

COVID-19 in Germany – General Information and FAQs

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic continues to present significant concerns globally, both in civilian life, as well as the workplace. In most European countries businesses and life in general have come (almost) to a standstill and employers and employees alike find themselves forced to navigate novel situations with uncertainty and apprehension.

The following information provides insight on the situation in Germany and answers to the most frequently asked questions. Please note that this information is for general guidance and does not constitute and is not intended to replace legal advice from your employment lawyers. More so considering the changes constantly taking place to keep up with developments.

Policies/action Germany is taking in response to the COVID-19 pandemic:

Germany currently has the fourth highest number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 among European countries (after Italy, Spain and France), totalling 141,672 as of April 20, 2020. While the outbreak has claimed 4,404 lives, so far, the death rate is still among the lowest in Europe.

The Robert Koch Institute (RKI) currently assesses the risk to the health of the German population overall as high and as very high for risk groups. All 16 federal states are affected. The incidence (cases per 100,000) of COVID-19 is highest in Bavaria (286), Baden-Wuerttemberg (252), Saarland (233) and Hamburg (226). Most cases (68%) are between 15 and 59 years old; men(48%) and women (52%) are almost equally affected. 86% of deaths, but only 18% of all cases, occurred in persons aged 70 years or older.

Social Measures

- In view of the rapid spread of the corona virus, the federal and state governments expanded social restrictions on March 23, 2020. This lockdown has now been extended to May 3, 2020. Residents are encouraged to reduce contact with other people outside their own household to a necessary minimum. Presence in public areas is only allowed alone or with one other person not living in the same household or with members of the same household.
- Social distancing remains but on April 20, 2020, the lockdown was partially eased with retailers of up to 800m², and small businesses, such as bookshops, bicycle and car dealers allowed to open provided they follow specified conditions of distancing, crowding, and hygiene.
- Schools will open gradually in early May, starting with final exam classes only, as will hair salons, also on condition they meet conditions, especially with regard to hygiene.
- Public events are on hold till the end of August.
- A few states have made it mandatory to wear a mask in public. Saxony was the first to mandate masks in shops or on public transport, from April 20, 2020. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania and Bavaria soon followed suit and masks in public will be mandatory in those states from April 27, 2020.
- Commuting to work, emergency care, shopping, doctor visits, participation in meetings, necessary appointments and exams, providing help to others or individual sports and exercise as well as other necessary activities remain possible.
- Restaurants are to remain closed. This does not apply to the delivery and collection of food that can be taken away. Service companies in the field of personal care such as hairdressers, cosmetic studios, massage parlors and tattoo studios and similar companies are closed because physical proximity is unavoidable in this area. Medically necessary treatments remain possible.

- These measures apply to everyone and are enforced by the local police authorities and violations will be punished. The Infection Protection Act allows fines of up to €25,000. In very severe cases, imprisonment of up to five years is also possible.
- From March 21, 2020 and expectedly until May 3, 2020, residents in the state of Bavaria will not be permitted to leave their homes without good reason. Exceptions include commuting to work, grocery shopping, visits to the doctor or pharmacy, and providing help to others.

Travel Restrictions

- On March 17, 2020, Germany joined other EU countries and closed its borders to all non-EU nationals for 30 days and which closure has since been extended till May 15, 2020. Only long-term residents, family members of EU nationals and diplomats, cross-border and healthcare workers and people transporting goods are being permitted entry.
- Prior to the travel ban, Germany only had the following measures for travellers arriving from risk regions and which are still in place:
 - Carriers of travellers coming to Germany by plane, ship, train or bus from high risk areas such as China, Iran, Italy, Japan and South Korea had to provide their passengers with instructions on how to prevent the disease or how to react if symptoms appear. The same applied to all operators of airports, ports, passenger stations and bus stations.
 - Travellers arriving in Germany by plane or ship from Iran, Italy, Japan or South Korea were required provide flight / trip details and personal accessibility for the next 30 days before leaving the plane or ship. Travellers from China to Germany had to additionally provide information about their whereabouts in China, contact persons and their current health.
 - Airlines, ship-owners, charterers and all other persons responsible for operating ships must keep the data on flights and trips to Germany from Iran, Italy, Japan, South Korea and China available for a period of 30 days after arrival.
- Additionally, since March 19, 2020 there are temporary border checks at the land borders with Austria, Switzerland, France, Luxembourg and Denmark. While the cross-border flow of goods and cross-border commuters will continue to be permitted, people travelling for other reasons should expect restrictions on travel both into and out of Germany. Travellers with symptoms that may indicate a coronavirus infection will not be permitted to enter/leave Germany, in coordination with the authorities in the relevant neighbouring country.
- Germany has notified a temporary (from March 18, 2020 until April 17, 2020) and limited relaxation of the enforcement of driving and rest times for the drivers of vehicles transporting essential goods such as food, medicine, medical protective equipment and fuels. This relaxation is granted pursuant to Article 14(2) of Regulation (EC) No 561/2006. An extension of this exemption until May 31, 2020 is pending approval by the European Commission.

