



Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Daily Situation Report of the Robert Koch Institute

04/10/2020 - UPDATED STATUS FOR GERMANY

Total (cumulative)		Previous 7 days	
Confirmed cases	Deaths	Confirmed cases	7-day incidence
299,237 (+2,279*)	9,529 (+2*)	13,452 (+498*)	16.2 cases/ 100,000 population
Proportion of deaths	Recovered	No. of districts reporting cases	No. of districts with 7- day incidence > 50
3.2 %	ca. 261,900** (+1,000**)	402/412 (-2*)	6 (+2*)

**Change from previous day; **Estimate*

COVID-19 cases are notified to the local public health department in the respective districts, in accordance with the German Protection against Infection Act (IfSG). The data are further transmitted through the respective federal state health authority to the Robert Koch Institute (RKI). This situation report presents the uniformly recorded nationwide data on laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases transmitted to RKI.

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

Summary (as of 04/10/2020, 12:00 AM)

- After a temporary stabilisation of case numbers at a higher level, a further increase in reported COVID-19 cases is currently evident in the population of Germany. It is therefore still necessary for the entire population to commit itself to infection prevention and control.
- The nationwide incidence over the past 7 days was **16.2** cases per 100,000 population. The 7-day incidence exceeded 50 cases/100,000 population in **6** districts: the city of Hamm, the city of Remscheid, the districts of Berlin Mitte, Berlin Neukölln, **Berlin Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg and the district of Vechta**. In a further **42** districts, it exceeded 25 cases/100,000 population.
- The 7-day incidence in Berlin and Bremen is considerably higher, in North Rhine-Westphalia and Hamburg moderately higher, and in Hesse slightly higher than the national mean 7-day incidence.
- In total, **299,237** laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and **9,529** deaths associated with COVID-19 have been electronically transmitted to the RKI in Germany.
- A large number of COVID-19-related outbreaks continue to be reported in various settings. Case clusters are being reported particularly in the context of religious or family events, in nursing homes and hospitals, facilities for asylum-seekers and refugees, community facilities, various occupational settings, and among travellers.

Epidemiological Situation in Germany

In accordance with the international standards of WHO¹ and ECDC², RKI considers all laboratory confirmations of SARS-CoV-2, irrespective of the presence and severity of clinical symptoms, as COVID-19 cases. Thus, in the following report the term "COVID-19 cases" covers acute SARS-CoV-2 infections as well as cases of COVID-19 disease.

General current assessment

After a temporary stabilisation of case numbers at a higher level in late August and early September, further increase is currently observed in the population in some federal states. The proportion of COVID-19 cases in the older age groups is currently slightly increasing, while the proportion of cases among travel returnees is decreasing since calendar week 34. The R-value has been predominantly slightly greater than 1 since the beginning of September.

There are outbreaks in various districts throughout Germany, which are associated with different situations, including large celebrations in the family and circle of friends, in occupational and religious settings, or, especially in cases among younger people, outbreaks originating from travel returnees. The current development must be further carefully monitored.

Since calendar week 30, the proportion of deaths among COVID-19 cases has been consistently below 1% and is thus markedly lower than among cases in the spring, particularly in April. It is unlikely that the virus has changed to become less pathogenic. Rather, the low proportion of deaths can be explained as follows: On the one hand, recent infections have occurred mainly among young people, who rarely experience a severe course of disease. On the other hand there is also broader testing, which means more milder cases are identified. Additionally, as the number of cases increases, the true proportion of severe courses of disease and deaths only becomes apparent sometime after diagnosis. If the trend continues and elderly and vulnerable people are increasingly infected with SARS-CoV-2, an increase in hospitalisations and deaths is to be expected. Severe cases and deaths can only be prevented through decreased transmission of SARS-CoV-2.

It is therefore still necessary for the entire population to be committed to infection prevention and control, e.g. by consistently observing rules of distance and hygiene - also outdoors -, by ventilating indoor spaces and, where indicated, by wearing a community mask correctly. Crowds of people - especially indoors - should be avoided if possible and celebrations should be limited to the closest circle of family and friends.

¹ World Health Organization, https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-Surveillance_Case_Definition-2020.1

² European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/covid-19/surveillance/case-definition>

Geographical distribution of cases

Epidemiological analyses are based on validated cases notified electronically to the RKI in line with the Protection Against Infection Law (Data closure: 12:00 AM daily). Since January 2020, a total of **299,237 (+2,279)** laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been electronically reported to and validated by the RKI (Table 1). A total of **10** districts reported no cases in the past 7 days; however on 16/06/2020 a total of 139 districts reported zero cases.

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 (04/10/2020, 12:00 AM). The number of new cases includes positive cases notified to the local health department at the same day, but also at previous days.

