TRANSLATION (excerpt)

Thirty-First Corona Control Ordinance Rhineland-Palatinate (31st CoBeLVO) of 02 March 2022

Based on § 32 sentence 1 in connection with § 28 para. 1 sentence 1 and 2, § 28a para. 7 and § 29, § 30 para. 1 sentence 2 of the Infection Prevention and Control Act of 20 July 2000 (Federal Law Gazette, Part I page 1045) as amended by Article 1 and 2 of the Act, dated 10 December 2021 (Federal Law Gazette, Part I page 5162), in conjunction with § 1 No. 1 of the State Ordinance on the Implementation of the Infection Prevention and Control Act of 10 March 2010 (State Law/Regulations Gazette page 55), as amended by § 7 of the Act, dated 15 October 2012 (State Law/Regulations Gazette page 341, BS 2126-10), it is decreed:

Part 1 Purpose, General Protective Measures

§ 1

Purpose

This Ordinance regulates necessary protective measures to prevent the spread and to contain the Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, insofar as no deviating regulations have been issued on the basis of § 28 b of the Infection Prevention and Control Act (IfSG) and § 28 c IfSG by the Federal Government. The regulations in this Ordinance are based on the assessment of the current development of the burden and strain on the health care system in Rhineland-Palatinate. The necessity of current and further measures is reviewed again at least every four weeks.

§ 2 General Protective Measures, Definitions

(1) In the cases specified in this ordinance, where reference is made to this ordinance, a minimum distance of 1.5 meters between persons shall be maintained (**distance requirement**).

(2) A medical face mask (OP surgical mask) or a FFP2 mask or a comparable standard shall be worn in enclosed rooms that are accessible to the public. Otherwise, a medical face mask (OP surgical mask) or FFP2 mask or a comparable standard shall be worn, insofar as this is stipulated in this Ordinance (**mask requirement**).

(3) The distance requirement and the mask requirement do not apply to

1. children up to the age of six are exempt.

2. persons for whom wearing a cover over mouth and nose is impossible or unreasonable due to a disability or for health-related reasons; this has to be verified by a medical certificate.

3. communication with persons with a hearing or visual impairment or for identification purposes or in connection with the performance of judicial tasks as long as it is necessary,

(4) In the cases specified in this Ordinance, in which this provision is referenced, the proof for absence of an infection with SARS CoV-2 provided for therein can be established by

1. by a vaccination certificate pursuant to § 2 No. 7 of the COVID-19 Exemption from Protective Measures Ordinance (SchAusnahmV) of 8 May 2021 (BAnz AT 08.05.2021 V1) as amended or

2. a test by means of nucleic acid detection (PCR, PoC-PCR or other methods of nucleic acid amplification technology) carried out no more than 48 hours ago

(obligation to test).

If the operator of a facility offers the possibility, a test pursuant to sentence 1 No. 7 letter a) SchAusnahmV is to be carried out by the visitor before entering the facility in the presence of a person appointed by the operator of the facility and only entitles to visit this facility. The operator of a facility shall only grant the visitor access to the facility upon presentation of a test certificate pursuant to sentence 1. Unless otherwise specified in this Ordinance or in § 28b IfSG, the obligation to test does not apply to:

1. vaccinated or recovered persons as well as

2. minors.

(5) A vaccinated person within the meaning of this Ordinance is, subject to the provision in paragraph 8, an asymptomatic person who is in possession of a vaccination certificate issued to him/her pursuant to § 2 No. 3 SchAusnahmV. A recovered person within the meaning of this Ordinance is, subject to the provision in paragraph 8, an asymptomatic person who is in possession of a certificate of recovery issued to him/her pursuant to § 2 No. 5 SchAusnahmV.

