Global Governmental Response to COVID-19 in accordance to WHO guidelines

Actions taken by Germany to prevent the spread of COVID-19 as of February 14, 2021.

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Our Organization

The UN Compliance Research Group is a global organization which specializes in monitoring the work of the United Nations (UN). Through our professional team of academics, scholars, researchers and students we aim to serve as the world's leading independent source of information on members' compliance to UN resolutions and guidelines. Our scope of activity is broad, including assessing the compliance of member states to UN resolutions and plan of actions, adherence to judgments of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines and commitments made at UN pledging conferences. We’re proud to present the international community and global governments with our native research findings on states’ annual compliance with the commitments of the UN and its affiliated agencies. Our goal as world citizens is to foster a global change towards a sustainable future; one which starts with ensuring that the words of delegates are transformed into action and that UN initiatives don’t remain ink on paper. Hence, we offer policy analysis and provide advice on fostering accountability and transparency in UN governance as well as tracing the connection between the UN policy-makers and Non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Yet, we aim to adopt a neutral path and do not engage in advocacy for issues or actions taken by the UN or member states. Acting as such, for the sake of transparency. The UN Compliance Research Group dedicates all its effort to inform the public and scholars about the issues and agenda of the UN and its affiliated agencies.
The International Health Regulations (2005) are legally binding on 196 States Parties, including all WHO Member States. The IHR aims to keep the world informed about public health risks, through committing all signatories to cooperate together in combating any future “illness or medical condition, irrespective of origin or source, that presents or could present significant harm to humans.” Under IHR, countries agreed to strengthen their public health capacities and notify the WHO of any such illness in their populations. The WHO would be the centralized body for all countries facing a health threat, with the power to declare a “public health emergency of international concern,” issue recommendations, and work with countries to tackle a crisis.

Although, with the sudden and rapid spread of COVID-19 in the world, many countries varied in implementing the WHO guidelines and health recommendations. While some countries followed the WHO guidelines, others imposed travel restrictions against the WHO’s recommendations. Some refused to share their data with the organization. Others banned the export of medical equipment, even in the face of global shortages. The UN Compliance Research group will focus during the current cycle on analyzing the compliance of the WHO member states to the organization’s guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic.
## WHO Guidelines and Recommendations

### School/educational institutions:
- Decision makers should consider the following if they decide to open or close schools: Current understanding about COVID-19 transmission and severity in children, Local situation and epidemiology of COVID-19 where the school(s) are located, School setting and ability to maintain COVID-19 prevention and control measures.
- Recommended to promote: Hygiene and environmental cleaning to limit exposure, Screening and management of sick students, teachers and other school staff, Communication with parents and students, Physical distancing at school, Tele-schooling and distance learning.

### Workplaces and institutions:
- Partial closure of workplaces as of early March.
- Hand hygiene: Regular and thorough handwashing, Hand hygiene stations.
- Respiratory hygiene: Promote respiratory etiquette, Develop a policy on wearing a mask or a face covering.
- Physical distancing: less people, implementing shifts.
- Reduce and manage work-related travels.
- Regular environmental cleaning and disinfection.
- Risk communication, training, and education: Provide posters, videos, and electronic message boards.
- Management of people with COVID-19 or their contacts: introduce thermal screening.
- Take more measures when it comes to jobs at medium and high risk.

### Public events:
- Restriction to host gatherings or events that exceed a large number of individuals. ex) sport games, religious functions, restaurants, etc.
- Planning phase: Liaison with all relevant stakeholders, Development of a preparedness and response plan, Assessment of capacities and resources.
- Operational phase: Modifications of the event, Risk communication, Surveillance of participants, aimed at detecting and managing individuals developing symptoms during the event.
- Post-event phase: Liaison between event organizers and health authorities.

