'Tackling COVID-19' – the latest COVID-19 measures in the Free State of Saxony

As of: 04 February 2022

Saxon COVID-19 Emergency Regulation dated 19 November 2021

The Saxon state government has decided to further amend the Saxon COVID-19 Emergency Regulation. This regulation will apply from 06 February 2022 to 6 March 2022 inclusive. In addition to adjusting known regulations, there are also plans to ease restrictions, given the recent decline in infections and hospitalisations. This easing will only apply if fewer than 1300 beds are occupied by COVID-19 patients in general wards at Saxon hospitals, and if fewer than 420 ICU beds are occupied by COVID-19 at Saxon hospitals on three consecutive days, with easing then taking effect from the fifth day onwards. These requirements are currently being met, which is why restrictions can be eased in accordance with Section 21a of the COVID-19 Emergency Regulation. If bed occupancy at general wards or ICUs exceeds the aforementioned thresholds on three consecutive days, the easing of restrictions will cease to apply, effective 2 days later. This will trigger the overload-level restrictions.

2Gplus rule

The 2Gplus rule will be implemented for a number of institutions and facilities: Access to/use of the relevant facilities shall be limited to vaccinated and recovered persons only, though they must also be able to provide a negative test taken that same day.

- Persons exempt from mandatory testing: Those who have had their booster vaccination, children aged 6 and under or those who have not yet started school, children aged 6 to 17 inclusive who are required to undergo testing at school, persons not recommended for vaccination by the Standing Committee on Vaccination (STIKO), persons who are fully vaccinated (2 doses) AND can provide proof of recovery, and persons who are fully vaccinated (2 doses) with their last dose being between 14 days and maximum three months prior
An overview of the COVID-19 measures

Private households

- **1 household + 1 person rule** – Private gatherings may be only between one household and one additional person if they involve at least one unvaccinated person, with the exception of children under 16.
- **Alcohol ban** in certain public places or certain publicly accessible establishments defined by the districts or independent municipalities
- Private gatherings involving only vaccinated or recovered persons are permitted insofar as there are no more than ten persons attending. This ten-person limit does not include children aged 16 and under.

FFP2 masks or equivalent respirator masks

- The wearing of FFP2 masks or equivalent respirator masks is mandatory in settings such as indoor spaces at establishments/institutions, companies, shops and government offices/authorities if these involve publicly accessible traffic areas and services where physical distancing is not possible.

Dining, culture and tourism

- Dining establishments can operate insofar as the **2G rules** (in the event the overload level is triggered: 2Gplus indoors and 2G outdoors, opening hours until 8 p.m.)
- For non-tourism overnight stays (e.g. business trips), the **3G rules** generally apply. If the overload level is not in effect, overnight stays for tourism purposes are also permitted, with **2Gplus rules** applying on arrival, as are tourist bus and train services.
- Museums, memorial sites, exhibitions and indoor areas of botanical gardens and zoos can operate insofar as the **2G rules** are applied.
- Accessing archives and libraries and outdoor areas of botanical gardens and zoos requires compliance with the **3G rules**.
- Other cultural and recreational facilities (e.g. cinemas and theatres) can operate insofar as the **2Gplus rules** and capacity limits are applied (organisers can choose: either 50% of total capacity with maximum 2,000 guests at a time, or 25% of total capacity). (If the overload level is triggered: 50% of maximum
capacity with up to 500 guests at a time or 25% of maximum capacity with up to 1000 guests at a time

- Church services and other gatherings of churches and religious communities are permitted, insofar as the **3G rules** are applied.
- Discos, bars and clubs must remain **closed**.

**Schools and education**

- The **compulsory schooling requirement has been lifted** for all schools; schooling is not compulsory.
- Schools and day-care centres remain open.
- Day-care centres and primary schools are **operating with restrictions** - closed groups and reduced opening hours (day-care centres).
- Universities, training establishments, Berufsakademie Sachsen vocational academy - **3G rules** apply for attending lectures.
- Extracurricular (advanced) training and continued education establishments may run face-to-face classes with **2G rules** and contact tracing (except in the event the overload level is triggered, in which case only services for children aged under 18, including minders, will be allowed to run, with **3G rules** in place)

**Retail and services involving physical proximity**

- Retail and wholesale businesses - including hardware stores and garden centres - may only be open if **3G rules** are applied. (Overload level: 2G rules from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.)
- Retail relating to **basic supplies** (e.g. groceries, animal needs, off-licences, pharmacies and medical supplies stores) remains **open without restriction**.
- Services involving physical proximity can operate, insofar as the **2G rules** are applied.
- You can visit a hairdresser if you can provide proof of **3G compliance**.
Public transport

- **FFP2 masks mandatory** on buses and trains

Sport and recreation

- Sporting events can go ahead insofar as the **2Gplus rules** and capacity limits are applied (organisers can choose: either **50% of total capacity with maximum 2,000 guests** at a time, or **25% of total capacity**).
  (Overload level: 50% of maximum capacity with up to 500 guests at a time or 25% of maximum capacity with up to 1000 guests at a time)
- The following rules apply for sporting complexes, gyms and similar establishments:
  - Indoor sporting complexes: **2Gplus rule**
  - Outdoor sporting complexes: **2G rules** and contact tracing (no contact tracing for ski lifts)
  - Sport is only permitted for children and adolescents aged under 18; minders must comply with the **3G rules**.
  - Closed when the overload level is triggered, except for: Occupational sport, children aged under 18, medically required treatments etc. In these cases, the 3G rules will apply, with contact tracing.
- Pools and saunas (except steam saunas) are open, insofar as **2Gplus rules** (they will be closed if the overload level is triggered, except in cases involving rehabilitation and medical purposes, job-related practical training etc., when the 3G rules with contact tracing will apply.).
- Solariums can remain open, insofar as the **2G rules** and contact tracing are applied (they will be closed if the overload level is triggered, except in cases involving rehabilitation and medical purposes, when the 3G rules with contact tracing will apply.).
Other areas

- Open-air events are permitted (if the overload level is triggered, attendees are limited to 5,000). **3G rules** and capacity limits apply for indoor gatherings (organisers can choose: either 50% of maximum capacity with no more than 500 guests at a time, or 25% of maximum capacity with no more than 1000 guests at a time).
- Trade fairs can go ahead, insofar as the **2Gplus rules** are applied (if the overload level is triggered: one attendee per four square metres of event space).
- The **3G rules** will apply for driving schools.
- Travel agencies, insurance agencies, investment consultancy firms, business consultancy firms and financial service providers may operate, insofar as the **2G rules** are applied.
- Amusement arcades, casinos and betting shops can operate, insofar as the **2Gplus rules** are applied (these must be closed to visitors in the event the overload level is triggered, except for: handing in and collecting lottery tickets, and payment transactions at betting shops - with **2G rules** applied).
- Party, committee or voters’ association meetings are permitted, insofar as the **2G rules** are applied, mandatory meetings are permitted with **3G rules** if they cannot be held online for legal or factual reasons (in the event the overload level is triggered, only mandatory meetings can be held).