(6) In the cases specified in this Ordinance in which the presentation of a test certificate proving the absence of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus is required, the test certificate has to be presented by persons who have reached the age of 16 years, together with a valid official photo ID issued to the person tested. This also applies to the presentation of a vaccination certificate pursuant to § 2 No. 3 SchAusnahmV or a recovered certificate pursuant to § 2 No. 5 SchAusnahmV.

(7) Where this Ordinance refers to **vaccinated or recovered persons**, this condition shall be deemed fulfilled for purposes of this Ordinance in case of

1. children up to three months after the completion of their twelfth year of life and

2. in the case of persons who cannot be vaccinated against the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus for medical reasons, with the proviso that this has to be substantiated by a medical certificate which must at least clearly show the basis on which the medical diagnosis was made and who have a test certificate pursuant to para. 4 sentence 1.

(8) For the purposes of this Ordinance, a **non-immunized person** is a person who is neither vaccinated nor recovered and is not treated as such under paragraph 7.

(9) Insofar as the distance requirement pursuant to paragraph 1, the mask requirement pursuant to paragraph 2 sentence 2 or the obligation to test pursuant to paragraph 4 sentence 1 are stipulated in this Ordinance or the participation in an offer or the use of or visit to facilities requires immunization, it shall be incumbent on the persons using the respective offers the compliance and the offering persons or institutions the compliance and control of these obligations.

(10) The hygiene concepts published on the website of the State government (www.corona.rlp.de) as amended shall be observed. If no hygiene concepts for individual facilities or measures are published on the website of the State government or the ministries responsible for the subject, the hygiene concepts of comparable facilities or circumstances shall apply accordingly.

(11) Exemptions from the provisions of paragraphs 1, 2, 4, and 6 may be granted in justified individual cases upon application by the competent county administration, in county-free cities by the city administration as county regulatory authority, subject to conditions, insofar as the level of protection is comparable, this is justifiable from an epidemiological point of view, in particular taking into account the current incidence of infection, and the purpose of this Ordinance is not impaired.

Part 2 Assemblies, events and accumulation of persons

§ 3 Meetings and gatherings of persons.

(1) Non-immunized persons shall be in public areas only alone, with members of their own household and no more than two persons of another household, with vaccinated, recovered or equivalent persons being taken into account in determining the number of persons. Persons up to the age of 14 are not taken into account when determining the number of persons. The spouse, life partner or life companion not living in the same household shall also be counted as one household. The parent not living in the same household shall be permitted to continue to exercise his or her right to visitation. Where compelling personal reasons so require, in particular to ensure appropriate care for minors or persons in need of care, the presence of other persons is also permitted. The contact limitation stipulated in sentences 1 to 5 shall also apply insofar as reference is made to it in this Ordinance (**contact limitation**). Within the scope of the contact limitation, the respective persons shall be exempt from compliance with the distance requirement, if so ordered by this Ordinance.

(2) In the case of assemblies pursuant to Article 8 of the Basic Law [German Constitution], the distance requirement pursuant to § 2 para. 1 and the mask requirement pursuant to § 2 para. 2 sentence 2 shall apply.

(3) At public elections and assemblies intended to serve the preparation and conduct of public elections, in particular constituency conferences and representative assemblies, the distance requirement pursuant to § 2 para. 1 and the mask requirement pursuant to § 2 para. 2 sentence 2 apply.

(4) In the case of meetings of municipal bodies, the obligation to test pursuant to § 2 para. 4 sentence 1 shall apply.

(5) Notwithstanding the right of the State Parliament (Landtag) to organize itself, the distance requirement pursuant to § 2 para. 1 sentence 1 and the mask requirement pursuant to § 2 para. 2 sentence 2 shall apply to visitors to enclosed rooms in public administration establishments.