Federal State	Total number of cases	Number of new cases	Cases/100,000 pop.	Cases in the last 7 days	7-day incidence per 100,000 pop.	Number of deaths	Number of deaths/100,000 pop.
Baden-Wuerttemberg	50,763	523	459	1,732	15.6	1,888	17.1
Bavaria	69,486	300	531	2,108	16.1	2,671	20.4
Berlin	15,574	203	416	1,374	36.7	231	6.2
Brandenburg	4,393	24	175	158	6.3	169	6.7
Bremen	2,598	41	380	234	34.3	59	8.6
Hamburg	8,176	112	444	428	23.2	272	14.8
Hesse	19,788	172	316	1,160	18.5	552	8.8
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania*	1,220	0	76	59	3.7	20	1.2
Lower Saxony	20,954	177	263	953	11.9	690	8.6
North Rhine-Westphalia	72,581	518	405	3,905	21.8	1,884	10.5
Rhineland-Palatinate	11,015	40	270	458	11.2	256	6.3
Saarland*	3,380	0	341	83	8.4	177	17.9
Saxony	7,459	68	183	300	7.4	239	5.9
Saxony-Anhalt	2,736	43	124	131	5.9	68	3.1
Schleswig-Holstein	4,914	16	170	226	7.8	162	5.6
Thuringia	4,200	42	196	143	6.7	191	8.9
Total	299,237	2,279	360	13,452	16.2	9,529	11.5

Quality checks and data cleaning by the health authorities and regional offices can lead to corrections to cases previously transmitted (e.g. detection of duplicate reports). This can occasionally lead to negative values for the number of new cases.

*No cases were transmitted from Baden-Wuerttemberg and Saarland yesterday.

Distribution of cases over time

The first COVID-19 cases in Germany were notified in January 2020. Figure 1 shows COVID-19 cases transmitted to RKI according to date of illness onset from 01/03/2020 onwards. Of these cases, the onset of symptoms is unknown for 112.736 cases (38%), thus their date of reporting is provided.

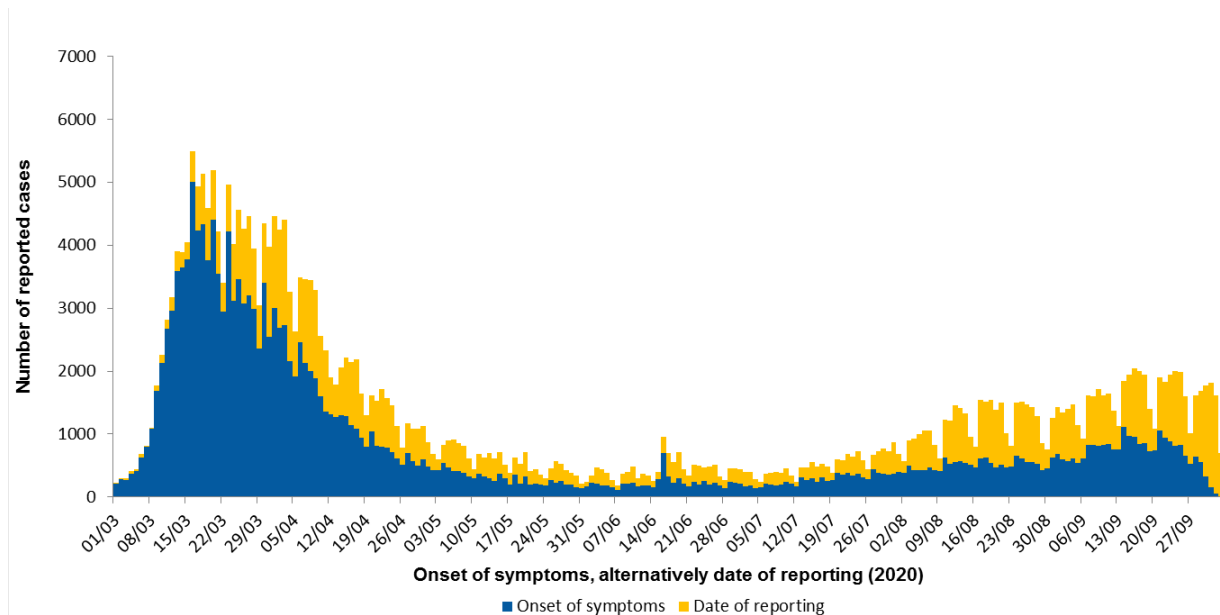


Figure 1: Number of COVID-19 cases in Germany electronically reported to the RKI by the date of symptoms onset or – if unknown – alternatively by date of reporting since 01/03/2020 (04/10/2020, 12:00 AM).