### Public Transport:
- Reduce crowding, limit access to, or close public spaces, restaurants, sporting events, 24 sports clubs, entertainment venues, places of worship, 25 or venues with limited ventilation.
- Encourage physical distancing in public places and transportation.
- Reduce mixing between individuals and households.
- Communicate to recommend wearing masks in public.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public Information Campaign:</th>
<th>Domestic/International Travel:</th>
<th>Testing Framework:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>● Communicate risk clearly with information on how to protect oneself and others.</td>
<td>● Reduction in Travel to prevent the spread of COVID-19.</td>
<td>● Set up testing centers in large venues or in check points.</td>
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<td>● Simplify messages, encourage sharing of information.</td>
<td>● International travel should not occur unless in an emergency.</td>
<td>● Require travellers to self-quarantine after being tested.</td>
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<tr>
<td>● Engage with communities in decision-making and to strengthen engagement for public health measures.</td>
<td>● Recommended to adhere to safety measures while travelling.</td>
<td>● Molecular (e.g. PCR) testing of respiratory tract samples is the recommended method for the identification and laboratory confirmation of COVID-19 cases.</td>
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<td>● Identify local networks and engage communities, businesses, religious leaders, and local influencers.</td>
<td>● Establish effective contingency plans and arrangements for responding a Public Health Emergency.</td>
<td>● To inform WHO policy on the use of immunodiagnostic rapid tests for COVID-19.</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Contact Tracing:</th>
<th>Lockdown/Curfew:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>● Set up relational databases linking lists of contacts to line lists of cases.</td>
<td>● Implementation of curfew hours.</td>
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<tr>
<td>● Allow for tailored case investigation forms, contact listing forms, and contact follow-up forms to be set up.</td>
<td>● Require citizens to stay in home unless of an emergency.</td>
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<tr>
<td>● Used for self-checking and self-reporting of signs and symptoms by people through mobile phone apps or SMS technology.</td>
<td>● Monitor locations to abide by the curfew hours.</td>
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This report draws on the methodology developed by the G8 Research Group, which has been monitoring G7/8 compliance since 1996 (the International Organisations Research Institute at the Higher School of Economics (IORI HSE) joined this multi-year project in 2005, and Bond University participated in 2014). The use of this methodology builds cross-institutional and cross-member consistency and also allows compatibility with compliance assessments of other institutions. The methodology uses a scale from −1 to +1, where +1 indicates full compliance with the stated commitment, −1 indicates a failure to comply or action taken that is directly opposite to the stated instruments or goal of the commitment, and 0 indicates partial compliance or work in progress, such as initiatives that have been launched but are not yet near completion and whose full results can therefore not be assessed. Each member assessed receives a score of −1, 0 or +1 for each commitment. For convenience, the scores in the tables have been converted to percentages, where −1 equals 0 percent and +1 equals 100 percent.
## Scoring Guidelines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-1</td>
<td>State does not comply with the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005), nor does it comply with any of the World Health Organization's guidelines and recommendations to curb the spread of the Coronavirus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>State complies with the IHR and partially complies with the WHO recommendations on combating the Coronavirus, through implementing policies and actions which adhere to at least two commitments of the WHO guidelines on curbing the pandemic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+1</td>
<td>State fully complies with the IHR and the WHO guidelines on combating the Coronavirus, through implementing policies and actions which adhere to all nine areas of the WHO guidelines on curbing the pandemic.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>No Compliance</th>
<th>Partial Compliance</th>
<th>Full Compliance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>+1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Germany complied with the International Health Regulations (IHR) and fully complied with the World Health Organization’s guidelines and recommendations on curbing the Coronavirus (COVID-19), through implementing complying policies and actions in all nine commitment features. Thus, Germany receives a compliance score of +1.
Germany

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**Lockdown/ Curfew**

- **As of 16 March 2020**, the German government adopted measures to ensure a lockdown is in place. All non-essential shops, public spaces, restaurants, bars, museums, theaters and houses of worship were closed.
- **On 19 March 2020**, Minister Presidents discussed that a curfew was set on the 22nd of March.
- **On 20 March 2020**, Bavaria was the first to declare the curfew which would begin at midnight and the fee of violating it would be up to 25,000 euros. Individuals were only allowed to leave home with special permission to go for work or other emergency purposes.
- **On 22 March 2020**, the government announced curfews to be imposed in six German states.
- **As of 28 May 2020**, Germany imposed social distancing rules and local restrictions.
- **On 29 June 2020**, it was announced that the lockdown of Warendorf would end on 30 June.
- **On 6 July 2020**, the government announced that the lockdown of Gutersloh will be lifted.
- **As of 19 October 2020**, the government announced that a two-week lockdown will be in place in Bavaria's Berchtesgaden.
- **As of 27 October 2020**, Germany announced another two-week lockdown in Rottal-Inn.
- **As of 2 November 2020**, the Federal Government has imposed a nationwide lockdown starting on 2 November.
- **As of 25 November 2020**, the government of Germany has decided to tighten COVID-19 restrictions and further extend the national health crisis until December 20. Non-essential businesses and leisure activities closed. Private gatherings were limited to 5 people.
- **On 16 December 2020**, Germany closed all non-essential businesses until January 10 2021. A nationwide 20:00-06:00 daily curfew was enforced.
- **On 10 February 2021**, state of emergency, curfew and national lockdown was extended until March 7 2021. All non-essential business with the exception of hair salons are to remain closed.