(6) In institutions serving the administration of justice (including notary offices and law offices) and at meetings of the administration of justice, the distance requirement pursuant to § 2 para. 1 applies in enclosed rooms, subject to § 2 para. 3, and, insofar as the rooms are accessible to the public or in the context of visitor or customer traffic, the mask requirement pursuant to § 2 para. 2 sentence 2 apply. For the buildings of the courts and public prosecutor's offices, the respective competent court or authority management may order that access is only permitted upon presentation of proof of testing pursuant to § 2 para. 4 sentence 1. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 5, of § 4 shall not apply. Decisions based on the provisions of § 176 and § 180 of the Judicature Act and regulations based on the house-master's authority shall take precedence over sentences 1 to 3.

(7) In the case of assemblies for reasons relevant to examinations as well as for the implementation of selection procedures in degree programs with restricted admissions, the obligation to test pursuant to § 2 para. 4 sentence 1. Compliance with the obligation to test pursuant to sentence 1 shall be monitored on a random basis by means of suitable measures.

(8) In the case of gatherings of persons on the occasion of civil marriage ceremonies the mask requirement pursuant to § 2 para. 2 sentence 2 shall apply to all persons present, with the exception of the persons to be wed. The respective house master's authority remain unaffected.

(9) In the case of gatherings of persons on the occasion of funerals, the mask requirement pursuant to § 2 para. 2 sentence 2 shall apply in enclosed rooms.

(10) The mask requirement pursuant to § 2 para. 2 sentence 2 shall apply when blood donation appointments are held.

(11) At meetings of self-help groups, which

1. belong to a welfare association of the LIGA der Freien Wohlfahrtspflege in Rhineland-Palatinate e.V.,

2. are kept in the databases of the members of the LAG KISS,

3. are member organizations of the Landesarbeitsgemeinschaft Selbsthilfe Behinderter Rheinland-Pfalz e. V. or

4. are organizations of persons with disabilities pursuant to § 3 para. 5 of the Land Inclusion Act of 17 December 2020 (GVBl. p. 719, BS 87-1), as amended,

and serve to cope with a situation of psychological stress, to cope with one's own illness or the illness of a relative, the obligation to test pursuant to § 2 para. 4 sentence 1 shall apply.

§4 Event

Events

(1) For Events with up to 2,000 spectators or participants, the obligation to test pursuant to § 2 para. 4 sentence 1. For indoor events with more 250 spectators or participants, who do not occupy fixed seats for the majority of the event, the mask requirement pursuant to § 2 para. 2 sentence 2 shall apply. The mask requirement does not apply for the duration of occupying a fixed seat or when consuming food and beverages.

(2) Only vaccinated, recovered or equivalent persons shall participate in events in enclosed rooms with more than 2,000 spectators or participants. In addition, minors who are nor vaccinated, recovered or equivalent persons can also participate, provided that they have a test certificate pursuant to § 2 para. 4 sentence 1. The permitted number of spectators or participants is no more than 60 percent of the available seat capacity, but shall not exceed a total of 6,000 persons. The mask requirement pursuant to § 2 para. 2 sentence 2 shall apply.

(3) In clubs, discotheques or similar establishment, access is only permitted to visitors who have been vaccinated, have recovered or are equivalent to such persons. The obligation to test pursuant to § 2 para. 4 sentence 1 shall apply; this also applies to vaccinated, recovered or equivalent persons of full age which fall within the scope of § 6 para. 2 No. 1 SchAusnahmVO. Paragraph 1 sentences s 2 and 3 do not apply.

(4) Only vaccinated, recovered or equivalent persons shall participate in outdoor events with more than 2,000 spectators or participants. Additionally, minors who are nor vaccinated, recovered or equivalent persons can also participate, provided that they have a test certificate pursuant to § 2 para. 4 sentence 1. The permitted number of spectators or participants is no more than 75 percent of the available seat capacity, but shall not exceed a total of 25,000 persons.

(5) Exemptions from the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 to 4 may be granted in individual cases upon application by the competent county administration, in county-free cities by the city administration as county regulatory authority in cooperation with the public health office, subject to conditions, insofar as the level of protection is comparable, this is justifiable from an epidemiological point of view, in particular taking into account the current incidence of infection, and the purpose of this Ordinance is not impaired.