Occupation, accommodation or care in facilities

In accordance with the Protection Against Infection Act (Infektionsschutzgesetz, IfSG), the RKI receives information on occupation, accommodation or care in a facility relevant for infection control for reported COVID-19 cases. Since information on occupation, accommodation or care in these facilities is missing in 26% of cases; the numbers of cases working, accommodated or cared for in these facilities reported here should be considered minimum values. Among the COVID-19 cases reported from the above mentioned facilities, the proportion of cases that actually acquired their infection in these facilities is unknown.

The number of COVID-19 cases was highest among persons cared for or employed in care facilities according to § 36 IfSG and among persons employed in medical facilities according to § 23 IfSG (Table 2). The number of deaths was particularly high among persons cared for in these facilities.

Among the cases reported as working in medical facilities (§ 23 IfSG), 73% were female and 27% male. Their median age was 40 years. The high number of cases among people cared for or working in various care facilities (§ 36 IfSG) is consistent with numerous reported outbreaks, especially in nursing homes. The high number of cases among persons working in the food sector (§ 42 IfSG) is largely due to outbreaks in meat processing plants.

Table 2: Notified COVID-19-cases according to possible occupation, accommodation or care in facilities relevant for transmission of infectious diseases according to the Protection Against Infection Act (IfSG), reported to RKI (297,072* cases, no data available for 78,875 cases; 04/10/2020, 12:00 AM)

Facility according to		Total	Hospitalised	Deaths	Recovered (estimate)
§ 23 IfSG (e.g. hospitals, outpatient clinics and practices, dialysis clinics or outpatient nursing services)	Cared for / accommodated in facility	4,329	2,989	702	3,400
	Occupation in facility	16,470	705	23	16,000
§ 33 IfSG (e.g. day care facilities, kindergartens, facilities for after school care, schools or other educational facilities, children's homes, holiday camps)	Cared for / accommodated in facility*	9,777	139	1	8,500
	Occupation in facility	4,738	200	8	4,300
§ 36 IfSG (e.g. facilities for the care of older, disabled, or other persons in need of care, homeless shelters, community facilities for asylum-seekers, repatriates and refugees as well as other mass accommodation and prisons)	Cared for / accommodated in facility	20,407	4,439	3,723	16,100
	Occupation in facility	11,346	480	41	11,000
§ 42 IfSG (e.g. meat processing plants or kitchens in the catering trade, in inns, restaurants, canteens, cafés, or other establishments with or for communal catering)	Occupation in facility	6,396	265	5	6,100
Neither cared for, accommodated in nor working in a facility		144,734	19,225	3,696	131,300

*for care according to § 33 IfSG only cases under 18 years of age are taken into account, as other information may be assumed to be incorrect. Due to changes in data registration, not all data entries for cases ascertained in the most recent version of the surveillance software could be taken into account. This will be corrected in the coming days.

Outbreaks

An increased incidence of >25 cases in 7 days/100,000 population was reported from 48 districts, including the city of Hamm, the city of Remscheid, the districts of Berlin Mitte, Berlin Neukölln, Berlin Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg and the district of Vechta with 7-day incidences of >50 cases/100,000 population.

The increased incidence in the city of Hamm is largely due to about 200 cases in connection with a wedding. More than 300 identified guests were tested and are under quarantine (<https://www.hamm.de/corona>). Stricter distancing measures have been implemented in Hamm (<https://www.hamm.de/aktuelles/weitere-corona-massnahmen-beschlossen>).

The increased incidence in Berlin Neukölln and Berlin Mitte is due to more diffuse transmission, including spread among young and international travellers and party guests, who contracted the infection during travel or at parties and subsequently infected household members and family. In the district of Berlin Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg a 7-day incidence of >50 cases/100,000 population since the 04.10.2020 was reported as well.

In the district of Vechta a 7-day-incidence of >50 cases/100,000 population was reported with 50 cases linked to an outbreak in a long-term care facility (<https://www.landkreis-vechta.de/nc/service/aktuelles/pressemitteilungen/einzelansicht/news/50-infektionen-gemeldet-corona-ausbruch-in-vechtaer-pflegeheim.html>).

In the city of Remscheid the high incidence is primarily due to smaller outbreaks in day care centres and schools with spread to outside contacts. Stricter control measures have been implemented (https://remscheid.de/corona#chapter146380100000143530-1015_sp_main_iterate_1_0).

Currently, COVID-19 cases are predominantly due to transmission at family and other private events. The proportion of travel returnees among the cases is decreasing. The number of COVID-19-related outbreaks reported in nursing homes, hospitals, facilities for asylum seekers and refugees, community facilities, various occupational settings and in connection with religious events has increased.

Estimation of the reproduction number (R)

The reproduction number, R, is defined as the mean number of people infected by one infected person. R can only be estimated based on statistical analyses such as nowcasting (Figure 2) and not directly extracted from the notification system.

