

# Apply for infection protection instruction including certificate

If you come into contact with open food in the course of your work (e.g. producing or working with food), you will need a certificate from the public health department confirming that you have been instructed in infection protection before you start working in the food sector for the first time.

## Competent Department

- [Gesundheitsamt Bremen](#)

## Basic information

Any person who produces, handles, sells or otherwise places food on the market on a commercial basis and comes into direct or indirect contact with food via plates or cutlery requires a certificate from the public health department in accordance with Section 43 of the Infection Protection Act. This applies, for example, to people who work in restaurants, canteens or communal catering facilities. People who regularly spend time in the kitchens of facilities, such as cleaning assistants or dishwashers, also require a certificate.

The aim of the instruction is to enable you to recognize your own symptoms of infectious diseases or those of your employees at an early stage. You should also be able to prevent the spread and contamination of food and assess when you should no longer carry out your work if you have certain symptoms.

The certificate is proof of successful participation in an instruction course on infection protection measures.

The certificate is valid for life if you start working with food no later than 3 months after obtaining the certificate. If you already have a health certificate, you do not need a new health certificate.

In Bremen, the certificate is only issued by the public health department.

## Requirements

- First-time commercial activity or employment with direct or indirect food contact (production, treatment and sale of food).

- There are no indications that you have an infectious disease (e.g. salmonellosis, shigellosis).
- Persons with insufficient knowledge of German (reading and speaking) require a person to assist with translation.

## What documents do I need?

- Identity card or passport
- Declaration of assumption of costs from the employer or job center, if applicable
  - The certificate of assumption of costs must be addressed to the public health department. It must contain the current date and a billing address. And it must be signed by the employer or the job center.
  - A notice from the job center or an application for reimbursement from an authority is not sufficient.
- Persons who do not speak German must bring an interpreter with them.
- We recommend wearing an FFP2 mask, as the instruction takes place in a group.

Please bring an FFP2 mask with you.

## Procedure

If you need a health certificate, you must attend an instruction session.

The instruction will explain to you how to prevent foodborne diseases.

You can complete this instruction online:

- You can find the link to the online service under "Further information" - "Online service" - "Online instruction in accordance with Section 43 of the Infection Protection Act (health certificate)".
- Select a date for the online instruction there and simply follow the instructions on the website.
- The online instruction is available in 23 different languages, for example Albanian, Arabic, English, French or Turkish and others. There is also a German version with sign language.

If it is not possible for you to complete the instruction online, you can also come to a lecture at the public health department:

- The lectures always take place on Wednesdays.
- In the odd calendar weeks, the lectures take place on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 am to 11:00 am.
- In the even calendar weeks, the lectures take place on Wednesday afternoons from 13:30 to 15:00.
- Each lecture lasts about 1.5 hours.
- You must register online in advance for the lecture - there is no lecture without registration.
- You can find the link to the appointment registration under "Further information" - "Where can I find out more" - "Instruction in presence and further information" or via "Make an appointment".

- Please bring your identity card with you.
- Only card payment is possible.
- If you do not speak German well, please bring someone with you who can translate for you.
- The certificate will be given to you after the instruction.

For people who do not have internet access, there is another way to register for the lecture at the public health department:

- You can obtain an appointment request form from the information desk at the public health department.
- It is best to fill out the form immediately and hand it in directly at the information desk.
- Please be sure to include your telephone number and, if available, an e-mail address where you can be reached.
- You will then be offered an appointment by telephone or e-mail.
- It is also possible to register for the lecture in person.
- To register in person, come to the Bremen Health Department at Horner Straße 60-70 in 28203 Bremen and go to room 0.202. To do this, enter the Health Department through entrance 2 on the corner of Horner Straße and Humboldtstraße. Then go up the stairs and knock on the first door on the right-hand side.

We can answer your questions in person or over the phone and provide you with special barrier-free services. Consultation hours are on Tuesdays from 13:30 to 15:00. The telephone number is 361 - 15134.

Duplicate:

- Send an e-mail to this address stating your full name, current address, date of birth and, if known, the date of the initial consultation:  
Belehrungen@gesundheitsamt.bremen.de
- Further information will then be sent by e-mail.

## Legal bases

- [§ 43 Infektionsschutzgesetz \(IfSG\) – Belehrung](#)

## More information

The certificate replaces the previous health certificates (§§ 17, 18 of the Federal Epidemics Act). The old certificates (from 1980) remain valid.

After the instruction, it must be declared in text form that there are no known facts for an activity ban.

If there are indications that there are reasons for an impediment to working in the food sector, the certificate may only be issued if a medical certificate proves that the relevant impediment no longer exists.

The certificate is only valid if you start working with food within 3 months of it being issued.

As the issued certificate is valid for life, please keep it in a safe place!

Further information on the subject of health certificates can be found on the homepage of the public health department.

### **What deadlines must be paid attention to?**

The activity must be commenced within the first 3 months after receipt of the health certificate/instruction. The health certificate is then valid for life. An interruption of the activity does not cancel the lifelong validity.

### **How long does it take to process**

1.5 hours

### **What are the costs?**

32,50 EUR Complete online instruction (possible at any time and from anywhere) per person via online payment

32,50 EUR Cost amount for face-to-face instruction per person (only card payment possible).

If the employer or an institution covers the costs, a certificate of assumption of costs must be submitted to the public health department.

16,00 EUR Fees for a duplicate that can be issued if the original certificate is lost.

The retention period of the data as proof for a possible issue of a duplicate certificate is 10 years. After this period, a duplicate can no longer be issued.