

From The Mayor of Kleve:

First Video Message: Curbing The Coronavirus Pandemic

Monday, 23rd March 2020, 3.00 pm

Dear Kleve Residents

Today, March 23rd, 2020, 3.00 pm, I am sending you my first video message.

I hope you are well.

Under my supervision, the municipal task force “Corona” meets on a daily basis in order to counter the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on a local level.

Precautions to secure your and your family’s personal safety - as well as that of all other individuals - are the top priority.

We are taking care of public safety and order, our local economy, our health care services, schools, childcare facilities, day care centers, and our marriage, birth and death registration services. Matters concerning the fire brigade, burial services, food supply, energy supply, waste disposal, finances, social issues and many others are on our daily agenda.

Our actions are always focused on people - people who live and work in Kleve, go to school in Kleve, who have to be taken care of or who are ill, simply all those who need to be protected.

It is our task to help you as fast as possible; to give support to those who are affected by the crisis in so many ways.

In response to my initiative, the districts mayors communicate with each other on a regular basis per video conference, chaired by Mr. Christoph Gerwers, Mayor of Rees.

Our ultimate aim are uniform and joint actions to the well-being of all residents in the County of Kleve, while taking specific local matters into consideration. Our cooperation is good. At our

invitation, the Kleve County Executive also participates in these conferences.

Regarding the City Kleve:

As your Mayor, I assure you that the municipal staff is extremely committed to its tasks and is doing the very best for the residents of Kleve. I have a great team; we are a good team.

I have received messages of thanks and appreciation which I have passed on to our staff members for their unprecedented service-oriented and competent actions – some we have never experienced before. Thank you for your appreciation and wishing us strength.

In return, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Despite all uncertainties, insecurities, worries about livelihood and concerns, we will face up to this crisis with all our strength; a crisis unimaginable only weeks ago. This crisis reveals character and attitude of people.

I thank you for your trust, your understanding, your considerateness, your solidarity, your cooperativeness and your efforts to the well-being of everybody.

Humanity instead of egotism. This is how it should be. We are a community and are all connected to each other. Now we realize this.

Though parted by physical distance, we stand together.

My appeal to you:

Protect yourself and other people. We are grateful to all those who do their best by observing the rules.

The evening applause for our Corona heroes is a fine gesture in these troubled times.

As of today, 121 persons in the entire county are infected, in Kleve 7 persons.

We are alarmed by the rapid spread of the Coronavirus throughout Germany in the past days and must do whatever it takes to prevent an uncontrolled rise of numbers of infected people. Limiting interactions between persons is crucial.

Therefore, I explicitly welcome the resolutions of the Federal and State Governments made during the weekend.

A contact ban breaks the infection chain more effectively than a full lockdown. Violations will be sanctioned. Only people who defy the order will be punished, and not everybody – which is good.

Here are some anti-corona measures in detail:

- You are urged to reduce contacts to other individuals to an absolute minimum, except for family members living in your household.
- Travelling to work, to emergency care, shopping, visits to doctors, participation in meetings, necessary appointments and examinations, helping other persons, or individual sport and exercise in fresh air and other necessary activities are – of course – still possible.
- Unfortunately, restaurants and service companies providing personal care such as hair and beauty salons, must be closed.

In addition, childcare services in schools and children's day care facilities are available also on weekends until the end of the Easter holidays. Persons in key positions can now get day care for their child, regardless of the family situation.

Further up-to-date information is available on the website of the City of Kleve www.kleve.de and on our Facebook page "Stadt

Kleve". We have setup a helpline for residents (phone no. 02821-84351), available Mondays to Fridays between 8.00 am and 4.00 pm, Saturdays between 10.00 am and 1.00 pm.

In emergency cases on weekends, please contact the Kleve police (phone no. 02821-5040).

We are there for you.

I wish the best for us all. Please stay healthy.