



Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Weekly Situation Report from the Robert Koch Institute

CALENDAR WEEK 21/2021 - 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 27 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
+6,313 (3,662,490)	-5,600 [ca. 124,100]	41 cases/100,000 pop	-42 [293/412]		1st vaccin. + 456,833 2nd vaccin. + 678,826	-166 [2,836]
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
+11.600 (ca. 3,450,400)	+269 (87,995)	21 cases/100,000 pop	16 cases/100,000 pop	-7 [8/412]	N1: 34,305,216 (41.2%) N2: 13,053,626 (15.7%)	+ 65

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

As of 27/05/2021, 3,662,490 laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases as well as 87,995 deaths associated with COVID-19 were shared with the RKI. The current national 7-day incidence is 41 cases per 100,000 population.

Since 26/12/2020, a total of 34,305,216 people in Germany have been vaccinated at least once (vaccination uptake 41.2%) and 13,053,626 people have been vaccinated twice against COVID-19 (vaccination uptake 15.7%).

On 20/05/2021 (12:15 PM), 2,836 patients with COVID-19 were in intensive care. +116 patients with COVID-19 were newly admitted. The resulting number of cases under treatment was -116 compared to the prior day. +65 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 (27/05/2021, 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	489,136	1,000	4,406	5,708	51	9,893	89
Bavaria	636,237	1,018	4,848	5,355	41	14,893	113
Berlin	177,655	120	4,841	1,252	34	3,460	94
Brandenburg	107,911	88	4,279	683	27	3,710	147
Bremen	26,935	35	3,954	226	33	473	69
Hamburg	75,932	76	4,111	469	25	1,548	84
Hesse	284,916	797	4,531	3,136	50	7,282	116
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania	43,700	80	2,717	359	22	1,116	69
Lower Saxony	256,768	434	3,212	2,231	28	5,584	70
North Rhine-Westphalia	800,759	1,469	4,462	8,290	46	16,639	93
Rhineland-Palatinate	151,909	262	3,711	1,616	39	3,716	91
Saarland	40,542	63	4,108	533	54	1,003	102
Saxony	282,413	393	6,936	1,604	39	9,612	236
Saxony-Anhalt	97,958	124	4,463	764	35	3,304	151
Schleswig-Holstein	62,760	104	2,161	632	22	1,586	55
Thuringia	126,959	250	5,951	1,258	59	4,176	196
Total	3,662,490	6,313	4,404	34,116	41	87,995	106

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.

