

Guidance

in connection with the temporary reintroduction of border control at the land borders with Austria, Switzerland, France, Luxembourg and Denmark, on the basis of Article 28 of Regulation (EU) 2016/399 (Schengen Borders Code), effective from 16 March 2020 at 8:00 for an initial period of ten days, in order to contain the spread of the coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) and to break the chain of infection

This guidance applies to the Federal Republic of Germany. In cases of suspected infection with the coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2), the health authorities of the various federal states may be required to take differing measures, especially on the basis of the Protection against Infection Act (*Infektionsschutzgesetz*).

The flow of goods across borders is to remain largely unimpeded. The same applies to cross-border commuters up to and including 17 March 2020 without having to provide proof that they need to cross the border for work purposes. Thereafter, they will need to provide suitable proof in order to be able to cross the border. Other, non-essential trips (into and out of high-risk areas) will no longer be permitted.

- Cross-border movement is not currently being funnelled through designated border crossing points at the land borders mentioned above. However, the option will remain to introduce designated border crossing points in order to control movement.
- German citizens will not be refused entry into Federal territory.
- Cross-border travel for work purposes or to carry out professional contractual services will be permitted, regardless of nationality (including for commuters, seasonal workers, members of the European Parliament and accredited diplomats). In such cases, the need to cross the border for work must be proved by carrying appropriate documentation (e.g. work contract, project contract/documents, permit for frontier workers).
- Cross-border travel for compelling reasons (such as medical treatment or death of a family member) will be allowed on a case-by-case basis, regardless of nationality.
- EU citizens and third-country nationals returning to their country of origin or country of residence (for which they have a long-term residence permit) will still be allowed to travel through Germany to reach their destination.
- Travel for tourist purposes by third-country nationals with a Schengen visa will no longer be permitted.
- Whether to continue operating cross-border public transport (local and regional) is a matter for the relevant federal states to decide.