



Federal Ministry  
of Food  
and Agriculture

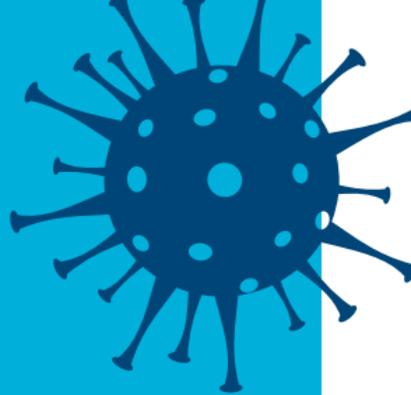


The Federal Government Commissioner  
for Migration, Refugees and Integration  
Office for the Equal Treatment of EU Workers



Seasonal work  
during the  
coronavirus  
pandemic

This flyer will inform you about the specific conditions of seasonal agricultural work during the COVID-19 pandemic.



## What documentation do I need to travel to Germany?

- If you come from a high risk area or areas where new strains of the virus have been detected (areas of variant of concern), you are required to register online at the [www.einreiseanmeldung.de](https://www.einreiseanmeldung.de) travel portal before entering Germany.
- Take a COVID-19 test before entering the country. Taking a self-test without official certification is not sufficient. Upload the certificate with the negative test result via the travel portal in German, English, French, Italian or Spanish.
- The rapid antigen test must have been taken no earlier than 48 hours before entry into Germany (in the case of areas of variant of concern it must have been taken no earlier than 24 hours before entry). PCR tests must have been taken within the last 72 hours. You need to pay for the test yourself. You can ask your employer whether he/she pays for the test on a voluntary basis.
- As an alternative to a COVID-19 test, proof of full vaccination or proof of recovery can be provided in German, English, French, Italian or Spanish. To find out whether your vaccination is recognised in Germany, please go to:  
<https://www.pei.de/impfstoffe/covid-19>  
If you have stayed in a variant of concern area, only proof of testing will be accepted.

## Do I have to quarantine on entering Germany?

- If you have been in a high risk area in the last 10 days before your entry and have uploaded a proof of vaccination or recovery via the travel portal before your entry, you do not have to quarantine at all.

- If you do not have a vaccination card or proof of recovery, you must self-isolate in work quarantine for 5 days. During this work quarantine you are allowed to work but may otherwise not leave your accommodation except for going to work directly, not even for grocery shopping! Your employer will do your grocery shopping or he/she will cater for you during this quarantine period. During this time, you will be paid and therefore will be able to pay for your accommodation from your wage.
- If you come from an area of variant of concern, you need to quarantine for 14 days. You are not allowed to work and you will generally not be paid during this period. You will, however, usually have to pay for your accommodation during this time.

## **What documentation do I need in Germany?**

- Currently, for almost all activities you need to carry documentation that you have been vaccinated, have had COVID-19 and recovered or have an up-to-date negative test and will need to show this upon request. This applies to working on farms, to the communal accommodation and to public transport. A proof of vaccination or proof of recovery is sufficient. Otherwise you must present an up-to-date negative test. Public test points offer free of charge COVID-19 rapid antigen tests. A rapid antigen test must not be older than 24 hours; a PCR test must not be older than 48 hours.
- You may only enter other areas, for example shops (except for food shops and supermarkets) if you have proof that you are vaccinated or have recovered.
- In some areas, you even need an up-to-date negative test in addition to the evidence that you are vaccinated or fully recovered.

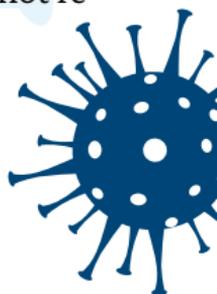
## **What documentation do I need for my work and my communal accommodation?**

- Your employer will check that you have evidence for your vaccination, have recovered from COVID-19, or have an up-to-date test.

- If you have been vaccinated with a vaccine recognised in Germany, or have recovered from COVID-19, you need to show your employer the evidence once. If you are not vaccinated, or have not recovered, you need to get tested with a rapid antigen test **every day** and show the test documentation.
- Your employer may offer you a self-test under supervision. The self-test is valid for a maximum of 24 hours and only for the work place. (For your protection, your employer will test you twice a week for the coronavirus; he does not, however, need to issue you any documentation of the latter.)
- The time spent doing the test does not count as working time.
- If you cannot provide any corresponding documentation, you will not be able to work and will not receive any payment.”

## How can I protect myself from COVID-19 at work and in my accommodation?

- When at work, keep a distance of at least 1.5 metres from other persons.
- Wear an FFP2 mask (also known as KN95, N95 or P2) or a surgical mask if you cannot keep the minimum distance of 1.5 metres, when walking in buildings and in all buildings and vehicles that are used by several persons at the same time.
- Change your mask regularly and whenever it is wet. Use a new mask at least once every day. Your employer will give you new masks for work free of charge.
- Your employer will decide who you will work together with. You will work permanently in fixed teams that are as small as possible; you will spend your breaks together and will drive to the field together.
- If possible, you will only share your accommodation with persons who you also work with. The principle of “living together – working together” applies. Wearing a face mask is not mandatory in your team’s living and sleeping quarters.



