The Robert Koch Institute's aim is to protect the population against disease and improve its state of health. To this end, 1,400 individuals from 50 nations and 90 different occupational fields work together at RKI every day; around 600 of them are scientists. They investigate the manifold impacts on health and disease, draw up and verify evidence-based recommendations and develop new methods of health protection.

Directorate
Prof. Dr Lothar H. Wieler (President)
Prof. Dr Lars Schaade (Vice President)

Locations
- Nordufer 20, 13353 Berlin-Wedding (main site)
- Seestraße 10, 13353 Berlin-Wedding
- General-Pape-Straße 62–66, 12051 Berlin-Tempelhof
- Burgstraße 37, 38855 Wernigerode

Scientific Committees
Currently, 17 scientific committees that draw up recommendations are based at RKI. They include the Standing Committee on Vaccination (STIKO) and the Commission for Hospital Hygiene and Infection Prevention (KRINKO). The committees are composed of external experts in various disciplines.

Selected Publications
- Epidemiological Bulletin
- Journal of Health Monitoring
- Epidemiological Yearbook of Notifiable Infectious Diseases
- RKI fact sheets
- Bundesgesundheitsblatt (co-editor)
- Publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals

WHO Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres
- Regional WHO Reference Laboratory for Poliomyelitis
- Regional WHO Reference Laboratory for Measles and Rubella
- WHO Collaborating Centre for Emerging Infections and Biological Threats
- WHO Collaborating Centre for the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN)
Main Areas of Activity

Department of Infectious Diseases
Head: Prof. Dr Martin Mielke
Public health microbiology
  - Molecular epidemiology of pathogens, incl. resistance to anti-infectives
  - Pathogenic and resistance mechanisms; pathogen-host interaction
Healthcare-associated infections and hospital hygiene
  - Prevention of healthcare-associated infections
  - Inactivation of infectious agents/tolerance
Viral infections
  - Viral infections in newborns and immunosuppressed patients
  - HIV, retrovirology
  - Influenza, SARS-CoV-2 and other respiratory viruses
  - Measles, mumps, rubella
  - Herpesviruses
  - Poliovirus and other enteroviruses
  - Gut-associated viruses (norovirus, rotavirus); hepatitis viruses (HEV)
Bacterial infections
  - Healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial resistance
  - Salmonella and other enteric pathogens (EHEC, Listeria)
  - Legionella
  - Chlamydia and other sexually transmitted bacterial pathogens
Fungal, parasitic and mycotic infections
  - Diagnostics, therapy and prevention (toxoplasmosis, lamblia, scales, non-tuberculous mycobacteria)
  - Diagnosis of invasive mycotic infections
Persistent infections

Department of Epidemiology and Health Monitoring
Head: N. N.
Nationwide continuous health monitoring
  - Representative health surveys (longitudinal and cross-sectional studies) of children, adolescents and adults in Germany: local examinations
  - Regular European Health Interview Surveys
  - Collecting health data on special sections of the population
  - Diabetes surveillance
  - Construction of a panel for immediate-response studies
Federal Health Reporting
  - Journal of Health Monitoring, including articles by RKI on public health topics
  - Regular, comprehensive reports on health in Germany
Epidemiological research
  - Surveillance of non-communicable diseases and mental health
  - Health and care of vulnerable groups, e.g. children and adolescents, elderly people, people from migrant backgrounds
  - Burden of disease
  - Risk factors in common, non-communicable diseases, e.g. physical activity, nutrition, social determinants
German Centre for Cancer Registry Data
  - Pooling and quality control of data from regional cancer registries
  - Regular publication of a verified overall dataset
  - Analyses of cancer incidence, prevalence and survival
  - Reporting on cancer in Germany
Network of public health players in Germany
  - Office of the ‘Zukunftsrat Public Health’

Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology
Head: Dr Osamah Hamouda
National surveillance of infectious diseases
  - Comprehensive reporting on notifiable infectious diseases
  - (Continued) development of surveillance systems, e.g. sentinel nets
  - Implementing the German electronic reporting and information system for protection against infection, DEMIS
Infectious disease control
  - Advising public health services and the medical profession
  - On-call service for infectious disease epidemiology
  - Point of contact for international bodies, e.g. ECDC and WHO
Investigation of national and international outbreaks
  - Support in assessing, elucidating and managing outbreak events
Epidemiological research
  - Vaccine-preventable diseases and vaccination rates
  - Sexually transmissible or bloodborne diseases
  - Foodborne diseases
  - Zoonoses
  - Respiratory illnesses
  - Antibiotic resistance and consumption
Prevention strategy
  - Studies on disease risk factors
  - Development, communication and evaluation of evidence-based public health recommendations
  - Contingency planning, including pandemic planning
Training in infectious disease epidemiology
  - Courses for public health professionals
  - Postgraduate Training for Applied Epidemiology (PAE)
  - Master of Science in Applied Epidemiology (MSAE) with Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin

Department of Methodology and Research Infrastructure
Head: Prof. Dr Lothar H. Wieler
Bioinformatics
  - Development of new data analysis methods for high-throughput experiments, machine learning and data integration with applications in infection research, e.g. pathogen detection and microbiome research
Genome sequencing
  - Central sequencing service implementing state-of-the-art Next-Generation Sequencing (NGS), adapting and establishing it for time-independent, automated processing as well as analysing consistency and scalability for applications, e.g. for the molecular surveillance of various infectious agents
Central laboratory animal husbandry
  - Service facility for infection research involving laboratory animals and animal-based experimental techniques
  - Developing alternative and supplementary methods to animal experiments
Research data management
  - Management and publication of verified, cleaned research data
  - Developing and expanding RKI’s Research Data Centre

Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin
Established on the basis of public law, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin is a research institution of the state of Berlin.

Office of the ‘Zukunftsrat Public Health’
Head: Prof. Dr Martin Mielke