Fiscal Measures

- In addition to running down accumulated reserves, the federal government adopted a supplementary budget of €156 billion (4.9 percent of GDP) include: (i) spending on healthcare equipment, hospital capacity and R&D (vaccine), (ii) expanded access to short-term work ("Kurzarbeit") subsidy to preserve jobs and workers' incomes, expanded childcare benefits for low-income parents and easier access to basic income support for the self-employed, (iii) €50 billion in grants to small business owners and self-employed persons severely affected by the Covid-19 outbreak in addition to interest-free tax deferrals until year-end.
- At the same time, through the newly created economic stabilization fund (WSF) and the public development bank KfW, the government is expanding the volume and access to public loan guarantees for firms of different sizes, with an allocation of at least €757 billion (23 percent of GDP).

- In addition to the federal government's fiscal package, many state governments (Länder) have announced own measures to support their economies, amounting to €48 billion in direct support and €63bn in state-level loan guarantees.
- **Deferral of tax payments without deferral interest**
Taxpayers who can demonstrate they are directly and significantly affected by COVID-19 can apply for a deferral of tax payments. Tax payments that can be deferred under the relief regime include corporate/income tax, trade tax as well as VAT, while excluding withholding taxes, e.g., wage tax.
- **Tax enforcement relief**
No enforcement shall be made for outstanding tax payments and tax payments which become due in the period up to December 31, 2020, if taxpayer is directly and significantly affected by COVID-19. The late payment fees in 2020 will also be waived.
- **Reduction of advance tax payments**
In the same manner, applications can be made for reduction of the trade tax base, i.e., the amount used to determine trade tax prepayments.
Applications cannot be denied merely because the taxpayer cannot demonstrate or assess in detail the economic impact caused by Covid-19.
- In order to prevent the insolvency of companies experiencing economic hardship due to COVID-19, the German Insolvency Code was amended to remove the requirement for companies in financial hardship to file for insolvency within 3 weeks of the event leading to the insolvency. Instead, in so far as the reason for the insolvency is due to COVID-19 and "as long as those required to file an application are engaged in serious financing or restructuring negotiations and there are reasonable prospects of restructuring as a result here are reasonable prospects of recovery", the filing period will be suspended until September 30, 2020.
- Companies are now permitted to hold general meetings online without having to amend their articles of association and no longer need to reschedule their annual general meetings. Furthermore, said meetings can now be held during the entire fiscal year and not just the first 8 months. Additionally, the new law also reduced the notice period for the convening of meetings from 30 days to 21 days.
- The Working Hours Act was amended to permit the issue of ordinances allowing nationwide exceptions to the working time regulations in exceptional national emergencies, in particular in epidemic situations of national scope according to Section 5 (1) of the Infection Protection Act.
- The Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs can, by ordinance in agreement with the Federal Ministry of Health, without the consent of the Federal Council, extend the exceptions in the Working Hours Act and in the ordinances issued on the basis of the Working Hours Act and in collective agreements for a limited period of time, with the aim to ensure public security and order, health and nursing care, general services and the supply of the population with existential goods.