Part 3 Worship

(1) The distance requirement pursuant to § 2 para. 1 and the mask requirement pursuant to § 2 para. 2 sentence 2 apply to events held in enclosed rooms of religious communities or congregations of faith, such as church services or meetings that are required for self-organization or legislation and events or lessons in preparation for communion, confirmation, or similar occasions. The distance requirement can be maintained by a free seat between each seat within a row and in front of and behind each seat. Exempt from the mask requirement are clergypersons as well as lecturers, prayer leaders, cantors, pre-singers, and musicians.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph 1, events of religious communities or congregations of faith in enclosed rooms can also take place in accordance with the provisions of § 4 para. 1.

Part 4 Economy

§ 6 Commercial facilities

In commercial facilities, the distance requirement pursuant to § 2 para. 1 and the mask requirement pursuant to § 2 para. 2 sentence 2 apply in enclosed rooms, whereby the wearing of an FFP2 mask or a mask of a comparable standard is recommended.

§ 7 Service and craft businesses

(1) For persons subject to the provisions of § 28b para. 1 and 2 IfSG because they are selfemployed and do not have any employees, the obligation to test pursuant to § 2 para. 4 sentence 1, applies insofar as physical contact with third parties cannot be ruled out in the course of the self-employed activity.

(2) In the context of the activities of service and craft businesses, the distance requirement pursuant to § 2 para. 1 and the mask requirement pursuant to § 2 para. 2 sentence 2 apply to customers in enclosed rooms.

(3) In the case of providing bodily-related services, the following apply:

1. the mask requirement pursuant to § 2 para. 2 sentence 2 with the exception of rehabilitation sports and functional training; the mask requirement does not apply if a mask cannot be worn due to the nature of the service;

2. for customers the obligation to test pursuant to § 2 para. 4 sentence 1 with the exception of rehabilitation sport and functional training and services provided for medical reasons.

(4) In health care facilities the mask requirement pursuant to § 2 para. 2 sentence 2 applies in waiting situations together with other persons.

(5) The provision of present sexual services is only permitted in compliance with the Hygiene Concept for Sexual Services, which is published on the State government's website (www.corona.rlp.de). The following applies:

1. the obligation to test pursuant to § 2 para. 4 sentence 1; and

2. the obligation of the operator to draw up and display an individual protection and hygiene concept shall apply, which shall be submitted to the competent authority on request.

§ 8 Catering trade

The obligation to test pursuant to § 2 para. 4 sentence 1 applies in catering establishments. In pick-up situations, the mas requirement pursuant to § 2 para. 2 sentence 2 applies instead of the obligation to test. In school canteens, proof of testing is not required for students.

§ 9 Hotel industry, accommodation establishments

(1) The obligation to test pursuant to § 2 para. 4 sentence 1 applies in

1. hotels, hotel garni, guesthouses, inns, and similar facilities

2. hostels, recreation, holiday and training homes, holiday centers, and similar facilities.

In case of stays for several days, a new test shall be carried out every 72 hours, calculated from the time of the last test.

(2) The provisions in § 8 shall apply to gastronomic offers of the facility mutatis mutandis with the proviso that for guests of establishments referred to in paragraph 1, the obligation to test is determined in accordance with paragraph 1. For offers of sports and leisure activities, the use of a sauna, wellness and cosmetic offers as well as group offers of a recreational nature, the other provisions of this ordinance apply accordingly, with the proviso that for guests of facilities the obligation to test pursuant to paragraph 1 shall be determined in accordance with paragraph 1.

§ 10

Coach and ship travel

In case of travel by coach or ship, the obligation to test pursuant to § 2 para. 4sentence 1 shall apply. In the case of journeys lasting several days, a re-testing has to be carried out every 72 hours, calculated from the time of the last test. The provisions of § 8 shall apply accordingly to catering services.

