

# FLÜCHTLINGSRAT BERLIN e.V.

Menschenrechte kennen keine Grenzen



Flüchtlingsrat Berlin e.V.  
Greifswalder Str. 4  
10405 Berlin  
Tel: (030) 22 47 63 11  
Fax: (030) 22 47 63 12  
buero@fluechtlingsrat-berlin.de  
[www.fluechtlingsrat-berlin.de](http://www.fluechtlingsrat-berlin.de)

**Status: March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2020**

## **The Corona-Virus in Berlin – Information for refugees**

**Wrong information and conspiracy theories about the Corona-Virus are circulating online or via WhatsApp. This sheet of information offers an overview over the situation for refugees in Berlin.**

**It is based on official and reliable sources.**

**It is available online in german, english, italian, arabic, farsi, tigriniya: <https://fluechtlingsrat-berlin.de/aktuelles/news-und-termine/>**

**In generell: Reduce any physical contact to other people to an absolute minimum, except for to those people who live in the same household and partners.**

**It is important to keep a distance of 1,5 meters between two people whenever possible.**

**The situation can change. We are describing the current situation here in Berlin on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, 10 am.**

### **1) How are the public authorities and courts working?**

#### **Landesamt für Flüchtlingsangelegenheiten LAF:**

There are only very few personal appointments taking place. Stay informed about the current situation via their website: [www.berlin.de/laf/](http://www.berlin.de/laf/)

Find out via phone, Email or Fax whether your appointment will take place as planned. Your home will organise the extension of cost coverage for your accomodation. You will be sent a notification concerning the cost coverage.

File a written application, via fax or email. Ask for an appointment for cash payout in case you don't have a bank account. Ask the LAF via phone, email or fax about other options for receiving cash, for example a „barcode“ for a payout at the supermarket checkout.

### **Ankunftscenter für Asylsuchende Berlin (Arrival center for asylum seekers Berlin)**

The „Ankunftscenter Berlin“ is still accepting requests for asylum. It is open 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. It is located in Haus 2 (House 2) on the premises of the former psychiatric hospital *Karl Bonhoeffer Nervenlinik*. There are initial medical examinations as well as identification procedures. Tests for Corona-Virus are conducted if required, followed by quarantine when appropriate. The asylum seekers receive accommodation, social benefits and a notification of health insurance. The hearing of the grounds for asylum („Anhörung“) will take place at a later time.

**Address: Oranienburger Straße 285, Haus 2, 13437 Berlin-Reinickendorf**

U-Bahn/S-Bahn Karl Bonhoeffer Nervenlinik.

**[www.berlin.de/laf/ankommen/](http://www.berlin.de/laf/ankommen/)**

### **Landesamt für Einwanderung LEA (Ausländerbehörde):**

The LEA has now switched to online and written procedures:

[www.berlin.de/einwanderung/aufenthalt/artikel.909816.php](http://www.berlin.de/einwanderung/aufenthalt/artikel.909816.php)

You can apply online for a provisional extension of your residence document.

#### Category 1:

People who have a „Visum“ or „Aufenthaltserlaubnis“ and appointments up to April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 or a „Visum“ or „Aufenthaltserlaubnis“ that is only valid up until April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

[www.berlin.de/einwanderung/termine/termin-vereinbaren/formular.908425.php](http://www.berlin.de/einwanderung/termine/termin-vereinbaren/formular.908425.php)

#### Category 2:

People who have a „Visum“ or „Aufenthaltserlaubnis“ and an appointment as of April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 or who have a „Visum“ or „Aufenthaltserlaubnis“ that expires after April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

[www.berlin.de/einwanderung/termine/termin-vereinbaren/formular.909797.php](http://www.berlin.de/einwanderung/termine/termin-vereinbaren/formular.909797.php)

#### Category 3:

**People with "Aufenthaltsgestattung, Duldung, Grenzübertrittsbescheinigung, L 4048- Bescheinigung or Passeinzugsbescheinigung"**

[www.berlin.de/einwanderung/termine/termin-vereinbaren/formular.909347.php](http://www.berlin.de/einwanderung/termine/termin-vereinbaren/formular.909347.php)

### **Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge BAMF:**

The BAMF is currently not open to the public.

**With immediate effect the BAMF now accepts written asylum applications („Asylantrag“):**

<https://www.bamf.de/SharedDocs/Meldungen/DE/2020/20200316-am-covid-19.html>

On that basis the applicant receives a „Aufenthaltsgestattung“ (temporary residence permit). There are no personal hearings or questionings taking place, not for the reviews in the appeal procedures („Widerrufsverfahren“) either. Personal hearings will follow as soon as it is possible again.

The **Ankunftscenter Berlin (Arrival center Berlin)** is still accepting requests for asylum. There the asylum seekers receive accommodation, social benefits and a notification of health insurance (see above).

**ATTENTION: Notifications concerning procedures that are ready for decision are still being issued!**

If necessary, file a written application, via fax or email.

### **Jobcenter and social service departments („Sozialamt“):**

Jobcenters and social service departments are currently only in very few cases seeing clients.

