



Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Weekly Situation Report of the Robert Koch Institute

CALENDAR WEEK 12/2021 - UPDATED STATUS FOR GERMANY

As of March 6, 2021, the situation report in English language is published by the Robert Koch Institute on a weekly base. For information on daily COVID-19 epidemiology in Germany, the Dashboard is updated on a daily base. In addition, daily situation reports in German language, information on vaccination data and intensive care registry as well as other data are regularly uploaded on our website (see information sources at end of this report).

In this situation report, the following information is given: overview on epidemiological situation, demographic distribution of cases, surveys on SARS-CoV-2 laboratory tests in Germany additional RKI based surveillance systems.

– Changes since the last report are marked *blue* in the text –

Epidemiological Situation in Germany

As of **March 25, 2021**

Confirmed cases		7-day incidence (7-di)		Vaccination monitoring	DIVI-Intensive care register
Total ¹	Active cases ²	Total population	No. of districts with 7-di > 50/100,000 pop	No. of vaccinations reported in last 24h ⁴	Change to previous day for cases currently in ICU
+22,657 (2,713,180)	+11,500 [ca. 181,500]	113 cases/ 100,000 pop	+10 [384/412]	1st vaccin. +200,855 2nd vaccin. +85,092	+51 [3,260]
Recovered ³	Deaths	60-79 years	80+ years	Total no. of vaccinated with one/two vaccine dose/s and share of population ⁴	Died on ICU compared to the previous day
+10,900 (ca. 2,456,200)	+228 (75,440)	71 cases/ 100,000 pop	61 cases/ 100,000 pop	+26 [219/412]	+59
				N1: 8,150,256 (9.8%) N2: 3,603,639 (4.3%)	

As of **25/03/2021**, **2,713,180** laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases as well as **75,440** deaths associated with COVID-19 were transmitted to the RKI. The national 7-day incidence is **113** cases per 100,000 population.

Since 26/12/2020, a total of **8,150,256** people in Germany have been vaccinated at least once (vaccination rate **9.8%**) and of those **3,603,639** people twice (vaccination rate **4.3%**) against COVID-19.

On 25/03/2021 (12:15 PM) 3,260 COVID-19 patients were in intensive care. +351 COVID-19 patients were newly admitted. The resulting number of cases under treatment was +51 compared to the prior day. +59 COVID-19 patients died on ICU since the prior day.

Geographical distribution of cases

Table 1 shows the number of laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19 reported to and validated by the RKI.

Table 1: Number and cumulative incidence (per 100,000 population) of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths for each federal state electronically reported to RKI, Germany (25/03/2021, 12:00 AM). The number of new cases includes positive cases notified to the local health department at the same day, but also at previous days.

Federal State	Cumulative cases			Last 7 days		Cumulative deaths	
	Total number of cases	Number of new cases	Cases/100,000 pop.	Cases in the last 7 days	7-day incidence/100,000 pop.	Number of deaths	Number of deaths/100,000 pop.
Baden-Wuerttemberg	349,671	2,938	3,150	12,050	109	8,592	77.4
Bavaria	480,909	3,466	3,664	15,027	114	13,089	99.7
Berlin	140,996	1,275	3,842	4,085	111	3,022	82.4
Brandenburg	84,697	777	3,358	3,239	128	3,267	129.5
Bremen	20,061	188	2,945	762	112	398	58.4
Hamburg	58,148	399	3,148	1,818	98	1,364	73.8
Hesse	210,037	1,900	3,340	7,770	124	6,229	99.1
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania	28,784	304	1,790	1,358	84	837	52.0
Lower Saxony	187,971	1,987	2,352	7,499	94	4,773	59.7
North Rhine-Westphalia	588,901	4,563	3,281	20,345	113	14,029	78.2
Rhineland-Palatinate	111,781	840	2,730	3,447	84	3,285	80.2
Saarland	31,026	208	3,144	652	66	921	93.3
Saxony	213,347	1,717	5,239	6,813	167	8,290	203.6
Saxony-Anhalt	69,282	703	3,157	2,955	135	2,670	121.7
Schleswig-Holstein	47,815	362	1,647	1,736	60	1,418	48.8
Thuringia	89,754	1,030	4,207	4,696	220	3,256	152.6
Total	2,713,180	22,657	3,262	94,252	113	75,440	90.7