Part 5 Sports and Leisure Time

§ 11

Sports

(1) In amateur and recreational sports, the obligation to test pursuant to § 2 para. 4 sentence 1 applies in all public and private covered and uncovered sports facilities (**indoors and outdoors**).

(2) Indoors in swimming and fun pools, thermal baths, and saunas the obligation to test pursuant to § 2 para. 4 sentence 1 applies. A hygiene concept, which in particular also contains regulations on the use of changing rooms, showers and similar common areas concerning the permissible number of visitors, has to be kept in place. The control of the hygiene concepts is the responsibility of the responsible county administration, in county-free cities by the city administration as a county regulatory authority.

(3) When hosting events in amateur and leisure sports as well as in professional and top-class sports, spectators are permitted in accordance with § 4.

§ 12 Leisure Time

(1) The obligation to test pursuant to § 2 para. 4 sentence 1 applies in

1. amusement parks, climbing centers, miniature golf courses, and similar facilities

2. gambling hall, casinos, betting agencies and similar facilities, as well as

3. zoological gardens, zoos, botanical gardens and similar facilities.

Part 6 Education and Culture

§ 13 Schools, State study seminars for teaching posts

[not translated]

§ 14 Child day care facilities, Child day care

[not translated]

§ 15

Universities, extracurricular education, training and further education

(1) Participation in enclosed classroom teaching at universities requires proof of testing for students and teachers pursuant to § 2 para. 4 sentence 1 for those not within the scope of § 28b para. 1 IfSG, subject to the proviso that a test pursuant to § 2 No. 7 letter (a) SchAusnahmV is

not permitted. Proof of testing has to be submitted upon request. In addition, the universities may impose the mask requirement pursuant to § 2para. 2 sentence 2 in courses. Compliance with the provisions of sentences 1 to 3 shall be monitored on a random basis by means of suitable measures.

(2) In the case of educational programs offered in public or private institutions, the following apply to all participants in enclosed rooms:

1. the mask requirement pursuant to § 2 para. 2 sentence 2, or

2. the obligation to test pursuant to § 2 para. 4 sentence 1.

§ 11 shall apply mutatis mutandis to sports and exercise programs offered in public and private facilities outside of general education and vocational schools.

(3) Paragraph 2 also apply to appropriate educational opportunities for individuals in enclosed rooms and to measures taken by service providers to provide employment integration benefits in accordance with Title Two of the Social Code or measures of active employment promotion according to Title Three of the Social Code, in addition to labor market policy projects, supported by national funds or funds of European Social Fund.

(4) Offers of child and youth work, youth social work, and cultural pedagogic are permitted in compliance with the hygiene concept for facilities and services for child and youth work, youth social work, and cultural pedagogic, which is published on the website of the state government (www.corona.rlp.de). Indoors the mask requirement pursuant to § 2 para. 2 sentence 2 applies in general. For offers lasting several days with and without overnight stays, the obligation to test applies in accordance with the hygiene concept mentioned in sentence 1.

(5) the obligation to test pursuant to § 2 para. 4 sentence 1 applies to extracurricular music and art lessons.

§ 16

Culture

(1) The obligation to test pursuant to § 2 para. 4 sentence 1 applies to the operation of public and commercial cultural institutions, in particular

1. cinemas, theaters, concert halls, cabarets, and similar facilities

2. circuses and similar facilities.

3. museums, exhibitions, libraries, memorials, and similar institutions

(2) The rehearsal and performance of grassroots and amateur culture is subject to the obligation to test pursuant to § 2 para. 4 sentence 1

(3) At performances of the grassroots and amateur culture spectators are permitted in compliance with § 4.

