

„Es soll hochskaliert werden“

Multipolar hat die Protokolle des Corona-Krisenstabs des Robert Koch-Instituts freigelegt.

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„ It should be scaled up “

Multipolar has released the previously kept secret protocols of the Corona crisis team of the Robert Koch Institute (RKI). From this it becomes clear: The tightening of the risk assessment announced in March 2020 from „ “ to „ high “ – based on all lockdown measures and court rulings –, contrary to what previously claimed, not on a technical assessment of the RKI, but on the political instruction of an external actor – whose name is blackened in the protocols. (Update 27.3 .: The RKI has now declared that the name of an employee is hidden behind the blackening.)

[PAUL SCHREYER](#), 18th. March 2024, [15](#) [comments](#), [PDF](#)

Note: This post is also [available as a podcast](#).

Lothar Wieler's voice sounded sonorous and calm when he. March 2020 a decision in front of running cameras [announced](#), that will

become the basis of all lockdown measures and should therefore turn life in Germany upside down for several years:

„ Today we will change the risk assessment for the health of the population in Germany. We will rate them as high from today. The reason is very simple. You see the dynamic. (...) The background for the changed risk assessment is the further increase in the number of cases (...). “

The upgrading of the risk assessment was, as it should soon become clear, the legal foundation of all Corona measures. All courts that rejected actions by those affected against the measures, called as a result on. Tenor: The risk assessment of the RKI – as from the Infection Protection Act named competent authority – is not questioned as a court. If the RKI says that the danger is high, then it is so, the corresponding politically decided measures are therefore justified.

Inplausible justification

At the end of March 2020, Multipolar already had the implausible fact that Wieler's brief reason for the upgrade („ Dynamics “, „ increasing number of cases “) was implausible researched. Because not only the number of cases tripled in March, but also the number of tests carried out –, which the RKI a few days after a corresponding request from our

magazine, on 26. March 2020 in the small print of his management report too [conceded](#), at that time by hardly anyone [noticed](#).

Specifically: The actual increase in virus spread, based on the number of tests, was only one percentage point shortly before the lockdown. Between the 9th and 15th. March 2020, six percent of those examined in Germany tested positive for the virus, between the 16th and 22nd. March seven percent ([RKI management report of March 26, 2020, p. 6](#)). This increase of one percentage point represented the so-called „ exponential growth “ of the epidemic, which everyone spoke of in politics and the media at the time. On the 22nd. March [announced](#) Chancellor Angela Merkel the lockdown on the grounds that the coronavirus continues to spread „ at a worrying rate “.

The experts in the RKI with Lothar Wieler and his deputy Lars Schaade at the top may have understood that this interpretation was misleading. So what was actually behind the increase in risk assessment? What discussions had taken place in the RKI, what arguments were exchanged internally? In short: what was the decision based on?

The litigation

The RKI consistently blocked corresponding inquiries. After a first [Action](#) von Multipolar in November 2020 to enforce the right to

information under press law issued a decision by the Berlin Administrative Court in March 2021, according to which the authority at least gave the names of the higher-ranking members of the RKI crisis team [had to disclose](#). Subsequently, Multipolar presented the renowned Berlin law firm [Partsch & Partnera](#) request under the Freedom of Information Act. The RKI hesitated to reply so that at the end of 2021 we sued for access to the minutes of the RKI crisis team. After years of tugging the lawyers, the RKI decided in a surprising U-turn in 2023 to release the minutes, albeit with extensive blackening.


Multipolar will shortly publish the bundle of more than 200 protocols with a total volume of over a thousand pages from the period January 2020 to April 2021. (**Update 20.3.:** *The documents [are now published](#).*) We are currently suing the Berlin Administrative Court for the blackening process to be lifted. A negotiation will take place there on 6. May take place. (**Update April 29.:** *The trial is at the request of the RKI lawyers on the 8th. July [relocated](#) been.*)

So far, our magazine has cost around 15,000 euros. We finance it from the [Small donations](#) our readers – and are for [Thank you for further support](#).

