

New Information by the Austrian Government

The Austrian Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection issued a new decree, which came into effect on May 1, 2020. It contains the following new guidelines to be followed in the wake of the COVID-19 measures:

Moving around in and going to public areas:

When entering public places **outdoors**, a distance of at least **one meter** from persons not living in a common household must be maintained at all times.

When entering public areas **in enclosed spaces/indoors** and **upon getting on public transport**, a distance of at least **one meter** must be maintained from persons not living in a common household **and additionally**, a mechanical protective device covering the mouth and nose area (=facemask) must be worn.

Riding in a car:

The joint use of motor vehicles by persons not living in the same household/roommates is permitted only if a **facemask** is worn and **only if a maximum of two persons are sitting in each row of seats**, including the driver. The same applies to taxis and taxi-like businesses.

Events:

Events with more than 10 people are prohibited. These include cultural events, sporting events, weddings, film screenings, exhibitions, congresses etc. This means that **public events with 10 people or less are allowed.** When entering the venues of such events, a **distance of at least one meter** shall be maintained from persons not living in a common household. Furthermore, in closed rooms, a facemask must be worn. An area of 10 m² per person must be available for events in closed rooms.

This rule **does not apply to the private household/living setting**, allowing for private gatherings indoors. Be aware, however, that student dorm management may have other rules in place.

Restaurants (starting May 15, not regulated in this decree, but announced at a press conference):

Restaurants, which are currently limited to delivery and pick-up, will be allowed to welcome guests **from May 15** onwards - but under strict conditions: all guests must have a seat and each table may seat **a maximum of four adults plus accompanying children**. Parties should keep a minimum distance of 1.5 m between each other. Staff who gets in contact with guests must wear mouth and nose protection.

Other facilities:

Visitors are currently not permitted to enter museums and exhibitions, libraries and archives, leisure facilities, except in private homes, cableways and rack railways, leisure and amusement parks, baths and swimming pools, dance schools, casinos, animal parks and zoos, facilities for the practice of prostitution, theatres, concert halls and arenas, cinemas, variety and cabaret theatres, indoor playgrounds, paintball facilities, museum trains and excursion boats. All of these will remain closed until further notice.

From May 18, 2020, the City Library, Gallery Platform 6020, City Archive and City Museum of Innsbruck will reopen. Other museums may also open. **Most other leisure or tourist sites, swimming pools etc. are set to open on May 29, 2020.** (This information is not included in the decree, but was announced by the government at a press conference - more information on this will follow).

What is open/possible?

All shops, also those with more than 400 square meters of floor space as well as **hairdressers and beauty salons** will be able to re-open.

Until May 31, 2020, the northern Maria-Theresien-Straße as well as the Old Town of Innsbruck are **opened to bicycle traffic**.

Open-air sports facilities without physical contact, such as athletics facilities, tennis courts, golf courses, equestrian sports facilities and shooting ranges, may open. Team, indoor and martial arts are still not permitted due to the risk of corona infections being spread.

From 1 May, the **public playgrounds in Innsbruck** will also be accessible again. The same applies to the **city trails on the Arzler-Alm and the Hungerburg**.

University of Innsbruck (not regulated by the government decree):

The university buildings and campuses remain closed to the public. Staff/employees are expected back in the offices on Monday, May 4. **Online courses and distant learning will continue for the rest of the semester.** Employees must wear facemasks in all common areas and where a minimum distance of 1.5 meters cannot be maintained. Meetings of more than 5 people are prohibited and are to be conducted virtually online.