

# AIESEC takes your security very seriously.

We explain how AIESEC is dealing with the outbreak of the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) and how you can get more information.

## COVID-19 Current information

Last update: 17 March 2020

### Background

Together we are monitoring how the situation around COVID-19 develops. Every day there are new developments, but our most important concern remains the health and well-being of our members, employees, customers or partners around the world.

AIESEC responds to the outbreak and ensures that no members, employees, customers or partners are put at risk while involved in AIESEC activities.

Planning a journey or staying abroad is not easy. Even under the best of circumstances it is a challenging and emotional process. We know how stressful this particular situation is and we share your concerns. As your partner for international programmes, we are here to help you make the right decisions; whether it concerns your trip next week or you are just deciding to postpone your trip to a later date. We understand that in these uncertain times, the need for flexibility has grown and if the best decision for you is to postpone your exchange, we are here for you.

The current situation is very dynamic, therefore we kindly ask you to understand that all decisions we have made or will make should help us to manage the future of our exchange participants and partners.

### What we do

#### 1. Provide information

In order to guarantee your own safety, it is important that you are always up to date on the effects of the coronavirus:

1. Information on the new coronavirus can be found on the website of the [Robert Koch Institute \(in German\)](#) or in the [WHO Web Page \(in English\)](#).
2. The [Federal Foreign Office](#) (AA) provides current assessments of the safety of travellers to affected regions.

3. In addition, you can find current assessments of the situation on the website of the [World Health Organization](#). AIESEC does not give any recommendations here and does not offer travel medical advice.
4. Hotlines for citizens are offered by the Federal Ministry of Health (BMG), the Independent Patient Advice Service Germany, as well as some federal states and health insurance companies.
5. Information for citizens, including hygiene tips and answers to frequently asked questions (FAQ), is available from the BZgA at [www.infektionsschutz.de](http://www.infektionsschutz.de), as well as in the WHO website.
6. We support the BMG's call not to distribute questionable social media information, but to rely only on information provided by the authorities and relevant institutions.
7. In addition, our questions and answers section is available at the bottom of the page.

## 2. Restrictions on internships and volunteer projects

Due to the increasing number of infections, we are taking the following measures:

1. We have made changes to our aiesec.org portal that prevent applications for volunteer projects or internships that begin before 01.06.2020.
2. We will not allow (potential) exchange participants to start an experience before 01.06.2020 and do not recommend to start an experience before 01.08.2020.
3. We will offer the possibility to postpone the projects to a later date for all internships already confirmed or projects that should have started before 01.06.2020. If this is not possible, we will revoke the acceptance for the internship or project concerned.
4. In all cases, we strongly advise against travel to risk areas designated by the RKI. Currently, these are China, Iran, Italy and South Korea as well as the Grand Est region (this region includes Alsace, Lorraine and Champagne-Ardenne) (as of 15.03.2020). The RKI regularly updates the list of risk areas, information can be found [here](#).

## 3. Information and measures for participants who are already abroad with AIESEC

We seek close contact with all our participants, who are already abroad to provide them with relevant information and to inform them about our measures:

1. We ask all participants who are going on a project or internship to terminate their internship or project and return to Germany, if possible. Exception: Participants in long-term internships (Global Talent) can stay abroad, as long as

they are not in high-risk areas (a list can be found here) and there are no other reasons for a return trip.

2. We advise regular personal hygiene. In general, proper hand washing, as recommended by the [Federal Centre for Health Education \(BZgA\)](#), is an important part of personal hygiene and can protect you against a variety of other infections such as gastrointestinal diseases.

In addition, the following information sources can be used for further context:

1. Daily updated information from the [Health Service of the Federal Foreign Office](#)
2. Information of the [International Air Transport Association \(IATA\) on entry restrictions of various countries](#)
3. [Coronavirus COVID-19 Global Cases by Johns Hopkins CSSE](#)

The Executive Board of AIESEC Germany monitors the outbreak in all countries and areas where the organization is physically present and ensures that our actions here and on site are taken in accordance with the international advice and precautions of the World Health Organization and federal and local authorities.

We face great challenges. We are encouraged by the impact of intercultural exchange and shared experiences as a central point to the human experience. We strongly believe that the world is recovering - and will emerge stronger - as soon as the situation improves.

*AIESEC Deutschland*

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Can I still register on aiesec.de for an exchange program?

Yes, you can still register for one of our programs without any obligation. We just recommend that you do not leave the country now, but stay at home and wait for further developments.

### Which projects or internships can I apply for?

You can still apply for projects and internships that start after 01.06.2020.

### I already have a project that should start before 01.06.2020. What can and should I do?

We recommend you contact the buddy from your local committee and try to postpone the project to a later date (after 01.06.2020).

### Will my project or internship take place?

This depends on your individual case. But in general: If your project or internship takes place before 01.06.2020, we advise against starting it. In some cases it is also possible that the project or internship is cancelled by the project or internship provider (e.g. in schools). Please talk to your local AIESEC contact person.

### How can I protect myself against the coronavirus?

Behaviours are identical to those for protection against influenza viruses:

- [Regularly and sufficiently long hand washing](#) (at least 20 seconds under running water with soap)
- [Proper coughing and sneezing into a disposable handkerchief or into the crook of your arm](#)
- Keep away from people with coughs, colds or fevers; do not shake hands in general
- Keep hands away from face (mucous membranes in mouth and nose as well as eyes)

## DOWNLOADS

How can I protect myself from an infection? Download in [German](#) | [English](#) | [Turkish](#) (barrier-free PDF files)

## **Will my insurance cover the cost of quarantine?**

Quarantine for prevention, applies to people that may or may not have been diagnosed with COVID-19 but do not show symptoms and are being quarantined for preventive measures. This is not medical care and therefore not covered.

Quarantine/Isolation, applies to people that show symptoms and need to be diagnosed and/or treated. These patients are being hospitalised in isolation or in a single room in order not to contaminate others. This is medical care (inpatient care) and therefore covered.

## **Does my insurance cover treatment of COVID-19?**

COVID-19 is not excluded from coverage so anyone who gets infected is covered for the required medical treatment as per the plan's terms and conditions.

## **Is my dream of a year abroad now over? Should I even make plans and book a trip?**

First of all, we assume that all programs can take place in summer in countries that have no entry restrictions and are run by our local partners. Should a travel warning be issued by the German Foreign Office for a destination country, we will inform all affected participants. They will then have the opportunity to rebook their trip to a later date or to another country or programme or to cancel it. This means that you can still apply for one of our programs with us without worries and without risk.

## Contact:

Press Contact: **Milenko Milojevic**, VP of Marketing, [milenko.milojevic@aiasec.de](mailto:milenko.milojevic@aiasec.de)

Exchange Participant Support: [support@aiasec.de](mailto:support@aiasec.de)