Please stay informed via the jobcenters' and district authorities' websites:

<https://service.berlin.de/jobcenter/>

<https://service.berlin.de/bezirksaemter/>

Find out via phone, email or fax whether your appointment will take place as planned and whether the extension of your benefits („Leistungen“) is possible via phone, email or fax. If necessary, file a written application, via fax or email.

### **Administrative court („Verwaltungsgericht“):**

Currently many dates for trials and hearings are being cancelled. Inquire via phone, email or fax whether your appointment will take place as planned. If necessary, file a written application, via fax or email.

#### **2) Curfew**

Until further notice there will be no curfew. However there is a ban on contact of more than two people for the next two weeks (minimum). This means that only two people at a time are permitted to meet. It does not count for family members or people living in the same flat.

#### **3) Are supermarkets, other shops, pharmacies and doctor's practices open?**

**Doctor's practices** will remain open.

**Supermarkets and pharmacies in Berlin will remain open in Berlin by all means.** This also counts for the **post office, banks**, health care supply stores, drug stores, hairdressers, dry cleaners and laundrettes, newspaper stores, shops supplying gardening and building material, pet supply stores and wholesale. Other shops (e.g. supplying clothes, shoes or electronics) are closed.

Ordering online and **online delivery** will still be possible.

#### **4) Schools, children's daycare centers (KITA), language courses**

In Berlin all the **KITAs, schools and universities are closed at least until the 19<sup>th</sup> of april 2020.**

Daycare centers and schools can continue to offer an emergency care for children. You can **apply for the emergency childcare** if you work in a systemically relevant professions (e.g. work in a food store, in medical care, cleaning in hospitals, water and energy supply). The form is available in german, english, turkish and arabic: <https://www.berlin.de/sen/bjf/coronavirus/aktuelles/#selbst-kita>

Until further notice there will be **no integration courses** or other language courses will take place.

#### **5) Leisure centers, restaurants, hospitals, places of worship, clubs, demonstrations**

Libraries, museums, cinemas, bars, clubs and smoking establishments are closed. This also applies to sports clubs, gyms, swimmingpools, casinos etc. From 22<sup>nd</sup> of march 2020 all restaurants will be closed. They are permitted to offer take away or delivery permitted they have taken

adequat measures concerning hygiene, to control the entry and to avoid queuing. In some district the playgrounds have been closed and have been accordingly marked.

Meetings of any kind – including political **demonstrations**, club **meetings**, privat **festivities** etc. - with more than 10 people are prohibited.

**Religious gatherings** with more than 10 people – including those in **churches, mosques, synagogues** etc. - are also prohibited.

**Strict rules apply for hospitals.** Only patients under the age of 16 and the seriously ill may be visited: by at most one relative for up to 1hour/day. This also applies to care homes.

#### 6) **Berlinpass and Berlin-Ticket S**

Currently the *Berlinpass* is no longer being issued or extended. You are able to use the Berlin-Ticket S even if your berlinpass has expired. If you don't yet have a berlinpass, you can use the Berlin-Ticket S as long as you have your notification that you receive social benefits („Sozialleistungsbescheid“) with you and have written the reference number on the Berlin-Ticket S.

[www.berlin.de/sen/ias/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/pressemitteilung.909495.php](http://www.berlin.de/sen/ias/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/pressemitteilung.909495.php)

#### 7) **Pay during illness or quarantine**

In case you are **ill** you need a „Krankschreibung“ (sick leave/sick note) from the doctor. For the first week you can currently also ask for this at your doctor's via telephone. For up to six weeks your employer is legally bound to continue paying your normal wage. From the seventh week onwards you can apply for „Krankengeld“ at the health insurance.

If you are **not ill** but can not work due to quarantine you need the "*Quarantänebescheid*" (notification of quarantine) from the health department. For up to six weeks your employer is legally bound to continue to pay you your normal wage in case of quarantine. From the seventh week onwards you can apply for compensations at the Senate Departement for Finance.

**ATTENTION: Do not sign a termination or cancellation agreement! Your employer is not permitted to terminate your contract due to the current situation!**

#### 8) **Where can I find help?**

**In case of a suspected infection:**

**Contact your doctor by telephone**, don't go to your doctor's practice. Outside their opening hours please call the **Bereitschaftsdienst der Kassenärztlichen Vereinigung, telephone: 116117**

You can also get information via the **Health senate's Hotline (up unti now only in german): tel. 030/90282828, every day 8-20 o'clock** or via the health departement in your residential district („Gesundheitsamt“): <https://service.berlin.de/standorte/gesundheitsaemter/>

You can be **tested for the Corona-Virus at the following contact points**, for example if you have been in touch with a person who has been infected or have just returned from an at-risk area. It is required that your doctor or the health department („Gesundheitsamt“) has recommended the test for you:

