

## FAQs

### **I just received my national visa (e.g. for family reunion, studies, employment) but I have not travelled to Germany yet. Do I fall under the exemptions from the current travel ban?**

Please note that only persons holding a residence permit fall under the exemptions. A visa is not sufficient for entry to Germany if you have not travelled on this visa yet. Once the travel ban has been lifted, we will inform you accordingly via our website.

### **I/My relatives just received their Schengen visas but I/they have not travelled to Germany yet. Do I/they fall under the exemptions from the current travel ban?**

Please check the exhaustive list of exceptions to the travel ban listed above. If you do not fall under the exceptions you are not eligible to travel to Germany under the current travel ban.

Please note that short-term family visits on the occasion of birth of the grandchild/nephew/niece, even in which the new parents are in need of support because of complications during birth/health problems/work duties, do not fall under the current exemptions from the travel ban.

### **I already travelled to Germany on my existing national visa (immigration stamps in the passport), returned to India in the meantime, but I have not applied for/obtained my residence permit yet. Do I fall under the exemptions from the current travel ban?**

As you already travelled on your existing visa you are eligible to travel to Germany under the current travel ban. Please note, however, that you have to prove that you have your permanent residence in Germany at the border control.

### **I only have a Fiktionsbescheinigung at the moment. Am I eligible to travel?**

If you have a Fiktionsbescheinigung stating “der Aufenthaltstitel als fortbestehend (§81 Abs. 4 AufenthG)” you are eligible to travel back to Germany. Please make sure to carry your previous residence permit (or a copy) with you all the time.

### **I applied for a visa (and were informed about the approval) but I have not received my visa yet. When will I receive my visa?**

Due to the travel ban the visa stamping of all visas not falling under the exemptions listed above has been suspended until further notice. Kindly keep yourself updated via our website. As soon as the travel ban has been lifted we will inform you about the exact procedure and conditions of issuing the visa. Please understand that the German Consulate cannot predict when this will be the case. Please refrain from further enquiries until then.

### **I already received my visa but I am not eligible to travel under the newly imposed travel ban. What will happen to my visa?**

Entry to Germany, even with a valid visa, is generally banned for passengers who have visited India during the last 10 days. Please check the exhaustive list of exemptions above.

Persons who have already received a visa and do not belong to the above-mentioned groups may only enter Germany once the entry ban has been lifted.

As soon as the travel ban has been lifted we will inform you about the exact procedure of reissuing the visa which has expired during the travel ban period. Please understand that the German Consulate cannot predict when this will be the case. Please refrain from further enquiries until then.

### **Can I get a refund of the visa fees?**

Please note that all relevant information regarding this question will be published on our website in due time. Please understand that we cannot process individual refund requests at the moment.

### **I have an appointment for my national visa application on xx.xx.xxxx. Will my appointment still take place?**

Yes. All appointments at VFS and in the Consulate itself will take place as scheduled unless you are being told otherwise. Please note that although it is currently possible to submit a national visa application the visa itself will not be issued as long as the above mentioned travel ban is in place. Please also note that we do not issue certificates exempting you from the lockdown. However, until now no applicant carrying an appointment confirmation has faced any difficulties travelling to the appointment.

### **I wanted to apply for a Schengen visa on the occasion of the birth/marriage of a family member. Can I still apply for the Schengen visa?**

Please check the exhaustive list of exemptions from the travel ban listed above. Both birth and marriage of family members do not fall under the current exemptions, even if the new parents are in need of support because of complications during birth/health problems/work duties. If you do not fall under the exemptions please refrain from sending further enquiries regarding a visa application.

### **I am travelling from India via Germany to a third country. Can I still enter the transit area in German airports?**

Transiting by air is allowed if the passenger does not leave the transit area of the airport.

When flying to Schengen countries ([https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/einreiseundaufenthalt/231202#content\\_2](https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/einreiseundaufenthalt/231202#content_2)) you will need to leave the transit area, therefore such travel is not possible. For more details please contact the competent airport authorities or your airline directly. Please note that the restrictions may be changed shortly.

Please note that it is not possible to undergo a PCR test in the transit area of Frankfurt Airport. Please therefore check with the third country you are travelling to and/or the airline whether you require a PCR test or not.