Part 7 Hospitals and similar Institutions

§ 17 Visiting and access arrangements for special institutions

[not translated]

§ 18 Hospitals

[not translated]

§ 19 Registration of treatment capacities

[not translated]

Part 8 Reception centers for asylum seekers, exemptions from the obligation to isolate and grouprelated measures

§ 20 State reception centers for asylum seekers

[not translated]

§ 21 Exceptions from the obligation to isolate entry-ins and from the obligation to provide proof.

(1) Requests for exemption from the obligation to isolate pursuant to § 6 para. 2 sentence 1 No. 2 of the Corona Entry Ordinance are deemed to have been submitted and approved

1. for persons who have been in a risk area for less than 72 hours,

2. for persons who live in a common household with the persons designated in § 6 para. 1 sentence 1 Nos. 3, 4, 7, 10 and 11 of the Corona Entry Ordinance and who enter together with them

3. for persons who are not cross-border commuters pursuant to § 2 No. 11 lit. a Corona Entry Ordinance only because they do not return to their place of residence at least once a week, but

otherwise meet the conditions specified therein and transport persons, goods or merchandise by land, water, or air across borders for professional reasons.

Applications for exemption from the obligation under § 4 para. 2 sentence 3 half-sentence 1 Corona Entry Ordinance, according to which in the case of the transmission of a test proof the underlying test has to have taken place at the earliest five days after entry, are deemed submitted and approved for persons who live in a common household with the persons named in § 6 para. 2 sentence 1 No. 1 lit. a to c Corona Entry Ordinance and enter together with them.

(2) Applications for exemption from the obligation to provide proof pursuant to § 6 para. 3 No. 1 letter b Corona Entry Ordinance shall be deemed to have been submitted and approved for persons who have been for less than 72 hours in an area outside the Federal Republic of Germany.

(3) Paragraphs 1 and 2 do not apply to persons who have been in an area classified as a virus variant area pursuant to § 2 No. 3a of the Corona Entry Ordinance at any time in the 10 days prior to entry.

§ 22 Group-related Measures

In the case of special group-related work and accommodation situations, in particular seasonal workers who work and live in groups or who travel for the purpose of taking up an activity in a group, the employer has to notify the competent authority before work commences. The employer shall take and document special occupational hygiene measures and arrangements for contact avoidance outside the working group based on the relevant technical standards, in particular in accordance with the competent professional association. The competent authority shall verify compliance. Rooms shall only be occupied with a maximum of half the usual occupancy capacity; this restriction does not apply to families and vaccinated, recovered or equivalent persons.

Part 9 General Decrees

§ 23 General Decrees

(1) General Orders of the county administrations, in district-free cities of the city administration as county regulatory authorities for the control of the Coronavirus SARS-VoV2 in accordance with the Infection Prevention and Control Act are to be issued in agreement with the competent Ministry dealing with health matters. If the general decrees pursuant to sentence 1 also contain provisions concerning schools or day-care centers, these shall be agreed in advance with the competent supervisory authorities.

(2) Paragraph 1 sentence 1 does not apply to

1. general orders which regulate the local and temporal scope of a mask requirement and 2. general orders according to § 14 para. 2 sentence 1.

Part 10 Administrative Fines, Entering into Force, Expiration

§ 24 Administrative offences

An administrative offence within the meaning of § 73 para. 1 (a) No. 24 of the Infection Prevention and Control Act (IfSG) is committed by anyone who intentionally or negligently

[No. 1 to 68. - not translated]

§ 74 IfSG [Infection Prevention and Control Act] remains unaffected.

§ 25

Entry into force, expiration

(1) This Ordinance shall enter into force on 4 March 2022 shall expire at the end of 19 March 2022.

(2) The Thirtieth Corona Control Ordinance Rhineland-Palatinate of 28 January 2022 (State Law/Regulations Gazette page 30), as amended by Ordinance of 17 February 2022 (State Law/Regulations Gazette page 53), BS 2126-13, shall expire at the end of 3 March 2022.

Done at Mainz on 2 March 2022

Clemens Hoch The Minister for Science and Health