## What happens if I test positive for COVID-19 in Germany?

- If the result of a rapid test is positive, you must get a PCR test free of charge.
- The local public health authority decides whether and for what period of time you have to quarantine. As a general rule, you need to quarantine in your accommodation for at least 14 days.
- You may be entitled for compensation to the total of your wages if you have already worked.
- You will have to continue to pay for your accommodation.

## What if I get ill? If I have to see a doctor, who pays the bill?

- If you have medical insurance in your home country and have an A1 document, then you are also medically insured for your seasonal work. Please bring your European medical insurance card with you.
- If you are an employed person subject to compulsory social insurance in Germany, you are also covered in case of illness.
- If you are employed on a short-term basis – possible for up to three months or 70 days – you are not covered by the statutory health insurance.
- From Januar 1st, 2022. as a seasonal worker, you must have a health insurance.
- If you do not have insurance elsewhere, your employer will normally take out a private group insurance for you. Your employer will usually have to carry the cost of this. If not, he must come to another agreement with you in advance.



**Suggestion:** Please make sure you find out about your health insurance status before entering Germany.

## What if I have an accident at work?

- You need to report the accident to your employer.
- If the accident happens at work, the agricultural accident insurance will cover treatment costs and possible follow-up costs.

## Can I get vaccinated against the coronavirus in Germany?

- As a seasonal worker, you can also get vaccinated in Germany.
- Your employer must inform you about vaccination opportunities. If necessary the employer must release you from work.
- To be vaccinated, you must either take your signed work contract or a certificate from the employer, and also your valid identity document.
- If your employer offers you vaccination during working hours or if you only manage to make an appointment during working hours, then you will still receive your wage.

## What do I need to bear in mind regarding my contract of employment?

- Please make sure that you have a printed copy of your employment contract with you, if available.
- As a harvest worker, you are subject to German labour and occupational health and safety law. For more information in your language about how much may be charged for your accommodation see: [www.faire-mobilitaet.de/landwirtschaft](http://www.faire-mobilitaet.de/landwirtschaft)
- The minimum wage is EUR 9.60 gross per hour since 1 July 2021 (EUR 9.82 gross from the 1st of January 2022). Piecework wage is possible, but at least the minimum wage must be paid for each hour worked in the respective month.
- We would recommend that you make a note of your contacts and the number of hours you worked every day.

## Further information and advice:

The Social Insurance for Agriculture, Forestry and Horticulture (SVLFG) provides information and advisory services on health and safety at work free of charge for harvest workers (more languages available):



[www.agriwork-germany.de/webapp-saisonarbeit/](http://www.agriwork-germany.de/webapp-saisonarbeit/)  
[www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxhmJE7PYUHSx-0wGe8YJbol0-flgUQV-F](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxhmJE7PYUHSx-0wGe8YJbol0-flgUQV-F)

[www.svlfg.de/auslaendische-saisonarbeitskraefte](http://www.svlfg.de/auslaendische-saisonarbeitskraefte)

[www.svlfg.de/information-saisonarbeitskraefte](http://www.svlfg.de/information-saisonarbeitskraefte)

German hotline: +49 561 78510010

The “Fair Mobility” (Faire Mobilität) project offers information and advisory services on labour and social law for seasonal workers (more languages available):



[www.faire-mobilitaet.de/landwirtschaft](http://www.faire-mobilitaet.de/landwirtschaft)

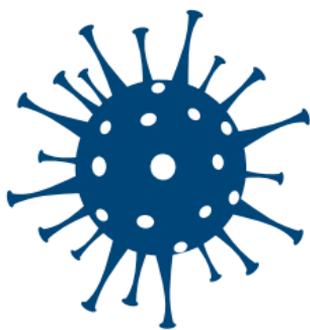
[www.fair-arbeiten.eu](http://www.fair-arbeiten.eu)

Hotline in English, Polish: +800 0005780

To find the nearest advice centre from your location in your language, please go to:



[www.eu-gleichbehandlungsstelle.de/beratungsstellenuche](http://www.eu-gleichbehandlungsstelle.de/beratungsstellenuche)



**Further information by the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (in German, Polish, Romanian and English) on occupational health and safety in the agricultural sector can also be found at:**



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and Agriculture

**[bmel.de/rahmenbedingungen-saisonarbeitskraefte](https://www.bmel.de/rahmenbedingungen-saisonarbeitskraefte)**

**You can find up-to-date government information on the COVID-19 pandemic in your language on the website of the Federal Government Commissioner for Migration, Refugees and Integration:**



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**[www.integrationsbeauftragte.de/corona-virus](https://www.integrationsbeauftragte.de/corona-virus)  
and [twitter.com/integrationBund](https://twitter.com/integrationBund) and  
[instagram.com/Integrationsbeauftragte](https://instagram.com/Integrationsbeauftragte)**

Version as of: 15.12.2021 – for the latest version of this flyer please go to one of the following websites:

**[www.bmel.de/flyer-saisonarbeitskraefte](https://www.bmel.de/flyer-saisonarbeitskraefte) or  
[www.eu-gleichbehandlungsstelle.de/flyer-saison-  
arbeitskraefte](https://www.eu-gleichbehandlungsstelle.de/flyer-saison-arbeitskraefte)**

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