Quality checks and data cleaning by the health authorities and regional offices can lead to corrections to cases previously transmitted (e. g. detection of duplicate reports). This can occasionally lead to negative values for the number of new cases.

Demographic distribution of cases

The age-specific 7-day incidence is shown using a heat map (Figure 1). Age-specific case numbers and age-specific 7-day incidences can be accessed at: www.rki.de/covid-19-altersverteilung.

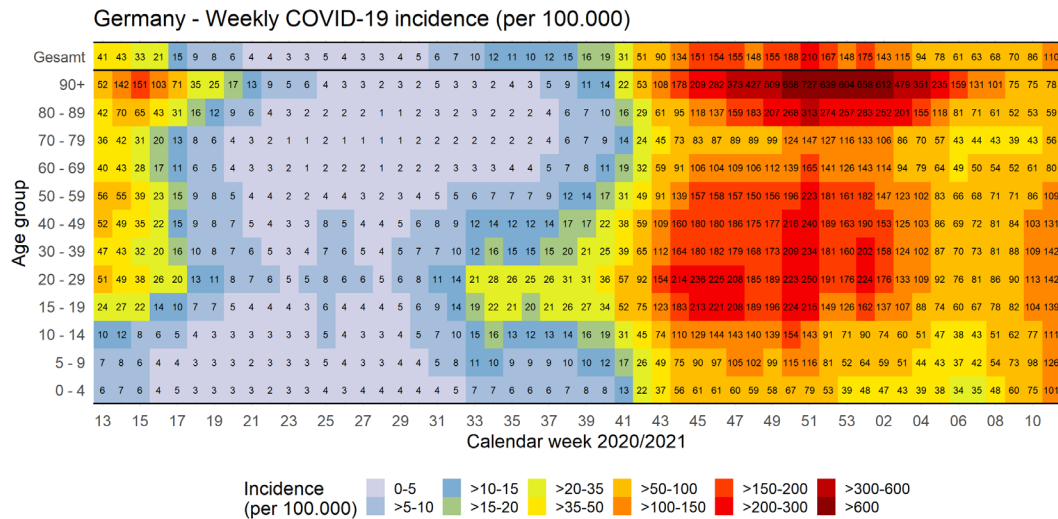


Figure 1: 7-day-incidence of notified COVID-19 cases by age group and reporting week (n=2,713,180) cases with respective data in the weeks 11 to 53, 2020, and weeks 01-11, 2021 (as of 23/03/2021, 12:00 AM). Data from the mandatory surveillance system according to the German Data Protection Act.

Figure 2 displays the total number of cases with or without COVID-19 relevant symptoms as well as proportion of hospitalized and deceased. As deaths occur on average 2-3 weeks after infection, further reports of deaths are expected for the most recent three weeks. The data on which the figure is based can be found at: www.rki.de/covid-19-tabelle-klinische-aspekte.

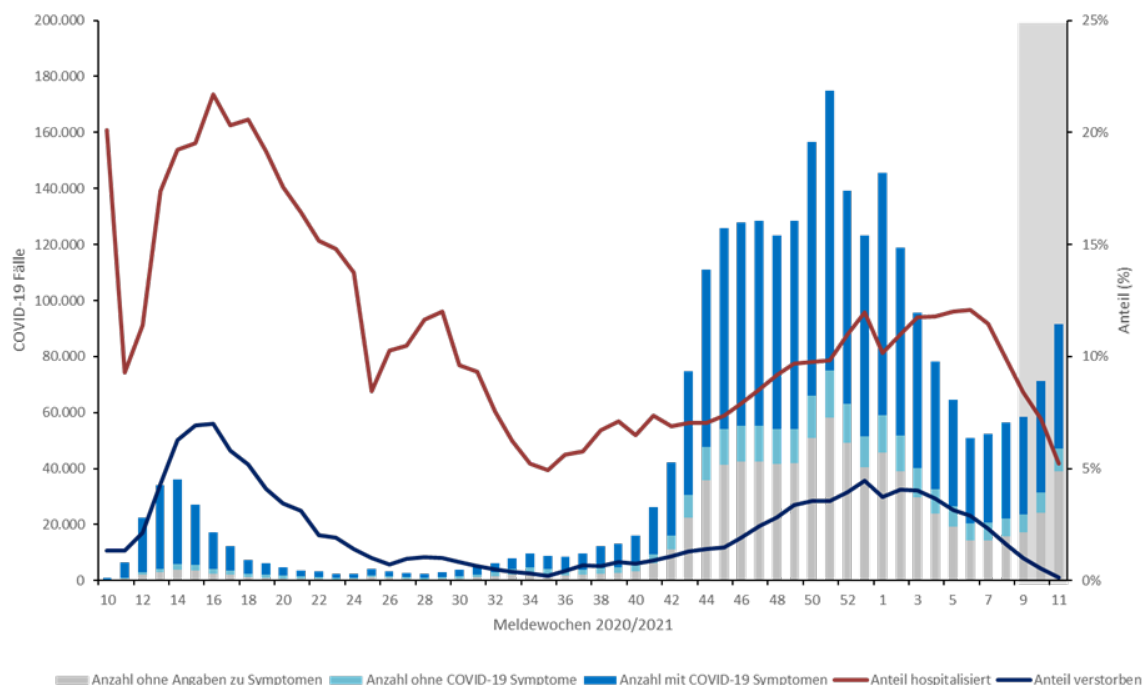


Figure 2: Depiction of COVID-19 cases with or without relevant symptoms and proportion of deceased and hospitalized, in relation to the respective number with corresponding data in weeks 10-53, 2020, and weeks 01-11, 2021 (23/03/2021, 12:00 AM). These numbers/proportions may equally change due to delayed reporting and data corrections. Data from the mandatory surveillance system according to the German Data Protection Act.

Figure 3 shows the reported COVID-19 deaths by calendar week according to the date of death. For recent weeks, further reports of deaths among reported cases can be expected.

Note: The report is a snapshot and is continuously updated.

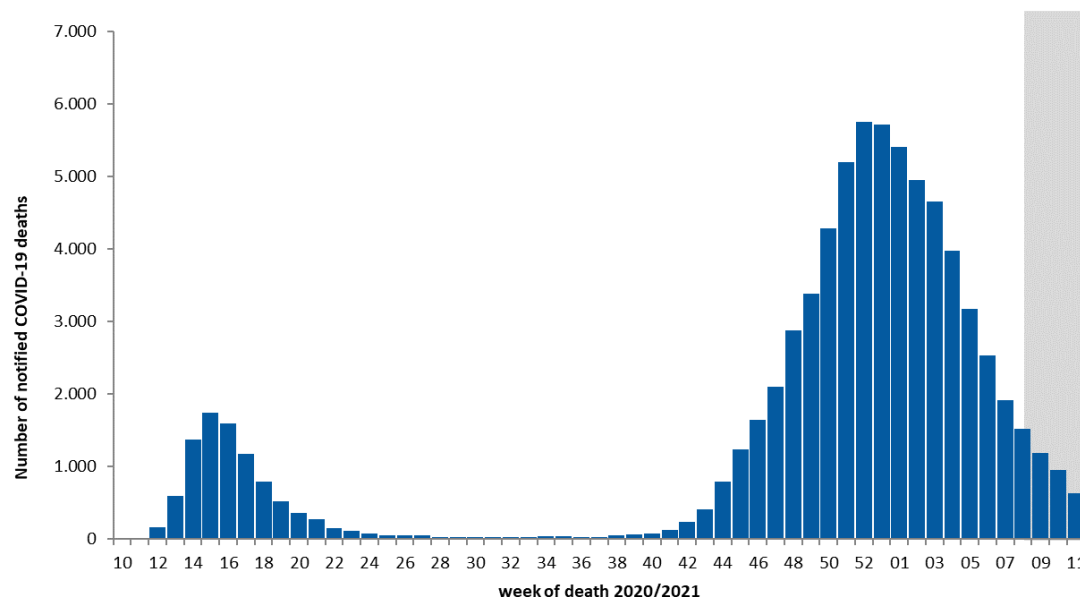


Figure 3: Number of notified COVID-19 deaths according to week of death for the reporting weeks 10-53, 2020, and weeks 01-11, 2021 (23/03/2021, 12:00 AM). Further reports of deaths are expected for weeks 09-11/2021.

Surveys on SARS-CoV-2 laboratory tests in Germany

To assess the SARS-CoV-2 PCR test numbers, data from university hospitals, research institutions as well as clinical and outpatient laboratories throughout Germany are merged weekly at the RKI. These data are ascertained on a voluntary basis and are transmitted to RKI via an internet-based RKI test laboratory survey, via the network for respiratory viruses (RespVir), via the laboratory-based SARS-CoV-2 surveillance established at the RKI (an extension of the Antibiotic Resistance Surveillance (ARS)) and via the enquiry of a professional association of laboratory medicine.

The number of tests, the proportion of positive tests as well as the number of reporting laboratories since the beginning of testing in Germany are shown in table 2. Since laboratories can register and correct the tests of the previous calendar weeks at a later date, it is possible that the ascertained numbers can change retrospectively. It should be noted that the number of tests is not the same as the number of persons tested, as the data may include multiple tests of individual patients (Table 2) with data for the last weeks – complete data since beginning of testing are available at <http://www.rki.de/covid-19-testzahlen> (in German). The current testing criteria can be found under: www.rki.de/covid-19-testkriterien (in German).

Table 2: Number of SARS-CoV-2-laboratory tests in Germany (as of 23/03/2021 12:00 pm)

Calendar week	Number of tests	Tested positive	Proportion positive (%)	Number of reporting laboratories
Up to & incl. week KW01/2021	37,316,135	2,070,742		
2/2021	1,187,564	124,037	10.44	206
3/2021	1,113,690	110,163	9.89	208
4/2021	1,151,633	97,383	8.46	208
5/2021	1,101,499	82,436	7.48	208
6/2021	1,060,602	67,882	6.40	213
7/2021	1,101,687	67,318	6.11	206
8/2021	1,170,335	72,008	6.15	209
9/2021	1,148,449	71,380	6.22	209
10/2021	1,275,239	85,297	6.69	212
11/2021	1,352,448	107,026	7.91	199
Total	48,979,281	2,955,672		

Information from additional RKI based surveillance systems for acute respiratory illnesses

GrippeWeb ("FluWeb") is a web interface at RKI for monitoring the activity of acute respiratory illness (ARI), utilizing information from the population. In **week 11, 2021**, the ARI rate **remained stable in total**. **The ARI rate increased in the age group 0 to 14 years, but decreased in the age group 60 years and above**. Since **week 36, 2020**, the total ARI rate has been below the level of the previous years. Further information can be found under <https://grippeweb.rki.de/>.

The Influenza Working Group (AGI) monitors ARI through a sentinel network on primary care level. In **week 11, 2021**, the overall number of patient visits (consultations) due to ARI (ARI consultation rate) increased. The ARI consultation rate increased in **all age groups, especially in children aged 5 to 14 years**. The ARI consultation rate remained on a substantially lower level compared to previous years. Within the virological surveillance of the AGI, respiratory viruses were detected in **118 of 256 sentinel samples (46%)** in **week 11, 2021**. Among those, rhinovirus was identified in **76 (30%)**, human seasonal coronavirus (hCoV) in **28 (11%)**, SARS-CoV-2 in **16 (6%)** and **Parainfluenzavirus was found in one sample (0.4%)**. Further information - both on national and regional level - can be found under <https://influenza.rki.de/> and under <https://influenza.rki.de/Diagrams.aspx?agiRegion=0>.

A third, ICD-10 code-based system monitors severe acute respiratory illness (SARI) in hospitalized patients (ICD-10 codes J09 to J22: primary diagnoses influenza, pneumonia or other acute infections of the lower respiratory tract). **After a few weeks of relatively stable cases numbers, the number of SARI cases increased again in week 10, 2021 overall and for most age groups, but continued to decrease in the age groups 80 years and above**. The proportion of COVID-19 infections among SARI has fluctuated around 50% in the last few weeks. **In week 10, 2021, 51% of the reported SARI cases per week were diagnosed with COVID-19 (ICD-10 code U07.1!)** (Figure 4). Please note that due to data availability only patients with an ICD-10 Code for SARI as the main diagnosis and hospitalisation duration of up to one week were included in this analysis.

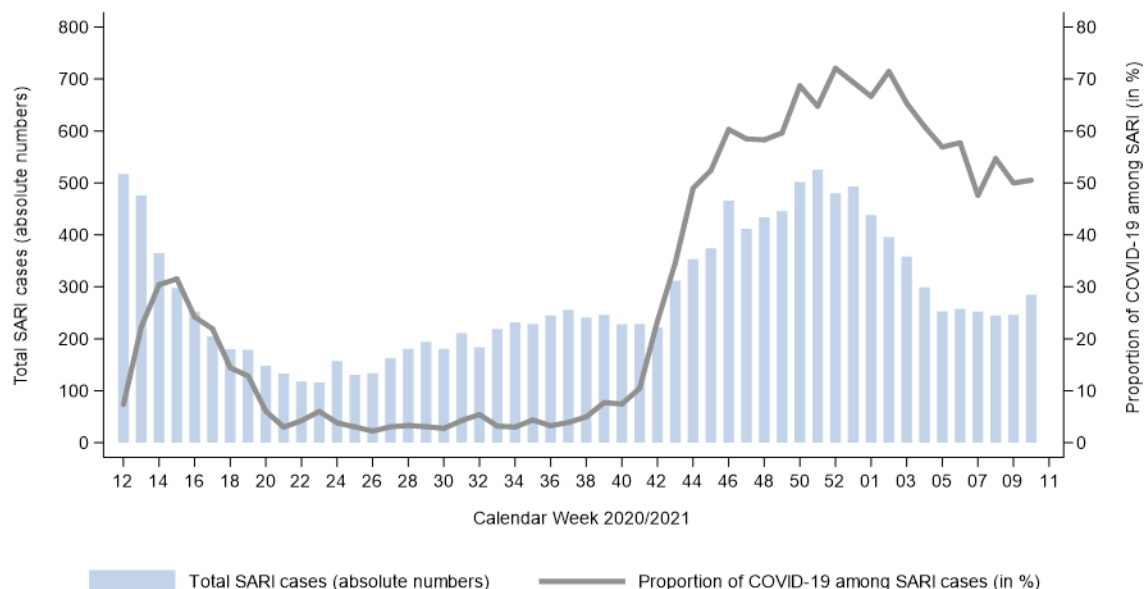


Figure 4: Weekly number of SARI cases (ICD-10 codes J09-J22) and proportion of cases with a diagnosis of COVID-19 (ICD-10 code U07.1!) among SARI cases with duration of hospitalization of up to one week and with date of admission in weeks 12, 2020, to 10, 2021, from 72 sentinel hospitals.

