Frequently asked questions on Digital Registration on Entry (DEA)

Here you can find the most important frequently asked questions.

- General Questions
- Risk area
- Exemptions from the obligation to register
- Objective and process of the Digital Registration on Entry
- In case of technical issues
- Checks and monitoring

General Questions

What is the Digital Registration on Entry?

To ease the strain on the public health offices and to support the processes for monitoring adherence to quarantine already in place, the Federal Government has developed the Digital Registration on Entry procedure, replacing previous paper-based recording and processing of traveller data using passenger locator cards. The digital registration on entry is to be filled out by **all persons entering the country**, who spent time in the **10 days prior to entry** in a risk area or an area associated with particularly high risk (high-incidence area or area of variants of concern) who do not fall under any of the listed exemptions. This application can be reached via the https://www.einreiseanmeldung.de website.

What does the Ordinance on Coronavirus Entry Regulations regulate?

Together with the Federal Länder's quarantine regulations, the new Ordinance on Coronavirus Entry Regulations of 13 January 2021 (www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/coronaeinreisev) provides for consistent obligations concerning registration, testing and proof for travellers when entering the Federal Republic of Germany following a stay in a risk area abroad. It also lays down obligations for transport companies and mobile network operators.

The provisions contained within the former Testing Obligation Ordinance (*Testpflicht-Verordnung*) of 4 November 2020 (Federal Gazette, Official Section, 6/11/2020, V1), the Orders Concerning Travel (*Anordnungen betreffend den Reiseverkehr*) of 5 November 2020 (Federal Gazette, Official Section, 6/11/2020, B5) as well as the Ordinance

on protection against infection risks related to entry to Germany with regard to novel mutations of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus (Coronavirus Protection Ordinance – *Coronavirus-Schutzverordnung*) of 21 December 2020 (Federal Gazette, Official Section, 21/12/2020, V4) have been incorporated and developed further in this new Ordinance by the Federal Government.

Risk area

What is a risk area?

A risk area is any **region outside of the Federal Republic of Germany**, where the Federal Ministry of Health, in agreement with the Federal Foreign Office and the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community, has identified an **increased risk of infection** with a specific, dangerous infectious disease, e.g. an infection with the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus. The Robert Koch Institute maintains a continually updated **list of risk areas** at the following address: https://www.rki.de/risikogebiete.

What is an area with particularly high risk?

An area outside of the Federal Republic of Germany is deemed particularly high risk if it has a particularly high incidence of SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus spread **(high-incidence area)** or because certain variants of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus have occurred widely in this risk area **(area of variant of concern)**.

High-incidence areas can be regions with especially high numbers of cases, e.g. a multiple of the average seven-day incidence rate per 100,000 inhabitants in Germany, but at least a seven-day incidence rate of 200.

Areas of variants of concern are areas with widespread occurrence of a virus variant (mutation) of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus that is not widespread within the country and that can reasonably be believed to pose a particular risk. Such particular risks, for instance, can result, among other things, from presumed or proven higher transmissibility or other properties that accelerate infection transmission, cause more severe symptoms or which might weaken the effect of the immunity conferred by vaccination or a recovery from infection.

The Federal Ministry of Health, in agreement with the Federal Foreign Office and the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community, specifies in which countries there is currently a particularly high risk of infection with the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus. **Areas that are currently** classified as areas of variants of concern or high-incidence areas are **listed** on the following page: https://www.rki.de/risikogebiete.

How can you tell whether you are travelling from a risk area, high-incidence area or an area of variants of concern?

The Robert Koch Institute maintains a continually updated **list of risk areas, high-incidence areas and areas of variants of concern** at the following address: https://www.rki.de/risikogebiete.

The classification as a risk area, high-incidence area or area of variants of concern only comes into effect the day following publication of this classification on the website indicated above. The Robert Koch Institute's list, sorted by country name and, where relevant, with country region in brackets, indicates **as of what date the region was classed a risk area, high-incidence area or area of variants of concern**. At the bottom of the page you will find a summary of regions that had at one point in the previous 10 days been classified as a risk area, but is currently NOT classified as such.

How often are risk area classifications updated?