**Educational Institutions**

- **On 26 February 2020**, the government ordered for the closure of schools in North Rhine-Westphalia, Heinsberg.
- **On 28 February 2020**, Heinsberg extended closure of schools to 6 March.
- **On 13 March 2020**, all schools, universities and kindergartens were ordered to close nationwide.
- **On 15 April 2020**, the German government announced the reopening of schools on 4 May.
- **On 4 May 2020**, schools nationwide began a gradual reopening.
- **On 17 June 2020**, the German government announced that due to the increase in number of cases, schools will close and reopen on 29 June.
- **As of 13 August 2020**, German schools began reopening for in-person instruction.
- **As of 16 December 2020**, the government has decided to close schools until 16 January.
- **20 January 2021**, schools closure was extended until February 14.
- **On 11 February 2021**, schools closure was extended until March 7 2021.

**Public Transportation**

- **As of 28 February 2020**, train railway companies must report within 30 kilometers before arrival whether some individuals have COVID-19 symptoms.
- **As of 31 March 2020**, Jena announced an obligation to wear face masks in public transport.
- **On 15 April 2020**, Chancellor Merkel announced the recommendation to wear face masks in public transport.
- **As of 3 August 2020**, Germany has made it a law to wear face masks in public transport. Public transportation remains open with social distancing.
On 29 January 2020, Germany ordered for all arriving passengers to fill in a contact document form.

On 28 February 2020, Germany enacted new health measures which include regulation for air and sea travel and requiring passengers from South Korea, China, Japan, Italy, and Iran to report their health status before entering the country.

On 6 March 2020, Germany recommended for people to avoid unnecessary travel.

On 16 March 2020, Bavaria issued a travel ban in coaches, and individuals attending countries for tourism.

On 17 March 2020, Merkel announced an immediate travel ban into the EU through Germany for 30 days for non-EU citizens.

On 18 March 2020, the German government widened its restrictions to EU citizens from Italy, Switzerland, Denmark, Luxembourg and Spain. The German government also brought back thousands of Germans stranded in non-EU countries.

On 1 April 2020, Merkel recommended and advised people not to travel during Easter holidays.

On 11 March 2020, the German government announced liquidity support to companies who have been suffering during this pandemic.

As of 1 April 2020, workers were sent on a government subsidized short-time working scheme known as Kuzrabeit.

Overall, work in Germany resumed normal and the government enforced the use of face masks and if workers have any symptoms then they should remain at home. Work from home is recommended for whenever possible.

On 13 May 2020, the German government eased travel restrictions starting on 13 May. Restrictions on travel to Austria, Switzerland, and France were allowed to resume starting on 15 June.

On 3 June 2020, the German Federal Cabinet agreed travels to all 26 EU countries would resume starting on 15 June. However, maintaining travel restrictions when entering those countries is still mandatory.

As of 1 August 2020, free COVID-19 tests have been offered to all returning travellers, and travellers from high-risk countries had been required to report to their local public health office.

As of 8 August 2020, travellers entering Germany must undergo a COVID-19 test within 3 days of arrival.

As of 3 November 2020, Authorities have increased border checks in the Austrian border.

As of 21 December 2020, Germany has decided to suspend travel to the UK.

On 03 December 2020, tourism related stays in German hotels are prohibited.

As of 8 January 2021, the government has implemented stricter restrictions on entering Germany. Flights to the UK and South Africa are banned until January 20.