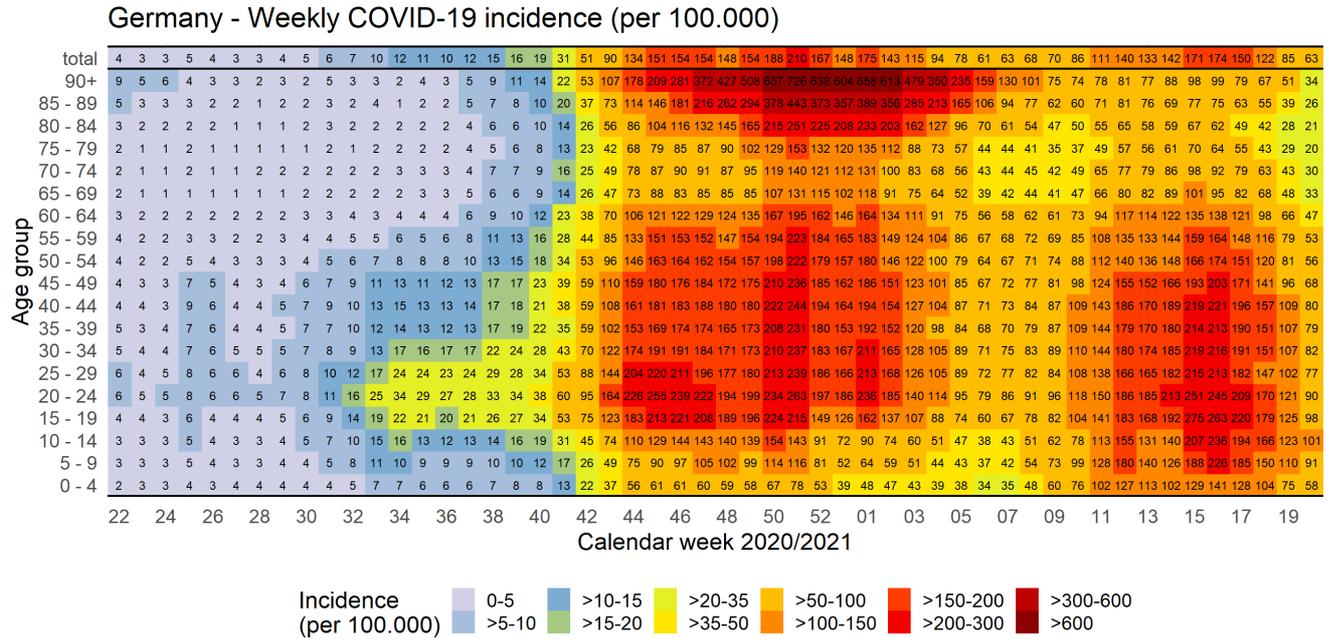


Figure 1: 7-day-incidence of reported COVID-19 cases by age group and reporting week (n=3,473,339 cases with respective data in the weeks 22 to 53, 2020, and weeks 01-20, 2021 (as of 25/05/2021, 12:00 AM). Data source: The mandatory surveillance system according to the German Data Protection Act.

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.