Until June 30, 2020, district governments may now make exceptions to:

- The maximum daily working hours so employees may work longer than eight or ten hours a day and on Sundays and public holidays
 - Breaks can be reduced to 15 (from 30) minutes for over six hours of work and 30 (from 45) minutes for more than 9 hours of work.
 - The minimum period of rest of 11 hours can be reduced by up to two hours.
 - Nevertheless, the employer's duty of care persists, as do the works councils' co-determination rights.
 - The weekly hours may not exceed an average of 48 hours over a period of six months.
- To encourage employees nearing retirement to carry on working and pensioners to come out of retirement, the annual additional earnings limit is to be raised from €6,300 to €44,590 so that income up to this level does not result in a reduction in pension. The increase is limited until December 31, 2020.

- Previously, seasonal workers were permitted to work on short term contracts without social security for 70 days. This has been extended to 115 days until October 31. So far, this was possible for up to 70 days. This also reduces mobility and thus the risk of infection. Furthermore, seasonal workers already in Germany and who are willing to do so can work here longer.
- In a bid to encourage the take up of part time work as seasonal workers, income from a secondary job, up to the amount of the net salary from the main employment relationship, will not be deducted from short-time pay until the end of October 2020.
- In order to allow the flexibility required by the crisis, including the swapping of employees between economic sectors, temporary employment during the COVID-19 pandemic is now possible without permission from the employment office, regardless of company size.

The requirements for permission-free temporary employment are:

- The employees concerned must have consented thereto.
 - The employee must not be a permanent employee and must not be hired and employed for the purpose of being leased.
 - Temporary employment is limited to the current crisis, i.e., due to an unforeseen shortage of personnel at the hirer or loss of work at the hirer must have occurred.
- Temporary employees must still be afforded the same treatment, i.e., working conditions as permanent employees. Furthermore, the restrictions to temporary employment in the construction industry still apply.
 - The German Minister of Finance has promised that bonuses paid to employees in recognition of work done during the crises will be tax free up €1.500.
 - There have also been indications to review the minimum wage and increase to €12 an hour in several branches. The minimum wage is currently €9,35 an hour.
 - An extra-budgetary expenditure to the tune of up to €23 million has been applied for. These monies are to continue the funding, inter alia, of measures related to repatriation and outbreak control, measures taken by the RKI, as well as research promotion and risk communication measures.
 - On March 16, 2020, the state of Bavaria declared the situation a disaster and closed schools, nurseries and kindergartens. All these institutions are now closed in all of Germany, including universities and all non-essential businesses.
 - Parents who have to take care of their children themselves due to the officially ordered closure of schools and day care centres are to be protected against a loss of income. Parents with children under the age of 12 or who are disabled and in need of assistance are entitled to compensation if there is no other reasonable option for childcare during the closure.
 - The Protection Against Infection Act was amended to enable parents, including foster parents and those in insignificant employment to receive compensation of 67% of their monthly net income (maximum €2,016) for up to six weeks. The payment is made by the employer, who can then submit a reimbursement request to the responsible state authority.
 - The new right to compensation is linked to the same conditions as the right to child sickness benefit and the conditions for eligibility are as follows:
 - The official closure or an official prohibition to enter a day care or school
 - The closure is due to an infection or to prevent it
 - The applicant is employed
 - The applicant must have custody of at least one child who is under the age of twelve or is disabled
 - The applicant must now care for the child resulting in a loss of earnings
 - There are no other reasonable alternatives for childcare

- The period must be outside school holidays
- Vacation, flex and overtime must have been exhausted
- Parents with children under 25 have always been able to apply for an additional child benefit allowance of up to a maximum of €185 per month. While the requirement was for applicants to show income of the last 6 months, they will now only be required to show the income of the last month when applying.
- Previously landlords could terminate lease agreements if a tenant was unable to pay their rent for at least 2 consecutive months. If, during the period of 1 April through 30 September, a tenant fails to pay rent and such non-payment is caused by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the lease agreement may not be terminated. Nevertheless, the obligation is not expunged.

Testing and Treatment

There are specific hotlines available and people should not go to the doctor to avoid infecting other people, in the waiting room for instance.

- If someone is concerned that they have been infected with the coronavirus, they should call their GP or 116117 - the emergency medical services number.