The Federal Government examines on an ongoing basis the extent to which areas are to be classed as risk areas. This can also lead to changes at very short notice, especially with regard to additions to the list of risk areas.

Why draw a distinction between risk areas and areas with particularly high risk?

The reason for such a distinction is that the particularly high risk of infection from those areas can be addressed with tighter entry regulations. Areas with an increased risk **(risk areas)** should be differentiated from areas with a particularly high risk of SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus infection. An area outside of the Federal Republic of Germany is deemed particularly high risk if it has a particularly high incidence rate of SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus transmission **(high-incidence area)** or because of widespread occurrence of certain SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus variants **(areas of variants of concern)**. The tighter regulations are aimed at further limiting the introduction of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus and preventing the rapid spread of new virus variants.

Exemptions from the obligation to register

Are there any exemptions from the obligation to complete a digital registration on entry?

Yes, but these depend on which type of risk area you had been to in the 10 days prior to entering the Federal Republic of Germany. The relevant aspect is not where you departed from, but the locations you visited over the previous 10 days.

Exemptions for high-incidence areas are more strict, since these pose an even higher risk of infection with the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus relative to the risk areas.

Note: There are **no exemptions** from the obligation to register for **areas of variants of concern**. This means that **all persons entering the country**, who **spent time in one such area within the previous 10 days, must complete a digital registration on entry**.

When arriving from **risk areas**, the following persons need **not** complete a digital registration on entry:

1. Persons solely travelling through a risk area without stopping over,

2. Persons who are only in transit through and leaving the Federal Republic of Germany as quickly as possible to finish their transit journey,

3. Persons who, in the context of border traffic, spent less than 24 hours in a risk area or who will be spending a maximum of 24 hours in the Federal Republic of Germany,

4. Persons who, adhering to appropriate safety and hygiene practices, travel to the Federal Republic of Germany for work in order to transport people, goods or commodities across borders by road, rail, ship or plane,

5. Persons who, as a member of an official delegation, are returning to Germany via the government terminal at Berlin Brandenburg Airport or Cologne/Bonn Airport and have spent less than 72 hours in a risk area.

When arriving from **high-incidence areas**, the following groups of people need **not** complete a digital registration on entry:

1. Persons solely travelling through a high-incidence area without stopping over,

2. Persons who are only in transit through and leaving the Federal Republic of Germany as quickly as possible to finish their transit journey,

3. Persons who, in the context of border traffic, spent less than 24 hours in a high-incidence area or who will be spending a maximum of 24 hours in the Federal Republic of Germany,

4. Persons who, as a member of an official delegation, are returning to Germany via the government terminal at Berlin Brandenburg Airport or Cologne/Bonn Airport and have spent less than 72 hours in a high-incidence area.

What do I need to consider if my flight has a lay-over?

Transfer passengers with a lay-over at an airport are subject to the obligation to register if said airport is located in a risk area.

The model quarantine ordinance implemented by the Federal Länder makes provision for several exemptions from quarantine. Why do all these exemptions not also mean exemption from the obligation to complete a Digital Registration on Entry?

The objective of the Digital Registration on Entry is to provide public health authorities with quick and uncomplicated access to the information they require to monitor adherence to the obligation to quarantine provided for under Land law. This also involves checking whether individuals, who claim certain exemptions from the quarantine obligation, do in fact qualify for these exemptions. For instance, some of these exemptions are tied to the submission of a negative test result. Using the data transferred as part of the Digital Registration on Entry, public health authorities are in a position to demand such proof from those entering the country.

To that end, any exemptions are limited to very narrowly defined situations. For instance, situations where either the carrier or the authority tasked with policing cross-border traffic quickly ascertains that a quarantine in Germany would be out of the question (e.g. persons in transit) or where recording an address for your stay would appear impossible (e.g. daily commuters).

Objective and process of the Digital Registration on Entry

What is the objective of the Digital Registration on Entry?

Digitalising entry registration from risk areas, until now performed using passenger locator cards, lessens the burden on the public health authorities. These are quickly and reliably informed on who within their jurisdiction spent time in a risk area and who must enter quarantine. This helps avoid new infection hot spots arising due to people entering from abroad.