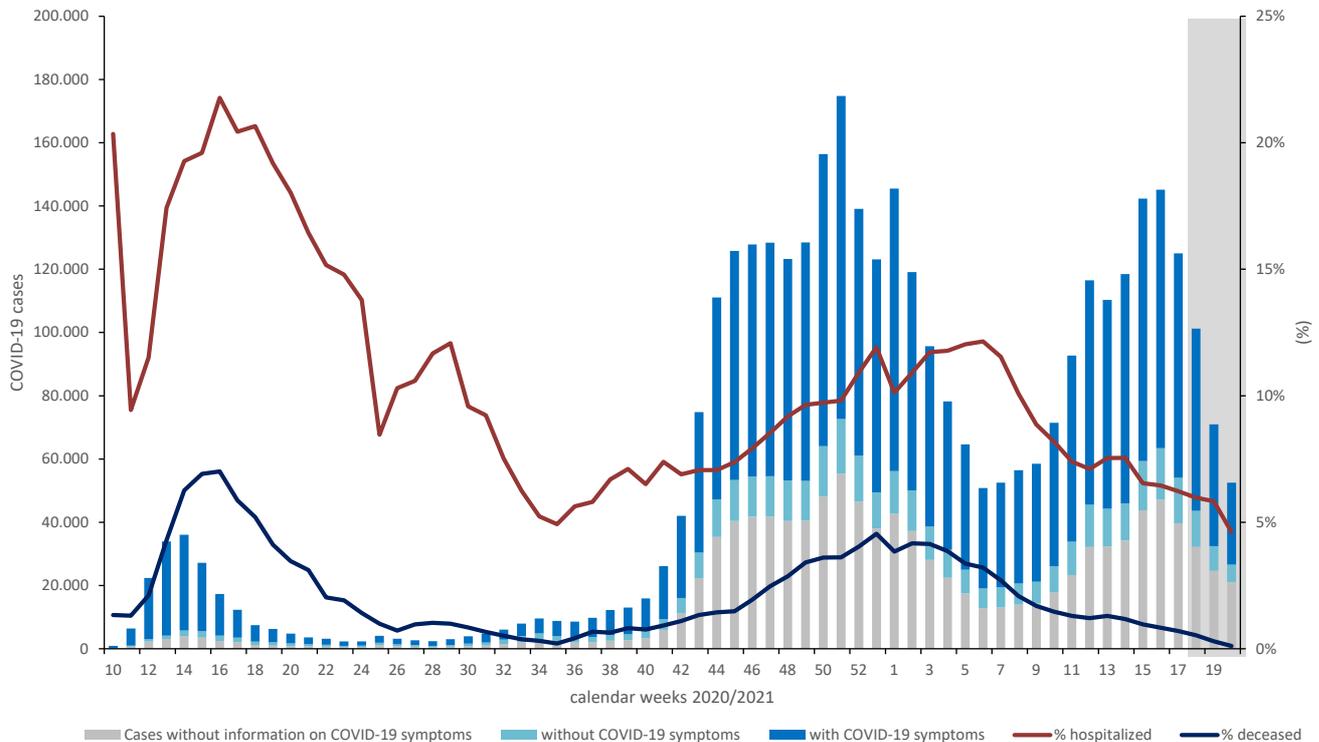


Figure 2: COVID-19 cases with or without COVID-19-relevant symptoms and the proportion of deceased and hospitalised cases for the weeks 10-53, 2020 and weeks 01-20, 2021 (25/05/2021, 12:00 AM). These numbers/proportions may change as a result of delays to reporting and data corrections. Data source: 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.

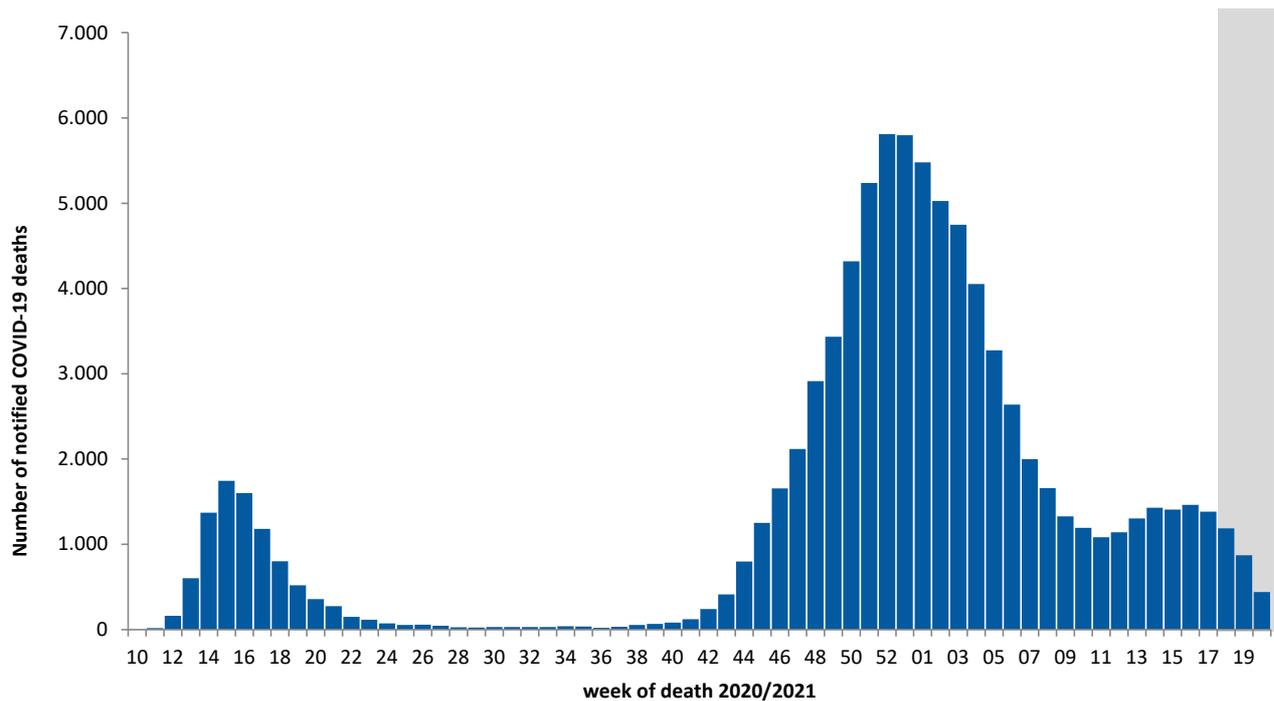


Figure 3: Number of reported deaths associated with COVID-19 according to week of death for the reporting weeks 10-53, 2020, and weeks 01-20, 2021 (25/05/2021, 12:00 AM). Further reports of deaths are expected for weeks 18-20/2021.