The logs

After reviewing the protocols that have now been released, it becomes clear that there was an internal technical discussion on risk assessment at the beginning, but the upgrade in March was abrupt and was apparently initiated from outside the RKI. The entire scientific advisory process was clearly overlaid by political pressure.

A look back at the events below for classification. On Monday the 24th. February 2020, Italy reported a total of five deaths, the Tagesschau reported: „ After the appearance of the new coronavirus in Italy, the federal government sees a changed situation for Germany. Minister of Health Spahn expects the virus to spread in this country too. “ The protocol of the RKI crisis team on the same day states that the risk for the German population remains „ low “.

3	<p>Aktuelle Risikobewertung</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •  • Diskussion zum Risiko für die Gesundheit der Bevölkerung in Deutschland, gering vs. moderat, Eskalationsmöglichkeit ist notwendig; Bezug zu Grippewelle - aktuell „moderat“ trotz Todesfällen und aktuell saisonalem Höhepunkt • Wahrscheinlichkeit weiterer Ausbreitung/Pandemie, „eine weltweite Ausbreitung des Erregers scheint allerdings zunehmend wahrscheinlich“ ... kann sich durch neue Erkenntnisse ändern • Entscheidung Risiko für deutsche Bevölkerung bleibt vorerst „gering“ 	Alle
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Extract from the protocol of the RKI crisis team of 24. February 2020

Declared in complete contradiction [Heiko Rottmann-Großner](#), a high employee of Spahn [with excellent contacts](#) in the US pandemic management scene, on the same day to several State Secretaries from the Home Office, [one](#)

had to now „ paralyze the economy “ and take precautions for curfews of indefinite duration. The Spahn confidante had a year earlier as a German representative at one high-ranking pandemic business game participated, which was organized by privately funded US institutions.



Jens Spahn and Lothar Wieler on 25. February 2020 on the flight to Rome for a crisis meeting with EU health ministers | Image: picture alliance / photothek | Thomas Koehler / photothek.de

The pressure on the part of the WHO has now also been increased, as the Tagesschau on 25. February reported: „ The World Health Organization urges governments worldwide to prepare for the Corona outbreak. “ On the 26th. February Spahn then declared: „ We are at the beginning of a Corona epidemic in Germany. “ The starting point was seven new cases in Germany, in which the route of infection could no longer be traced. On the same day, the internal RKI protocol noted that the homepage had been updated, „ now risk for general population in Germany 'low to moderate', fits better with current assessment “.

3	Aktuelle Risikobewertung <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homepage aktualisiert, jetzt Risiko für Allgemeinbevölkerung in Deutschland "niedrig bis mäßig", passt besser zu aktueller Einschätzung Modellierungsansätze zu COVID-19-Szenarien <ul style="list-style-type: none"> [REDACTED] 	alle	Buchholz/an der Heiden
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Extract from the protocol of the RKI crisis team of 26. February 2020

On tagesschau.de a live blog started on the same day, which did not end for months and years. The first headings read: „ WHO urges preparation “, „ patient in NRW in critical condition “ and „ Fear of pandemic presses Dax “.

At that time, the RKI did not join this choir. On Friday the 28th. February, appeased Rather, RKI Vice Director Lars Schaade in front of running cameras:

„ My assessment would be that this moves roughly in severity like a strong to very strong flu wave. “

The same day Bill Gates entered the public Corona Arena. The article appeared on his blog „How to react to Covid-19“, including title in *New England Journal of Medicine* published, one of the most respected and most read medical journals in the world. Gates warned that due to an unusually high Covid 19 death rate, vaccine development must now be massively accelerated and supported with public funds. Governments quickly need „ billion dollars “ to get the vaccines ready for approval. A death rate in the order of magnitude of the normal flu

- as suspected by the RKI at the time - did not fit in this picture.

