

COVID-19 Update: Anticipated end of lockdown & free COVID-19 antigen tests

Update 11.01.2021

Lockdown expected until January 24

Austria has been in a hard lockdown since December 26th and the related regulations are active (24h exit restrictions, only allowed to leave your house for basic needs of life, professional and educational purpose, physical and mental recovery etc). Against past plans, it will NOT be possible to end the quarantine one week earlier with a negative COVID-19 test. Currently it is planned that the lockdown ends Sunday, January 24.

Entry restrictions

The entry restrictions to Austria, which have been in effect since December 19, remain in effect. All people entering Austria have to undergo a ten-day quarantine. The obligatory quarantine can be ended earlier by a negative PCR or antigen test, which is possible on the fifth day at the earliest. The only exceptions are entries from countries where the COVID-19 burden is still low (Australia, Iceland, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, South Korea, Uruguay, Vatican, Finland, Ireland). More information: <https://oead.at/en/to-austria/entry-and-residence/entry-conditions-covid-19/>

All international students or employees at TU Graz who have to undergo quarantine, can register for the free Quarantine Support Service if needed (www.tugraz.at/go/internationals-covid19).

COVID-19 antigen tests

The Austrian federal government now enables free COVID-19 rapid testing throughout Austria. As of today, Monday, January 11 at 12 noon, the following testing station is permanently open in Graz: *Messehalle A, Messeplatz 1, 8010 Graz.*

This station is scheduled to be open for testing Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to noon. To be tested free of charge, register via the Internet using the federal government's registration tool (<https://steiermark.oesterreich-testet.at>) or by calling the toll-free number 0800/220 330; the hotline is available daily from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. You can also come without an appointment, but it might take a little bit longer to wait until it is your turn.

More information: <https://www.testen.steiermark.at/>

In case you have entered Austria and have to undergo a ten-day quarantine, you can also use this free testing service earliest after 5 days of quarantine to end your quarantine. However, if you have symptoms, you need to call the health hotline 1450.

All information provided by the International Office – Welcome Center refers to the information provided during press conferences from the Austrian Government and given at websites from the Austrian Government. No warranty can be given in respect of the accuracy, reliability or completeness of this information.