded regularly.