On Monday the 2nd. March, the RKI tightened the risk assessment of „low to moderate“ on „ “. The corresponding section in the protocol of 2. March is almost completely blackened.

	<p>3 Aktuelle Risikobewertung</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Die Pressestelle hat den Text schon allgemeiner verfasst. • [REDACTED] • [REDACTED] • [REDACTED] • [REDACTED] • [REDACTED] • [REDACTED] • [REDACTED] 	Alle	
4	<p>Kommunikation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] 		

Extract from the protocol of the RKI crisis team from 2nd. March 2020

Further down in the protocol, section „Laboratory diagnostics“ mentions that the Influenza Working Group at RKI „has so far tested over 140 samples“ on Corona, but „were all negative“.

On the same day, Jens Spahn appeared with a large cast at the Federal Press Conference. Christian Drosten also appeared next to him for the first time, as well as RKI boss Wieler and other professors. The minister known open that „the appearance today is part of an intensified communication offensive“. An advertising campaign is already running in all major newspapers, radio spots specially produced by the government are also being broadcast, and „also play“ man „at all levels“ the social media channels.



Lothar Wieler, Christian Drosten and Jens Spahn in March 2020 | Image: picture alliance / dpa | Bernd von Jutrczenka

The next day, the RKI protocol noted: „ tested 80 samples yesterday, all negative “.

6	Labordiagnostik <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kontamination: Es gibt Probleme mit Zulieferern von Primern (Kontrollen sind betroffen), mind. 3 Firmen sind von Kontamination betroffen. Es wird nicht allgemein bekannt gegeben, um welche Firmen es sich handelt. Die Firmen selbst sind in der Pflicht Kunden zu informieren. Keine Aufgabe RKI • AGI Sentinel: gestern 80 Proben getestet, alle negativ. 	ZBS1 FG17
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Extract from the protocol of the RKI crisis team of 3. March 2020

On the 6th. March: „ tested 213 samples yesterday, all negative “.

Koordinierungsstelle des RKI	Agenda der 2019nCoV-Lage-AG
[Redacted] ToDo: <i>Evaluierung Selbstabstriche (FG36)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AGI Sentinel: gestern 213 Proben getestet, alle negativ • Serologie ist im Moment noch nicht validiert. • Das Verhältnis von replikationsfähigen Viren zu genomischer RNA in den Proben soll untersucht werden. 	FG17 FG36

Extract from the protocol of the RKI crisis team of 6. March 2020

On the 11th. March the risk assessment said: „ no need for adjustment “. The WHO announced a pandemic that day. The following day, the protocol noted: „ The risk assessment was supplemented by the information that the WHO has declared a pandemic. The adjusted risk assessment is put online. Nothing changes financially, practically etc. “ Below: „ AGI Sentinel Surveillance: no new case “

wird zeitlich verortet	
3	<p>Aktuelle Risikobewertung</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Das Rapid Risk Assessment des ECDC hat eine ähnliche Einteilung der Risikodifferenzierung wie das RKI. ○ Die Risikobewertung wurde durch die Information, dass die WHO eine Pandemie erklärt hat ergänzt. Die angepasste Risikobewertung wird online gestellt. Finanziell, praktisch etc. ändert sich nichts. Es gibt allerdings internationale Fonds (z.B. für pandemic preparedness) die dadurch mobilisiert werden. <p><i>ToDo: Bitte Dokumente bei Bedarf anpassen, sodass nun „pandemische Welle/Pandemie“ anstatt Ausbruch oder Epidemie steht.</i></p>
4	Kommunikation

Extract from the protocol of the RKI crisis team of 12. March 2020

The week ended on Friday the 13th. March, with the succinct statement: „ Current risk assessment remains “. The risk for the population was therefore still considered by the RKI, despite media excitement and despite the WHO finding a pandemic, to be only „ “. The Robert Koch Institute remained on the ground of facts –.