On 29 January 2021, Authorities banned flights from Brazil, Ireland and Portugal from Jan 30.
### Germany

#### Public Events
- **On 18 February 2020**, the government of Germany postponed the Light + Building trade fair in Frankfurt until September 2020.
- **On 26 February 2020**, the German government ordered for the closure of swimming pools, libraries and town halls. Games and training for FC Wegberg-beeck were suspended and the international German Open Badminton in Mulheim was cancelled.
- **On 28 February 2020**, the German government established an executive council that will declare what events should be cancelled or not.
- **On 1 March 2020**, the Health Minister recommended for people who have symptoms to avoid mass events.
- **On 3 March 2020**, the Leipzig book fair was cancelled.
- **On 5 March 2020**, Germany banned prostitution activities until further notice.
- **On 8 March 2020**, the German Health Minister recommended to cancel events of more than 1,000 attendees.
- **On 13 March 2020**, the German government decided to support event companies that have suffered during this pandemic.
- **On 14 March 2020**, Cologne forbid all events in the city center. The gathering of two people from different household was prohibited nationwide.
- **On 5 April 2020**, the government announced that large cultural events would not be allowed until 31 August.
- **As of 25 May 2020**, Germany has enacted a prohibition of assembly of a maximum of 10 people in a house.
- **On 9 June 2020**, folk festivals and sport events were allowed to apply for an exemption to be able to host their events.
- **On 20 June 2020**, Germany decided to extend the ban on large events until 31 October.
- **On 28 August 2020**, the government of Germany imposed further restrictions on public gatherings. They also decided that large events will not take place in 2020.
- **As of 7 October 2020**, the government decided to implement further restrictions on the number of people allowed in gatherings from 25-10.
- **As of 30 November 2020**, the government has extended social gathering restrictions until 20 December.
- **As of 3 December 2020**, the government has officially banned all forms of public gatherings and large events.
- **On 10 February 2021**, Social gatherings at homes limited to 2 people.

#### Public Info Campaign
- **As of 28 January 2020**, the government of Germany established hotlines to address all public concerns regarding the novel virus.
- **On 7 February 2020**, the government of Germany released official recommendations for ways to mitigate the virus through social media posts that instructed individuals on how to handle it.
- **On 17 February 2020**, specific hand hygiene recommendations regarding hand hygiene was published and released by the Federal Centre for Health Education.
- **On 2 March 2020**, specific hand hygiene and physical distancing measures were sent out to the public.
- **On 8 May 2020**, the RKI announced that twice a week there will be meetings discussing important awareness measures on the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **On 20 January 2021**, the usage of the FFP2 or KN95 masks nationwide became mandatory in public.
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## Germany

### Testing Framework

- **On 5 May 2020**, the government of Germany announced to significantly expand test centers.
- **On 14 May 2020**, the Federal parliament passed an act that included the importance to report testings and results.
- **On 9 June 2020**, the Federal Health Minister passed a new ordinance which extends COVID-19 testing.
- **As of 1 July 2020**, the government of Germany announced the Bavarian state will make free testing available for the entire population.
- **On 24 July 2020**, the government of Germany announced the extension of random testing to high risk areas.
- **On 27 July 2020**, the government announced that persons entering from high risk countries will be subjected to mandatory testing.
- **As of 3 August 2020**, the German government announced that everyone working in public and private facilities in schools will be tested for COVID-19.
- **On 27 August 2020**, the Federal Chancellor and the heads of the 16 states agreed that free testing should be mandatory for passengers coming from high risk areas.
- **As of 14 February 2021**, Germany has conducted a total of 497,419 tests per 1 million people.

### Contact Tracing

- **On 28 February 2020**, as a method of contact tracing, Germany ordered for individuals who have been in contact with people who have COVID-19 to isolate for 14-days and positive cases to report a list of their close contacts to health authorities.
- **In March 2020**, the government of Germany developed a contact tracing app that was mandatory for use.
- **On 15 April 2020**, the government announced a contact tracing team to surveillance 20,000 inhabitants for every 5 members.
- **As of 16 June 2020**, the government of Germany came out with a new COVID-19 tracing app that is used through bluetooth technology to help mitigate the virus.

### Vaccine

- **In April 2020**, Pfizer and the German biotechnology company BioNTech began research for a vaccine.
- **On 18 November 2020**, the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine was announced to be 95% effective.
- **On 27 December 2020**, Germany begins national vaccination campaign with the rollout of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.
- **On 12 January 2021**, Germany rolls out Moderna vaccine.
- **On 29 January 2021**, Germany is facing criticism of slow rollouts and vaccine shortages.
- **On 5 February 2021**, 16 German states received the first doses of the AstraZeneca/Oxford vaccine. The vaccine was restricted by German health authorities to individuals under the age of 65.
- **On 10 February 2021**, BioNTech starts production of COVID-19 vaccines in new German plant.
Germany

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Sources


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Sources

Global Governmental Response to COVID-19 in accordance to the World Health Organization Guidelines: Germany.