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 25/05/2021 12:00 PM)

Calendar week	Number of tests	Positive tests	Proportion positive (%)	Number of reporting laboratories
Up to & incl. week calendar week 10/2021	47,641,064	2,849,483		
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	1,427,668	177,251	12.42	212
17/2021	1,360,960	152,086	11.17	211
18/2021	1,251,817	128,624	10.27	210
19/2021	1,088,421	89,900	8.26	207
20/2021	1,195,684	69,547	5.82	197
Total	60,408,571	4,139,788		

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 20, 2021**, the total ARI rate **increased in children (0 to 14 years) as well as in adults (above 14 years)**. 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 20, 2021**, the total number of patient visits (consultations) due to ARI (ARI consultation rate) **increased**. The ARI consultation rate **increased** in all age groups. Through virological surveillance of the AGI, respiratory viruses were detected in **52 of 113 sentinel samples (46%)** in **week 20, 2021**. Among those, human seasonal coronavirus (hCoV) was found in **27 (24%)** samples, rhinovirus in **16 (14%)** samples, Parainfluenzavirus in **eight (7%)** samples and SARS-CoV-2 was found in **three (3%)** samples. 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 **slightly** in **week 19, 2021, mainly in age groups between 15 and 79 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 19, 2021, 49%** 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.

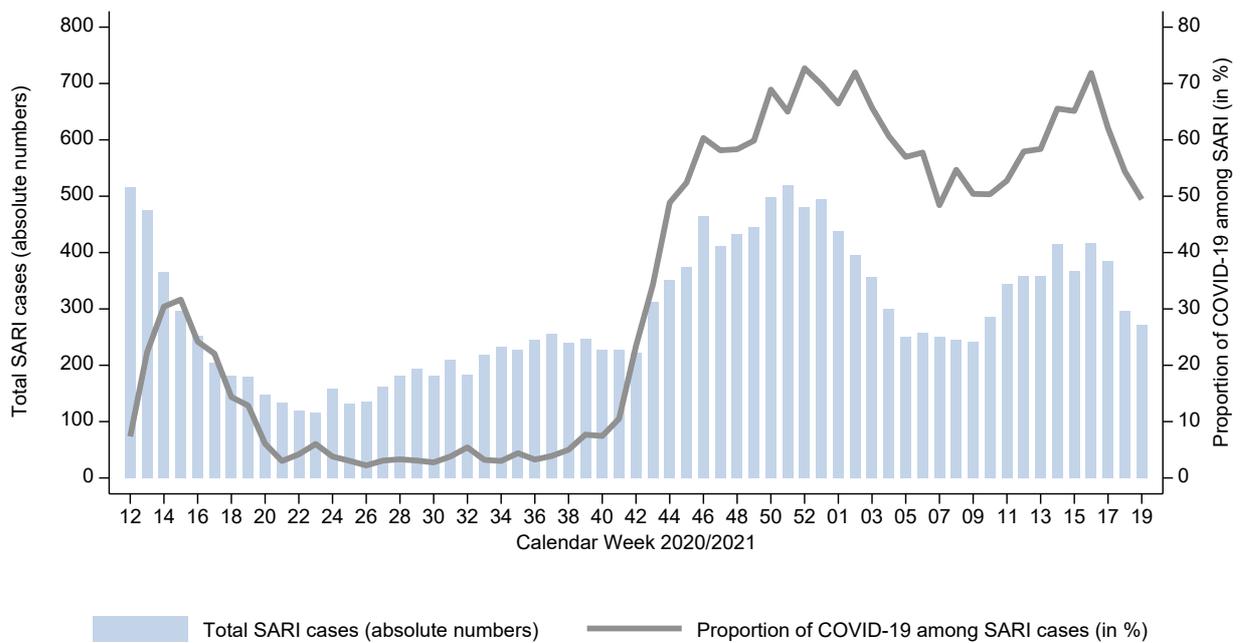


Figure 4: Weekly number of newly hospitalised SARI cases (ICD-10 codes J09-J22) and proportion of cases with a diagnosis of COVID-19 (ICD-10 code U07.1!) among SARI cases with duration of hospitalisation of up to one week and with date of admission in weeks 12, 2020 to 19, 2021. Data are derived from 72 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 26/05/2021, 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 (26/05/2021, 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.