Other numbers include:

- Independent patient advice service Germany - 0800 011 77 22
- Federal Ministry of Health (telephone service for the public) - 030 346 465 100
- General initial information and contact placement - authority number 115 (www.115.de)
- Consultation for the deaf and hearing impaired - Fax: 030/340 60 66 - 07 [info.deaf@bmg.bund \(dot\) de](mailto:info.deaf@bmg.bund.de) / [info.gehoerlos@bmg.bund \(dot\) de](mailto:info.gehoerlos@bmg.bund.de)
- Sign language telephone (video telephony) - <https://www.gebaerdentelefon.de/bmg/>

How are health insurance carriers treating cases in relation with COVID-19?

When a person in Germany contracts coronavirus, the health insurance companies (statutory and private) cover the medical treatment costs. This health insurance is mandatory for all German citizens and residents. In terms of cost coverage by health insurance companies, there is no difference to other viral diseases (e.g., influenza).

Since February 28, 2020, health insurance companies have been bearing the costs for coronavirus tests to the extent they are a medical necessity. A prerequisite is the decision of the doctor whether a patient should be tested or not and that the person concerned belongs to the risk group, i.e., either was recently in a high risk country or symptoms of the virus have been detected.

When travelling abroad, it is usual and recommended in Germany to take out private health/travel insurance. This covers the costs of treatment abroad that is not covered by the statutory health insurance. This also includes medical treatment for COVID-19 infections.

Specific insight for employers:

What are my obligations towards employees?

Although employers have the right to issue instructions relating to the employee's duties, the place and time of their discharge, employers equally have a duty of care towards their employees and should not expose them unnecessarily to risk.

Is there specific action an employer is required to take?

The duty of care towards employees increases during a pandemic and depending on the specific situation, employers are generally required to carry out a risk assessment and prepare a corresponding plan including preventive measures.

Employers are also required to educate and inform employees about correct hygiene habits, such as the proper washing of hands, sneezing and coughing etiquette, discourage shaking hands and the provision of hand sanitizer. Every situation must be treated on a case by case basis, but a mask is not usually necessary unless employees work in the health or food industries, for instance.

As in the general public where social distancing is still required, employers must implement smart working to maintain the distance of at least 1.5m between employees. This means restructuring, shift work and fixing maximum numbers of employees, breaks and meal times in canteens or common rooms.

The provision of disinfectant goes without saying and employers must provide single use paper towels instead of hand dryers or fabric/reusable towels.

If contact to clients or customers is necessary, employers should, along with the requisite guidelines, e.g., on their use and disposal, provide employees with protective masks and/or gloves.

Protective glass may be installed to at cash registers and other individual workplaces.

Can the Works Council be involved after the fact due to a need to act quickly in the current circumstances?

No. The current situation does not permit a derogation of the rights of works councils.

In order to enable Works Councils to meet, i.e., reach a quorum during this time of social distancing and when most employees are working from home, the government is working on an amendment to the Works Council Constitution Act (BetrVG) to enable the passing of resolutions by video or telephone conference. The prerequisite is that third parties must not have access to the contents of the meeting. The temporary provision is valid until December 31, 2020, and for resolutions already passed in this manner to remain effective, the regulations will apply retroactively from March 1, 2020.

Can employers still instruct an employee to travel on business?

Employers are required to exercise reason and care; employees should not unnecessarily be exposed to any risk of infection. The employer should not endanger employees, and this includes prohibiting business trips where necessary.

Can employees refuse to go on business trips?

Business trips are also considered "work" in terms of the employment contract and the employee is thus required to comply with an employer's instruction to travel for business purposes. Although the employee does not have a general right to refuse travel, even to infected areas, if the Federal Foreign Office has warned against travel to certain areas, employees may refuse to travel to those areas. The burden is on the employee to show that they would be at risk.

May employers ask where employees have travelled to on holiday?

Such information ordinarily falls within the scope of protected data, however, in order to comply with their duty of care and to enable the employer to take protective and preventive measures, employers may now

ask employees where they were on holiday and to report any such trips and to contact the employer by phone or email prior to returning from a high-risk area.

Can an employer measure an employee's temperature?

In individual cases, the employers can check employee's body temperature and prohibit those with a temperature above 37.5° from entering the premises.

Can an employee be released from their duties or instructed to stay at home?

Where the employer has reason to believe that an employee may endanger other employees, the employer may unilaterally release the employee concerned from their duties or deny them access to the premises. In such cases, the employee retains their right to remuneration.