How does the Digital Registration on Entry work? Who can view my data?

To register, persons entering the country should visit https://www.einreiseanmeldung.de and enter the information concerning the places they visited over the previous 10 days. Should these include a risk area, then the traveller is asked to provide their personal details and their planned locations during the ten days following their entry, while in mandatory quarantine or to be contacted by the competent authority. After filling in all of the necessary information, the traveller will receive a PDF file as confirmation.

If the person travelling did not spend time in a risk area during the 10 days prior, then their registration process is aborted and no confirmation is generated.

The data collected from people entering the country is automatically assigned to the competent authority (usually the public health office) using their provided German address and can only be accessed by that authority. The data transfer is encrypted and the data is automatically deleted 14 days after entry.

When do I need to register?

You need to complete the registration before embarking on your journey. If you are entering the Federal Republic of Germany by air, sea, rail or bus, the prerequisite is that you have presented the carrier with confirmation of a completed Digital Registration on Entry (or in exceptional cases: a filled out substitute registration).

Are minors also subject to this obligation to register?

Minors are subject to the obligation to register.

Accompanied minors do not need to complete their own registration, and can instead be included in the registration of the responsible adult accompanying them.

Minors who travel unaccompanied must, however, complete their own form.

In case of technical issues

What do I do if I do not have access to a computer or smartphone, or if the Digital Registration on Entry website is not available?

In the rare case that you (e.g. for want of the necessary technical equipment or due to a technical malfunction on the website) are unable to complete a Digital Registration on Entry, you will be required to fill out a **substitute registration**. The corresponding form can be

downloaded from the website of the Federal Ministry of Health (https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/coronavirus-infos-reisende/merkblatt-dea.html).

The completed substitute registration is

- to be handed to the carrier if entering Germany from a risk area within the Schengen area[1],
- to be handed to the Federal Police in the context of entry control if entering Germany from a risk area outside the Schengen area,
- irrespective of whether a carrier is used, to be handed to the Federal Police upon their request when exercising their border police duties, insofar as this has not already been handed to the carrier.

In any other cases, please send the filled out substitute registration to the following address immediately upon arriving in Germany:

Deutsche E-POST Solutions GmbH
Aussteigekarte
D-69990 Mannheim

Your substitute registration will be forwarded to the relevant competent authority.

Those entering the country are personally responsible for obtaining (downloading or printing out) a substitute registration.

Monitoring

Can I also enter without a Digital Registration on Entry?

If you do not fall under any of the exemptions listed above, then you may not be transported without a completed entry registration. This follows from the Ordinance on Coronavirus Entry Regulations (Federal Gazette, Official Section, 13.1.2021). It states that carriers may not transport persons who have not presented confirmation of the Digital Registration on Entry nor fall under any of the exemptions listed above.

Please note: In case the information provided is obviously incorrect, then the entry registration has not been duly completed. In this case, the carrier may not transport those persons.

---

[1] Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

Who checks whether a Digital Registration on Entry was carried out?

The carriers are obligated, unless part of the local public transport system, to check before commencing the journey that persons wishing to enter the country possess a confirmation of successful completion of the Digital Registration on Entry (for enterprises in rail transportation and short sea shipping), this check can also take place en route. Here your personal details are checked for plausibility, and if the information provided is obviously incorrect, the carrier will not be allowed to take you.

If you are travelling from a risk area[2] outside the Schengen area, you must present confirmation of a completed Digital Registration on Entry on request as part of the entry check (usually to the Federal Police).

Irrespective of whether or not you are entering the country by carrier, it is possible that as part of the exercise of their border police duties, the authority responsible for policing cross-border traffic (usually the Federal Police) may demand you provide confirmation of successful completion of the Digital Registration on Entry. This, for instance, concerns entries by road, where close to borders the Federal Police carries out random checks.

What rules apply when entering by car?

The obligation to perform a Digital Registration on Entry applies irrespective of mode of transportation and therefore also when entering the country by car.

Close to borders, the authority entrusted with policing cross-border traffic (usually the Federal Police) may carry out random checks and demand the confirmation be presented.

---

[2] Schengen area: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.