- **Charité-Standort Virchow** in **Wedding** (Mittelallee 1; every day 8 to 16 o'clock)
- **Gemeinschaftskrankenhaus Havelhöhe** in **Spandau** (Kladower Damm 221, Haus 16, mon-fri 9-20 o'clock), please call the clinic hotline before you come, Tel. 030/36501-7222
- **Vivantes-Klinikum** in **Prenzlauer Berg** (Diesterwegstraße, mon-fri 10-19 o'clock, sat/sun 10-17 o'clock),
- **Vivantes-Wenckebach-Klinikum** in **Tempelhof** (Albrechtstraße, mon-fri 10-19 o'clock, sat/sun 10-17 o'clock)
- **Evangelisches Krankenhaus Königin Elisabeth Herzberge** in **Lichtenberg** (Herzbergstraße 79, Haus 19, mon-fri : 10-19 o'clock, sat/sun 10-17 o'clock)
- **DRK-Klinikum Westend** in **Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf** (Spandauer Damm 130, Haus 10, mon-fri: 9-15 o'clock)

**Information for people without health insurance:**

Please also contact the places named here!

In case there are reasonable grounds to suspect an infection (temperature and respiratory symptoms and in some circumstances contact to an infected person or return from a risk area) **health insurance** is not required to get a **test** for the Coronavirus or for the **treatment** of the illness in severe cases.

Doctors and hospitals can then settle the costs with the health departments according to § 19 of the infection protection law („Infektionsschutzgesetz“).

**Clearingstelle der Berliner Stadtmission für Menschen ohne Krankenversicherung**

[www.berliner-stadtmission.de/clearingstelle](http://www.berliner-stadtmission.de/clearingstelle)

[clearingstelle@berliner-stadtmission.de](mailto:clearingstelle@berliner-stadtmission.de)

Tel: 030 690 33 5972, Fax: 030 690 33 5979

Telefonzeiten: Mo und Di 9:30 – 16:00, Mi 11:00 – 17:00, Do 17:00 – 19:30, Fr 9:00 – 15:00

**Hotline von Open Med Berlin**

[www.gesundheit-ein-menschenrecht.de](http://www.gesundheit-ein-menschenrecht.de)

0176 631 52094

**There is support for severe conflicts concerning the handling of the corona-virus in your home:**

The following organisations are available to help deescalate the situation:

Arabic: BBZ (Beratungs- und Betreuungszentrum für junge Flüchtlinge und Migrant\*innen - counselling and support center for young refugees and migrants):

Tel 030 66640720/23

Farsi: Yaar e.V.: Tel 030 23407217, [info@yaarberlin.de](mailto:info@yaarberlin.de) and

Verein iranischer Flüchtlinge: Tel 030 62 98 15 30, [VereinIranischerFluechtlinge@gmx.de](mailto:VereinIranischerFluechtlinge@gmx.de)

**9) What does quarantine at home mean?**

If you or one of the members of your family are infected with the Corona-Virus you and your family will be put under quarantine. This means that you are not allowed to leave your flat/your room (if

you have your own bathroom with toilet) for at least 14 days. This is a very difficult situation, especially with children involved. It is important that you keep calm and stay in touch with your relatives and friends via telephone.

In case someone else in the home is infected it might happen that the whole home or a part of it is put under quarantine. Together with the other residents you can think about what you would like to demand from the management in this case. For example you could ask for free Wifi in the home. You could also talk to the operator about how the food supply can be organised in the case of being quarantined.

### 10) **Where can I get further information?**

For the current situation in Berlin, please check the homepage of the newspaper „Tagesspiegel“:

Arabic: <https://www.tagesspiegel.de/berlin/-----/25646660.html?fbclid=IwAR0OzX24aH-PQfqkaxvSluo1HVFEf0loX7Xd8kt-VtwgJx2OBQyEu3Rz-sY>

English: <https://www.tagesspiegel.de/berlin/closures-hotlines-contact-points-coronavirus-in-berlin-what-you-need-to-know-and-where-you-can-get-help/25646676.html>

Turkish: <https://www.tagesspiegel.de/berlin/kreler-okullar-yasaklar-corona-virues-berlinde-bunlar-bilmeniz-gerekli-buralardan-yararlanabilirsiniz/25646838.html>

German: <https://www.tagesspiegel.de/berlin/coronavirus-in-berlin-schulen-und-kitas-geschlossen-was-sie-wissen-muessen-wo-sie-hilfe-bekommen/25616798.html>

The Bundeszentrale für gesundheitliche Aufklärung provides indications concerning the protection from infections in different languages: <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/themen/coronavirus/hygiene-advice-1730352> (German, english and french)

The Robert-Koch-Institut provides current specialist information about the Corona-Virus:

English: [https://www.rki.de/EN/Home/homepage\\_node.html](https://www.rki.de/EN/Home/homepage_node.html)

German: [https://www.rki.de/DE/Home/homepage\\_node.html](https://www.rki.de/DE/Home/homepage_node.html)

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Diese Information ist als Teil des Projekts "Gut Beraten, gut Ankommen! Beratung für Asylsuchende und Qualifizierung für Beratende in Berlin" kofinanziert aus dem Asyl-, Migrations- und Integrationsfonds AMIF der Europäischen Union.

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★ ★ ★

