

Association of Brandenburg Museums – Guidelines for Re-Opening

Brandenburg Museums are the first ones in Germany to be able to open their doors again to visitors. This is both a privilege and a challenge. There are many new questions: What hygiene standards are required? Which measures are a must, what is practical and what can't be implemented.

The Association of Brandenburg Museums has pulled the following information together based on the local law:

- Entry spaces – no queues
- Waiting areas – no more than 10 people
- Minimum social distance between 2 people is 1.5m

Important:

Museums can reopen from 22 April, but that is a decision left to each governing body – no museum is forced to reopen.

The Association of Brandenburg Museums recommends the following measures:

1. Define the maximum number of visitors while maintaining social distancing. – based on 1.5m distance between two visitors, this translates as 15 sqm of walkable floor space (so not the space taken up by displays) per person. Ensure there are never more than that number of people present in your museum (visitors and staff). Achieve that through entry controls/timed electronic ticketing etc
2. No group tours and no educational activities for more than 2 people
3. No Food & Drink provision
4. At the entry points/tills, mark out the social distance requirements (as supermarkets already do). Ensure that your queue is no longer than 10 people.
5. Protect your personnel – at entry points/tills install a screen against droplets, made from plexi-glass or strong foil. Provide disinfectant for your personnel. Move to card only payment where possible.
6. Staff members who fall into a vulnerable category (underlying health conditions, age), should not be working in the public areas. If this cannot be prevented, extra care has to be taken around the protective measures for these colleagues.
7. Cloakrooms should be shut, but free-standing cloak stands as well as wardrobes and lockers can be used
8. Door handles, bannisters, wardrobes, lockers etc should be disinfected on numerous occasions throughout the day. Frequency should be adjusted to reflect visitor numbers. As an alternative offer disinfectant options for visitors.
9. Check bathrooms to ensure that there are always enough paper towels available as there will be an increase in hand washing. Again, offer disinfectant options to visitors.
10. Only offer audio guides if these can be properly disinfected after every use

11. Inside the exhibition – no virtual reality head sets, no hands on objects. Touch screens are to be regularly disinfected after every use or switched off
12. Be particularly aware of the social distancing requirement in small exhibition areas (smaller than 20 sqm). Don't close these areas unless it's an emergency – it is better to have a staff member regulate access to the areas for visitors.

Important:

- Communicate your coronavirus regulations clearly at your entry point to the museum as well as in numerous locations inside the museum
- Ensure you include general standards in that info: Recommendation on hand washing/ recommendations to wear a face mask/ no visit if ill
- You must ensure that your personnel has been trained to ask visitors in a friendly manner to observe the rules, in particular the rules around social distancing
- Despite all these restrictive measures, don't forget to welcome your visitors to your museum!