

# Coronavirus: Information for Enterprises in Graz

The Coronavirus impacts the local economy. Several enterprises are concerned about the negative consequences of the Coronavirus.

Non-productive time, continued remuneration, international supplier chains, funding, to name but a few. To support the tourism economy and small and medium sized companies, to compensate liquidity shortage and to keep up enterprises and companies, a bundle of measures has been put together for the local economy.

## Immediate measures for the tourism economy:

The support model for the tourism economy consists of two concrete measures:

- 1.) Liability in the amount of 100 million Euros for bridge financing by the [Austrian Hotel and Tourism Bank \(ÖHT\)](#) | [submit request](#) | [+43 1 515 30-0](#) | [hotline@oeht.at](#)
- 2.) Cost recovery for this resourcing of liability by the ministry of tourism

## Measures for one-person businesses, small and medium sized enterprises:

For one-person business and small and medium sized enterprises guarantees for bridge financing in the amount of 10 million Euros are provided by the [Austria Wirtschaftsservice \(aws\)](#) | [submit request](#) | [+43 1 501 75-500](#) | [coronagarantie@aws.at](#)

## Short-time work as a possible alternative:

To foster enterprises and companies and ensure work places the Austrian government provides funds for short-time work. Point of contact: [Employment Service Austria \(AMS\)](#)

## Emergency-Call for the research of COVID-19

Due to the recent development in relation to the Coronavirus the [Federal Ministry of Digital and Economic Affairs](#) provides short-term one million Euros for projects dealing with the topic of Coronavirus. **Deadline for submitting the projects is the 8<sup>th</sup> of April to the [Austrian Research Promotion Agency \(FFG\)](#).**

## What to do in case of sickness?

### Employees:

Salary will continue to be paid according to Continued Remuneration Law. As for quarantine measures taken without sickness or after recovery, reimbursement is possible according to § 32 of the Austrian Epidemics Act

### Employers:

In case of sickness, there are no specific regulations. