



Newsletter Sign up

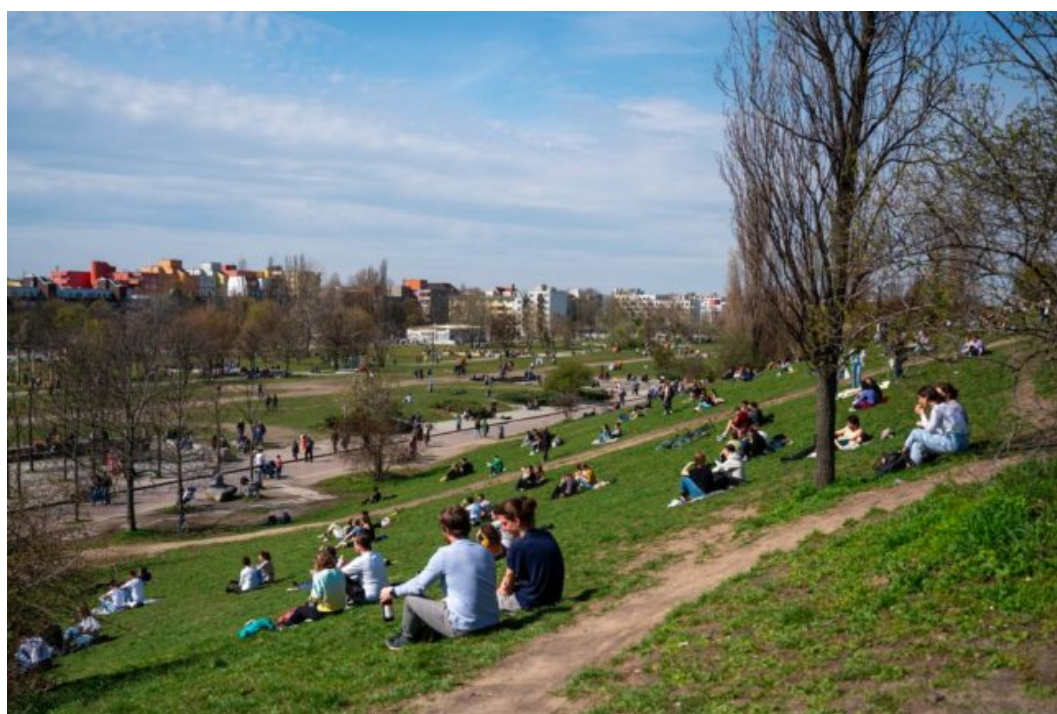
Login

About Membership Jobs in Germany Apartment rentals Business directory

Menu

Advertise with us

'Danger lurks inside': German aerosol experts say Covid restrictions should target indoor areas



People in a Berlin park on April 11th. Aerosol researchers say the virus does not tend to spread outdoors. Photo: DPA

The Local
news@thelocal.de
[@thelocalgermany](https://www.instagram.com/thelocalgermany)

12 April 2021
12:58 CEST

Updated
18 April 2021
08:38 CEST

- [aerosols](#)
- [coronavirus](#)
- [newsletter](#)
- [vocabulary](#)

Share this article



German aerosol researchers have told the government that Covid-19 spreads almost exclusively indoors through aerosols - and criticised measures that focus on restricting outdoor activity.

The group, made up of scientists and academics, slammed the constant debates about transmission happening in places like outdoor beer gardens or parks – and said the focus should be on indoor protection, including in the home, offices and schools.

In an [open letter](#), the leaders of the Society for Aerosol Research (GAeF) called on the German government to partially rethink its handling of the pandemic.

They said protection against infection must take place above all where people spend time indoors.

The letter is addressed to Chancellor Angela Merkel, Health Minister Jens Spahn as well as to the state premiers and the health offices of the country's 16 states.

The central statement of the group is: "The transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 viruses takes place almost without exception indoors."

See also on The Local:

Outdoors, the virus is transmitted "extremely rarely" and does not

Related articles



['Not seen since the Second World War': Cologne set to impose 9pm Covid curfew](#)



['I'm delighted': Merkel receives AstraZeneca jab](#)



[Germany takes Britain off Covid-19 'high-risk' list](#)



[GPs in Germany will soon be able to 'choose the Covid vaccine' they offer patients](#)



['No way around it': Merkel defends Germany-wide Covid measures](#)

Noticeboard

- 28/03 [Free, Online, Stanford University: "Teaching LGBTQ+ Health"](#)
- 22/03 [How Steve Bannon and a Chinese Billionaire Created a Right-W](#)
- 11/03 [Private room in a central location in Munich](#)
- 19/01 [Neil Clayton](#)

[View all notices](#)
[Post a new notice](#)

Discussion forum

- 17/04 [Registering birth of baby born to Canadian citizens in Germany](#)
- 17/04 [I can't keep my dog anymore, what to do with him?](#)
- 17/04 [Meetups for English-speakers with babies or toddlers in Dortmund](#)
- 16/04 [Capital Gains Tax on the sale of German Homes](#)

lead to so-called cluster infections or widespread contagion.

16/04 [Advice on life in Frankfurt an der Oder](#)

[View all discussions](#)

The most danger of becoming infected by

Covid comes from being indoors with others, the letter states. The risk of cluster infections is highest, for example, in old people's homes, residential homes, schools, at events, choir rehearsals or during bus journeys.

The researchers warn: "If we want to get a grip on the pandemic, we have to make people aware that danger lurks inside."

'Misconceptions'

The group said the debate on coronavirus measures does not reflect current scientific knowledge, adding that many people have the "wrong ideas about the contagion potential associated with the virus".

Measures such as bans on meeting in parks, closing popular routes for walks, or even night-time curfews give the impression that "It's dangerous outside".

However, these rules do not prevent "clandestine meetings indoors", but "only increase the motivation to evade state orders even more", they argued.

"The ongoing debates about strolling on river promenades, spending time in beer gardens, jogging or cycling have long since proven counterproductive," the letter continues.

And the constant warning against contact even threatens to reinforce the "pandemic fatigue evident everywhere", warn the members of the GAeF.

The group is appealing to the federal government, state leaders and ministries to strengthen protective measures indoors.

As few people as possible should meet indoors, they say, particularly because there is a risk of infection not only through direct contact with someone who is infected, but also if an infected person has previously been in the room.

The authors of the letter also mention regular airing or the use of air purifiers in old people's homes, schools and offices, as well as urging people to wear masks indoors.

Who is the society behind the letter?

The [Gesellschaft für Aerosolforschung](#) (GAeF) was founded in 1972 as a non-profit association of pioneers of aerosol research.

It aims to promote scientific aerosol research both nationally and internationally.

The members of the society include leading national and international researchers as well as many students and PhD students.

The GAeF has about 350 members from 35 countries. The open letter was signed by a handful of leading members of the society, including the president Dr Chrisof Asbach.

Vocabulary

Indoor space – (der) Innenraum

Transmission – (die) Übertragung

Danger lurks inside – Drinnen lauert die Gefahr

Pandemic fatigue – (die) Pandemiemüdigkeit

Articles just for you

Health Minister calls on Germans only meet outside amid 'last part of pandemic marathon'

'Allow more freedom and flexibility': Merke party chief defiant in row over Covid 19 measures

Travel in German: What's allowed (and not) over Easter holidays?

'Blindly continue': Are too many workers in Germany going in the office amid pandemic?

We're aiming to help our readers improve their German by translating vocabulary from some of our news stories. Did you find this article useful? [Let us know](#).

Why our members join

"The Local is my favourite way of keeping up with Germany these days, and I appreciate the wonderful articles so much." – K. Brady

We bring you all the essential news and information you need to stay informed with what's happening in Germany.

We help explain everything you need to know about the ongoing coronavirus crisis and cover essential issues from travel and taxes to jobs, work permits and Brexit.

We answer your questions about life in Germany and also help you learn German and understand the culture.

We are also reinvesting members' contributions to improve and extend our coverage.

For around 10¢ a day you will get unlimited access to all our news sites from around Europe, as well as our apps and newsletters.

Thanks for reading - Rachel, Editor of The Local Germany

[Find Out More](#)

Share this article    

Member comments

1. Mojo - [13 April 2021 at 12:30 CEST](#)

Voice of reason... So I guess it will be ignored.

2. Salih - [12 April 2021 at 23:23 CEST](#)

Well, I was at Frankfurt International Airport on Sunday. The inbound passport control booths were working at 1/3 capacity and more than 2 thousand people were crammed in a small place. Before the travel we were asked to have our tests, filled in the forms for trace & track etc. In that room, I have no idea who was behind me, in front of me, next to me at any given point and forget about the 1.5 m distance. There was no place to keep the distance. I haven't contracted COVID yet but if I get it, it'll be from the state managed Frankfurt International Airport. I wish they did not take any measures but run normally and told people to wear masks all the time. It would have been more productive and effective against COVID transmission. If anyone wonders how it looked like:

https://www.instagram.com/p/CNhmUj5JvHd/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link

3. jackson57 - [12 April 2021 at 22:52 CEST](#)

Re the 'opening' of Tübingen: if everyone who's allowed to be there has tested negative, why on earth are they all wearing masks, even outside? When it comes to Covid, it's always hysteria that wins, not reason . . .