On the same day, the WHO continued to exert pressure. „ WHO boss: Europe is now epicenter “, [reported](#) the daily news and stated: „ According to WHO boss Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Europe has become the epicenter of the coronavirus pandemic. Any country that believes to be spared major coronavirus outbreaks like other countries makes a fatal mistake. “

On Saturday 14th. The new edition of the *mirror* under the heading „[Are we ready?](#) “ with an emergency doctor in protective clothing on the cover, who stood between the tarpaulins of a hospital tent. On this day, the city of Berlin began to copy Chinese measures in surprising speed and harshness. The Senate ended public life in the capital by simple order. All pubs,

clubs, fairs, cinemas and theaters were forced to close – including the churches. The city government banned all gatherings of more than 50 people, including any political demonstrations.

An diesem Wochenende passierte auch etwas mit dem RKI. Den wesentlichen Hinweis darauf liefert das Protokoll vom Montag, dem 16. März, in dem es heißt: „Am Wochenende wurde eine neue Risikobewertung vorbereitet. Es soll diese Woche hochskaliert werden. Die Risikobewertung wird veröffentlicht, sobald [geschwärzt] ein Signal dafür gibt.“

		der WHO bezogen.	
2	Erkenntnisse über Erreger o Nichts zu berichten		alle
3	Aktuelle Risikobewertung o Am WE wurde eine neue Risikobewertung vorbereitet. Es soll diese Woche hochskaliert werden. Die Risikobewertung wird veröffentlicht, sobald [geschwärzt] ein Signal dafür gibt.		VPräs
4	Kommunikation		

Auszug aus dem Protokoll des RKI-Krisenstabs vom 16. März 2020

„ It should be scaled up this week “ – apparently a political decision, not a scientific one, also abruptly and surprisingly, without any suggestion in the previous protocols and without fundamental key figures having changed significantly. The minutes noted that „ VPräs “ presented this information to the crisis team, i.e. RKI Vice President Lars Schaade. Just wait for the „ signal “ to be implemented, which the actor blackened in the protocol would give. Maybe that was Jens Spahn, maybe someone else. The next day, at least, Wieler announced the upgrade.

It seems clear: if, as the minutes noted, on the weekend from the 14th to the 15th. March „ a new risk assessment has been prepared “ – and this should have happened within the RKI –, then of course there should also be documents at the RKI: the risk assessment itself as well as all communication and advice. But that's not the case. The [Raue law firm](#), In a letter from September 2023 to the Berlin Administrative Court, which represents the RKI in the proceedings initiated by Multipolar, it even completely denies on behalf of its client:

„ After completing this check, it remains that there are no other documents that change with the change in the risk assessment on 17. March 2020 from 'moderate' to 'high. (...) The defendant cannot disclose information that does not exist. “

The conclusion from all of this: The claim that the RKI made the upgrade – and thus the basis for the lockdown and state of emergency – on the basis of scientific advice is no longer tenable. The upgrade was abrupt, without a documented discussion and consultation process, on the instructions of an unnamed actor.

This also means that it is now clear that the courts in Germany, which relied on the legality of the Corona measures, that the risk assessment of the RKI was scientifically based

– and that this risk assessment was not critically examined in the respective procedures –, made a mistake, the acknowledgment and processing of which are still pending.

More articles on the topic:

- [More than a thousand passages blackened: Multipolar publishes original RKI protocols](#) (Editor, 20th. March 2024)
- [How the lockdown came to Germany](#) (Paul Schreyer, 15. July 2021) – A senior employee of Health Minister Jens Spahn took part in an international pandemic exercise in February 2019, which was organized by privately funded US institutions. A year later, the same official recommended several State Secretaries from the Federal Ministry of the Interior to prepare lockdown measures – that were not included in any official pandemic plan. He does not want to comment on multipolar demand. Research makes it clear that an internationally branched biosecurity network was very active shortly before the crisis broke out.