Corona Crisis: Information for Refugees, Migrants and Supporters (03.04.2020)

Dear all, we hope you are well and we want to express our solidarity with you in this difficult situation!

We, the team of Hamburgasyl.de collect and update information concerning the Corona crisis on www.hamburgasyl.de with regards to the situation of refugees and migrants, with a focus on Hamburg. This is a brief summary of the most important information. Please visit our website for more detailed information. While most of the information there is in German, we also published links to information pages in multiple languages.

General Information

The virus Sars-Covid-19 (Corona) has led to a pandemic that is affecting people worldwide. 
As of 01 April 2020
- more than 1 Mio. people have been infected
- over 200,000 people have recovered,
- 50,000 people died due to the Corona Virus.

Sars Covid 19 can trigger a respiratory illness, which, in the most extreme cases, can lead to the death of the patient. The virus is transferred from one human to another by droplet infection (sneezing) or lubricating infection (for instance by touching door handles). However, it is possible to prevent infection if you follow advice given by authorities based on scientific facts. It is very important to take this situation serious, stay calm and help to prevent a dramatic increase of infections. Everyone can save others by following these rules:

- Stay at home/ in your room in the camp.
- Always maintain a distance of 2 m to other people.
- Wash your hands regularly and thoroughly, at least 20-30 seconds, with soap.
- Most significant symptoms are fever and coughing.
- If you have the symptoms, don’t go to a doctor and keep away from other people!
- Instead: Call the hotline 040 116117. If that is not possible inform the medical staff in your camp that you have symptoms. Remember to keep a distance to them too!
- The hotline service is in German only. If you are not able to answer the call in German, ask someone to call on your behalf. Due to the large number of calls it can take up to an hour until you reach someone there. Please be patient and hold the line until someone answers.
- Please inform the staff in your camp if you have symptoms or if you were tested positive for Corona.
- As long as you don’t have a medical insurance, the test for corona virus will be paid by the health authority in Hamburg.

Asylum, Residence and Social Security

Due to the Corona pandemic, most public authorities are currently closed for the public. Do not go there in person but rather get in touch via e-mail or call.

Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge (BAMF)
The federal asylum authority (BAMF) only accepts written asylum applications. The precondition is, that you are registered in a central reception facility (In Hamburg this is Erstaufnahme at Bargkoopelweg).

Foreign Authority
The central foreign authority and the district foreign authorities are closed for the public.
If you have a
- Residence permit (Aufenthaltstitel)
- Residence toleration (Aufenthaltsgestattung)
- Tolerance status (Duldung)
- or any other residence permission document (for instance Fiktionsbescheinigung), which will expire soon, check your mail. The foreign authority will issue and send you a new valid permission. Together with the new document you will receive an appointment at the foreign authority in a couple of weeks.

For more information call: 040-428 39 22 88
More contact information here: https://hamburgasyl.de/corona-infos/beratungsstellen-einrichtungen-und-projekte/

Deportations
Deportations are currently impossible. Hamburg will not execute any deportations, at least until the end of April 2020. Please check our website www.hamburgasyl.de for updated information.

Jobcenter
Even though the job centers are not available for personal meetings, social security benefits will still be paid during the corona crisis. If you have received an invitation for a personal appointment you can ignore this. You don’t have to cancel the appointment and it will not lead to any sanctions. Requests can be sent via mail or online. If you have issues with this, please call or write an e-mail to the Jobcenter or a counselling service. (Contacts can be found here: https://hamburgasyl.de/corona-infos/beratungsstellen-einrichtungen-und-projekte/).

Counselling, Legal advice
To prevent further infection, counselling organizations have switched to counselling via phone. You can find an updated list of available organizations on:

Fluchtpunkt (Legal counselling for refugees and migrants)
Contact via e-mail: fluchtpunkt@diakonie-hhsh.de or call 040-432 400 80

Flüchtlingszentrums
There are no open consultation-hours at the moment. Urgend appointments, for instance for the medical clearing service are still available.
All language courses are currently stopped.
Call: 040-284 079 0 und 040-284 079 131
Mo, Tu, Thu, Fr. 10 to 13 and 14 to 16 h.
Contact via Email: info@fz-hh.de

ÖRA (Öffentliche Rechtsauskunft)
All branches of ÖRA are currently closed. In urgent cases, in which you need legal assistance, you can call the hotline: 040 428 43 3072 (Monday to Thursday from 8.00-15.00 h and on Friday from 8.00-12.00 h) Please have your documents ready. The advisers will briefly discuss your issue with you and decide what to do.

Caritas Härtefallberatung
Currently no open consultation-hours. Please contact the advisers via e-mail or call.
Email: haertefallberatung@caritas-hamburg.de
Tel.: 040 280140808

Caritas Migrationsberatung
Currently no open consultation-hours. Please contact the advisers via e-mail or call.

Isabel Arnedo / phone: 040 280 140 203 / Mail: isabel.arnedo@caritas-im-norden.de
Nadja Barrientos / phone: 040 280 140 204 / Mail: nadja.barrientos@caritas-im-norden.de
Bozhura Schumacher / phone: 040 280 140 202 / Mail: bozhura.schumacher@caritas-im-norden.de

Migrationsberatung im Diakonischen Werk
The migration counselling service is currently available from 9.00-15.00 h via E-Mail mbe@diakonie-hamburg.de and on the phone: 040 30620312.

More services can be found here: https://hamburgasyl.de/corona-infos/beratungsstellen-einrichtungen-und-projekte/

Solidary neighborhood initiatives and shopping assistance for people with high-risk or people in quarantine.
If you need assistance with (grocery) shopping, or if you need someone to pick up medicine from a pharmacy you can find help on one of these websites:
- https://www.quarantaenehelden.org/
- https://www.wirgegencorona.com/
If you are young and healthy and have no high risk and you want to help people in your neighborhood, you can register with these initiatives above.

Diakonie-Stiftung MitMenschlichkeit also looks for volunteers and coordinates their actions to assist people. 
https://www.diakonie-hamburg.de/de/veranstaltungen/Corona-Hilfe-Registrierung-fuer-freiwillige-Helferinnen-und-Helfer

Job loss, loss of earnings and help for the self-employed
If your are at risk of losing your job due to the corona-crisis, if you have received a notice of termination from your employer or if you earn less because your business is closed or affected due to corona, you may find answers to some of your questions here:

- https://www.bmas.de/DE/Schwerpunkte/Informationen-Corona/corona-virus-arbeitsrechtliche-auswirkungen.html (Informationen is available in English)
- https://www.dgb.de/ (German only).
- Counselling in English: Arbeit&Leben, „Faire Integration“: https://hamburg.arbeitundleben.de/faire-integration (e-mail or phone).

Stay safe and healthy.

Best wishes
The Hamburgasyl Team