

Information by the city of Halle (Saale) concerning coronavirus (COVID-19-Virus)

Last updated: Thu 19 Mar 2020

In the city of Halle (Saale), the number of infections is increasing daily.

The mayor of Halle (Saale) states that the danger of an exponential spreading of the virus concerns the whole city area.

State of Disaster

The mayor declared the state of disaster for the city of Halle.

All residents and other people have to follow the instructions of the disaster protection authority in order to slow down the speed of the spreading of the virus.

In the state of disaster, everyone is obliged to help at defensive measures if urged to do so by the disaster protection authority or by someone authorized by it. It is only allowed to refuse help if the person is severely endangered by it or if, in order to do so, had to violate higher-grade obligations.

In order to enforce the state of disaster, mayor Wiegand has asked for hundred more police persons and for forces of the military that should mainly support the medical care. The volunteer fire brigade also supports the measures. A command vehicle at the market place is coordinating the fire brigades.

Public life is being heavily restricted. That includes a prohibition of all public and non public events. Also sport clubs and facilities such as gyms are affected.

Curfew

Until now, there is no curfew for Halle.

Shopping and supplies

All shops must close except supermarkets, grocery stores, pharmacies and hairdressers. Weekly markets will also continue to take place.

People should keep a distance of two meters from each other.

All restaurants have to close, except take-away stands.

Child care

All schools, kindergartens and Hort (child care at schools) remain closed.

Children should be taken care of at home in order to interrupt the infection chains. An exception applies for children of doctors, nurses and similar professions. These children can be brought to an emergency childcare.

Playgrounds must not be frequented anymore. The violation of this rule can lead to a restraining order.

Social contacts and staying outside

Please avoid bigger groups of people. This also applies for the private area. It is important to care for oneself and for the family and to help others. But please ask yourself if a meeting is really necessary or not.

People that are not in quarantine can stay outside the house but have to comply with a security distance (2 meters are recommended) to other people – that don't belong to their family, for example – and have to respect that gatherings are forbidden.

Visits in hospitals, health care facilities and nursing homes are generally prohibited, except in palliative care facilities for children under the age of 13 years. In single cases, exceptions can be made.

Corona tests and fever consultation hour

The Fever Centre is an offer to examine justified suspected cases of an infection with Covid-19. A suspect exists if you have been in a risk area in the past 14 days (list of Robert Koch Institut) or if you had direct contact to a person tested positive and/or have heavy flu symptoms. If none of the criteria applies, the patient can not be examined due to capacity reasons and will be sent home.

To ask questions concerning corona on telephone, please don't contact the Fever Centre directly. Please call your family doctor.

Fever Centres in Halle:

1. Neustädter Passage 17a
2. Poli Reil, Poliklinik, Reilstr. 129A
3. Praxis Dr. Ackermann, Jäbergasse 1

Persons who have been tested on corona will be informed about the result by telephone by the staff of the local health authority (Gesundheitsamt). This can take some time in case of a negative test result. Persons with a positive test result will be informed first.

A frequently asked question is: Who pays for the test? If medically indicated, the health insurance covers the costs.

Quarantine

The local health authority decides who has to stay in quarantine and who doesn't. Persons sent to home quarantine (because of suspected infection) have to stay at home for the time the order applies.

Home quarantine means: not going to the post box to check for mail, not leaving the house to go to the garden house or to eat ice cream. For shopping and other necessary actions, family, friends and neighbours should be asked. Physical contact should be avoided. Groceries can be put in front of the door.

Normally, it is necessary to stay home for 14 days. Controls are being carried out to check whether people comply with the quarantine. Violations are a criminal act and will be punished with prison or fines.

Authorities and appointments

All authorities have stopped their visiting services. There are no appointments. The foreigners' office (Ausländerbehörde), too, is closed until 13th of April. If you want to contact Ausländerbehörde, please don't go there. Write an email to: auslaenderbehoerde@halle.de

In the email, write your personal information: Name, birth date, reference number and other important information.

The personal appointment at the employment agency (Agentur für Arbeit) in order to register as unemployed is cancelled. You can register via telephone or email. If appointments are cancelled, there will be no financial disadvantage for the clients. The safe payment of the money has highest priority.

For entrepreneurs

Because of the wide restrictions for businesses, there are central contact persons in the city administration offices. These are, from now on, available via telephone at 0345-221-4777 or 0345-221-4067 and receive questions concerning the adjustment of claims. At the moment, the German state is preparing respective aid programs.

Tram and bus

From wednesday, 18th March, on, the so-called holiday schedule applies.

Further information and questions

Citizens' hotline of the city of Halle, available 24 h a day at: 115

New information (in German) daily on the web page: www.halle.de

Support, mutual aid

Care for each other. Think about the weak first!

If you want to help or need help yourself, please inform yourself here: <https://engagiert-in-halle.de/aktuelles/update-engagement-zeiten-von-corona>

or here: <https://coronadirectsupporthalle.wordpress.com>

If you want to donate blood, contact the German Red Cross oder the University Hospital.

The orders by the city of Halle apply until 19th March.

von Common Voices Radio
www.commonvoices.radiocorax.de