Risk Assessment by the RKI

In view of persistently high case numbers, the RKI currently assesses the threat to the health of the general population to be **very high**. The revised version highlights the ongoing community transmission of SARS-CoV-2 as well as the occurrence of **many** outbreaks especially in households, **day-care facilities for children and increasingly in schools** as well as in occupational settings.

Against the background of rising occurrence of variants of concern (VOC) with higher infectiousness, a rigorous reduction of physical contacts, usage of protective measures as well as intensive efforts to contain outbreaks and chains of infections are necessary to reduce the number of new infections and to protect vulnerable persons.

On 15/03/2021, the risk assessment was updated with reference to the new SARS-CoV-2 variants. The current version can be found here: <http://www.rki.de/covid-19-risikobewertung> *(in German)*.

Measures taken in Germany

- Epidemiological Profile of SARS-CoV-2 und COVID-19 (24/02/2021, *in German*)
https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Steckbrief.html
- Information on the designation of international risk areas
<http://www.rki.de/covid-19-risikogebiete>
- Seroepidemiological studies in Germany (04/02/2021)
www.rki.de/covid-19-serostudies-germany
- Entry restrictions to Germany for travelers from countries designated as regions with variants (30/01/2021; *in German*)
https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Transport/CoronaSchV_Mutationen.pdf?__blob=publicationFile

- German electronic Sequencing-Data-Hub (DESH, Deutscher elektronischer Sequenzdaten-Hub, 18.02.2021, *in German*)
www.rki.de/covid-19-desh
- Recommendations on COVID-19-vaccination (*in German*)
www.rki.de/covid-19-impfempfehlung
- Further governmental resolutions regarding additional containment measures (Lockdown, *in German*)
<https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/themen/coronavirus/mpk-beschluss-corona-1834364>
- National Testing Strategy – who will be tested for SARS-CoV-2 in Germany (*in German*)
www.rki.de/covid-19-teststrategie
- Important information and guidance on SARS-CoV-2 for returning travellers (*in German*)
www.rki.de/covid-19-reisende
- Selected and regularly updated information on COVID-19
<https://www.rki.de/covid-19-en>
- The ministry of health has published a record of all measures implemented in Germany since 27/01/2020 (*in German*)
<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/coronavirus/chronik-coronavirus.html>
- Information from the Ministry of Health for travellers entering Germany: Frequently asked questions and answers (*in German*)
<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/coronavirus-infos-reisende/faq-tests-einreisende.html>
- Corona-Warn-App
www.rki.de/covid-19-warnapp-en
- Information on regulations at the regional level regarding control measures such as physical distancing or quarantine regulations for persons entering from other countries can be accessed here (*in German*):
<https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/themen/coronavirus/corona-bundeslaender-1745198>

Further information sources

- COVID-19-Dashboard
<https://corona.rki.de/>
- Other data tables
www.rki.de/covid-19-fallzahlen
www.rki.de/covid-19-altersverteilung
www.rki.de/covid-19-tabelle-klinische-aspekte
www.rki.de/covid-19-ausbruchsdaten
www.rki.de/covid-19-nowcasting
- German situation reports
www.rki.de/covid-19-situationsbericht
- Vaccination
<http://www.rki.de/covid-19-impfquoten>
<https://impfdashboard.de/>
- Intensive care registry
<https://www.intensivregister.de>
- Report of SARS-CoV-2 variants in Germany, especially of VOC B.1.1.7
www.rki.de/covid-19-voc-berichte

Annex

- ¹ The difference to the previous day is based on the date cases are received at RKI. Due to delay in data transmission, cases from preceding days may be included.
- ² Active cases were calculated from the number of transmitted cases minus deaths and the estimated number of recovered cases.
- ³ The algorithm for estimation of recovered cases considers information on disease onset and hospitalization, but not for late effects, because such data are not recorded regularly.
- ⁴ Data on COVID-19 vaccinations are only updated on weekdays. On Sundays, updated figures are not reported.