Since March 9, 2020 and for a limited period of 4 weeks, employees with mild upper respiratory tract infections can receive a sick note for up to seven days after consulting their doctor over the phone. It is not necessary to go to the doctor's office for this and the sick note is sent to the employee by post.

What action should be taken in the case of a suspected infection in the workplace?

Where there is a strong suspicion of a corona infection, employers should notify the public health department and any cases are to be reported to the competent health authority.

- An employee suspected to be infected should remain separated from other persons until a suitable corona testing site can be reached.
- The employee should be released from work on paid leave until they have been tested. Additionally, the people who were in direct contact with the employee should be determined through appropriate interviews and ideally also be tested.
- Employers must protect all other employees in the event of a specific danger situation. If the employment contract permits, the employer may order work to be performed from a home office and if not, both parties may simply agree that work be done from home during this time.

COVID-19 General Overview of Leave Scenarios

	STD	State Sick Leave	State Disability Programs
EE Diagnosed with COVID-19	Yes. Employer required to continue full salary for 6 weeks	After 6 weeks, the employee's health insurer pays the sickness benefit for a further 72 weeks.	Likely approved if employee does not recover and unable to work for at least 3 hours a day.
EE Family Member Diagnosed with COVID-19	No.	Home Care Leave Act allows employees time off to care for sick relatives.	May apply.
EE quarantined for suspected COVID-19 infection by employer or health authorities	Yes. Either employer or authorities to continue pay.	N/A if employee is not sick.	N/A
EE self-quarantine for suspected COVID-19 infection	No	No	No
EE refuses to work due to fear of infection	No	No	No
Employee is well but worksite is closed due to COVID-19	Depending on who closes the worksite, either the employer or the state is required to continue full pay for 6 weeks. After that employee receives the sickness benefit amount.	Likely not approved	If closure ordered by the state, employer can request a refund of salaries paid from the state.

What if an employee decides to stay away from work?

The presence of the COVID-19 pandemic does not relinquish the employee's duty to perform their work. In terms of employment law, employees may not unilaterally decide not to go to work due to fear of an infection. The employee must either take paid or unpaid time off. Any time off must be taken with the employer's approval unless there is a clear and foreseeable risk to the employee's health.

Should employees inform their employer if they have been infected with COVID-19?

Although the employee is normally not required to inform the employer of the details of an illness, employees also have a duty of care towards their employer. Therefore, should an employee become infected with the coronavirus, they have a duty to notify their employer of this fact, especially given its highly contagious nature and the employer's duty to protect other employees and/or clients.

What happens if an employee is unable to work due to an infection with COVID-19?

An employee who is unable to work due to illness arising from a coronavirus infection is entitled to continued remuneration for 6 weeks as with any other illness. That said, while an employer may not prohibit an employee from travelling for private purposes, an employee who, for instance, ignores a travel ban and travels to high risk area (privately) and consequently contracts the virus would not be entitled to a continuation of remuneration as the law requires that the illness is not a result of the employee's own fault.

After 6 weeks, the employee's health insurance fund takes over and pays the sickness benefit.

What if an employee does not attend work due to a suspected infection?

Mere suspicion does not give rise to a claim for continued remuneration as with illness itself, especially if the suspicion is based solely on the employee's fear. If an employee is under observation, quarantined or not permitted to work by the authorities, a claim for compensation for loss of earnings from the relevant competent authorities may exist. However, the employer is required to continue pay and then request reimbursement from the relevant authorities.

Can or should employees be made to work from home?

While employees do not have any general legal entitlement to work from home and employers may not unilaterally impose the obligation to do so on employees if this was never contractually agreed on; nevertheless, working from home/remotely is certainly an option available to both parties at present. Depending on the circumstances, if an employee is unable to work from home, they must either take paid or unpaid time off.

What happens when schools and childcare facilities are closed?

If schools, kindergartens and nurseries are closed as a precautionary measure, employees are entitled to time off with remuneration according to Section 616 of the Civil Code. However, this entitlement is limited to a few days, usually 1-5 and remuneration is only continued if this has not been excluded in the employment contract. Employees must therefore take paid or unpaid time off, with the employer's approval to look after their children. If it is possible for employees to work at home, this would also be an alternative in such cases.

However, if a child is unwell and under 12 during the closure, the employee is entitled to continued remuneration or unpaid off as with any other illness.