4-day R-value	7-day R-value
1.23	1.14
(95%-prediction interval: 0.98 – 1.53)	(95%-prediction interval: 1.00 – 1.29)

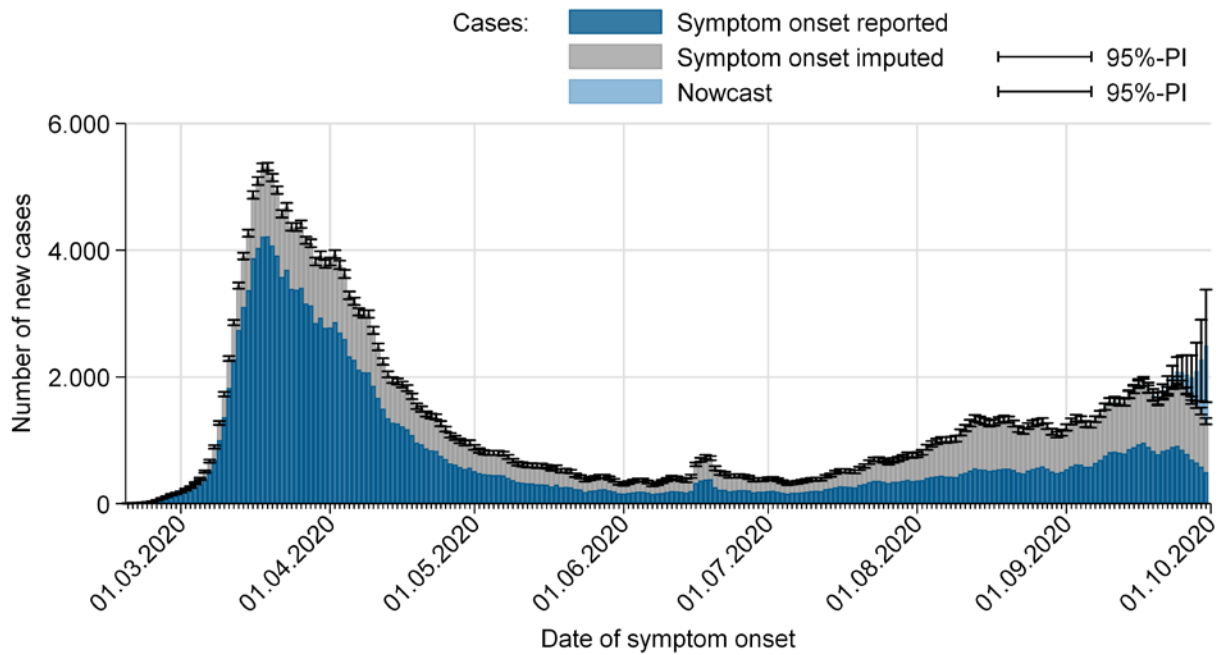


Figure 2: Number of notified COVID-19 cases with known date of illness onset (dark blue), estimated date of illness onset for cases without reported date of onset (grey) and estimated number of not yet notified cases according to illness onset electronically reported to RKI (light blue) (as of 04/10/2020, 12 AM, taking into account cases up to 30/09/2020).

The reported R values have been predominantly greater than 1 since the second week in September.

Sample calculations as well as an excel sheet presenting both R-values with daily updates can be found under www.rki.de/covid-19-nowcasting. A detailed description of the methodology is available at https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/Infekt/EpidBull/Archiv/2020/17/Art_02.html (Epid. Bull. 17 | 2020 from 23/04/2020).

Risk Assessment by the RKI

In view of the recent further increase in case numbers, the risk assessment of the RKI was adapted to the epidemiologic situation on 18/09/2020. The current version can be found here: [Risk assessment for COVID-19](#)

Measures taken in Germany

- Selected and regularly updated information on COVID-19 in English
<https://www.rki.de/EN/Content/infections/epidemiology/outbreaks/COVID-19/COVID19.html>
- Information on the designation of international risk areas
https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Risikogebiete_neu.html
- The ministry of health has published a record of 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 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
https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/WarnApp/Warn_App.html (in German)
- Regulations for persons entering Germany in connection with the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 (15/09/2020) https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Transport/BMG_Merkblatt_Reisende_Tab.html (in German)
- Information on additional regulations at the regional level regarding control measures such as physical distancing or quarantine regulations for persons entering from other countries can be accessed here: <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/themen/coronavirus/corona-bundeslaender-1745198> (in German)
- Data on current disease activity can be found on the RKI dashboard: <https://corona.rki.de/>
- A distance of 1.5 metres to other individuals must be maintained in public spaces:
<https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/themen/coronavirus/besprechung-der-bundestkanzlerin-mit-den-regierungschefinnen-und-regierungschefs-der-laender-1733248> (in German)
- (Non-medical) face masks must be worn on public transport and in shops in all federal states.