What if the public transport stops operating and employees cannot get to work?

A stoppage of public transport also does not relinquish the employee's duty to get to work. If the public transport system is also shut down, the employee is still required to get to work and employers are not required to continue remuneration for failure to work as a result. However, both parties can agree that work be done at home, where possible.

Can employees be forced to go on vacation?

Generally, and under normal circumstances, vacation or paid time off is based on the employee's request, which is to be taken into consideration unless there are significant operational reasons require otherwise.

Forced vacation can be ordered:

- for seasonal operations
- closure due to the owner's absence (e.g. doctor's offices)
- when a company falls into an unforeseen operational crisis that would not normally be considered an operational risk.
- if it is regulated and permitted by an employment contract, collective or a company agreement

Consequently, forced vacation should be preceded by other measures, such as reduced working time, reduction of overtime, etc., where possible.

What happens if the employer closes the company?

Should a company be closed by the employer as a precautionary measure and the employees cannot work although they wish to, they are to be released from work with pay during the period of closure. Employers may not require employees to make up for this time later on.

What if the company is closed on government orders?

If an official quarantine or ban from work is ordered by the competent authorities, the employer is required to continue pay but may apply for reimbursement of salaries paid to affected employees. The reimbursement is not automatic and must be applied for.

Can employers implement short time work due to COVID-19?

Closure or a reduction in working hours due to a shortage of work, e.g., delivery problems or a reduction in production does not relinquish the employer from their duty to continue pay and fall under the so-called operational risk. However, with short-time work, which is a complete or partial temporary reduction of regular working hours coupled with a corresponding reduction of pay due to a significant but temporary shortage of work, employers may reduce work and apply for short time work compensation from their relevant employment agency.

A loss of productivity due to coronavirus and/or its effects, may thus give rise to a claim for compensation for reduced hours or reduced productivity. Employers must note the following:

- The employer may not declare a unilateral reduction and either a collective or an individual agreement is necessary. Therefore, if there is no works agreement or the employment contract does not permit short time work, the employee's consent must be obtained prior to its introduction.
- The application is made by the employer and the requirements, all of which must be fulfilled, are that:
 - it is due to economic reasons or an inevitable event
 - it is temporary and
 - unavoidable and
 - at least one third of the employees employed in the company are affected by a loss of remuneration of more than 10% of their gross monthly salary in the respective claim period.

Changes coming into effect on April 1, 2020 and valid till December 31, 2020, relax the requirements while, inter alia, extending benefits to temporary employees:

- Only 10% and not 1/3 of the employees must be affected by the loss of working hours
- Partial or complete waiver of the need to build up a negative balance in working hours;
- Reduced hours compensation benefit will also be available to temporary/agency workers;
- Complete reimbursement of social security contributions by the Federal Labour Office.

How much and for how long is short time work compensation granted?

Short-time work compensation is granted for a maximum of 12 months and comprises 67% of the net pay difference for employees with at least one child and 60% of the net pay difference for childless employees.

Can employees be requested to work overtime in times of bulk absences?

Yes. If a majority of the employees are unable to work, employers may require the remaining employees to work overtime for the completion of necessary and/or urgent tasks/projects.

Do occupational disability and life insurance plans cover COVID-19?

This depends on the terms and conditions, however, most plans covering pandemics will, under normal circumstances, also cover disability and/or death due to COVID-19.

Further resources:

- Federal Ministry of Health:
<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/en/en/press/2020/coronavirus.html>
https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/fileadmin/Dateien/3_Downloads/C/Coronavirus/Merkblatt-Bildungseinrichtungen-Coronavirus_EN.pdf
- Robert Koch Institute:
https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Risikobewertung.html
- Federal Foreign Office: <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/de/ReiseUndSicherheit/covid-19/2296762>
- Federal Office for Health Education: <https://www.bzga.de/aktuelles/2020-03-03-bzga-informationen-zum-neuartigen-coronavirus-fuer-bildungseinrichtungen/>
https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Transport/Poster_Information_Reisende_china.pdf?blob=publicationFile
- European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control: <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/coronavirus>
- International Monetary Fund: <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19#G>
- World Health Organisation: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>
- European Commission: https://ec.europa.eu/transport/coronavirus-response_en

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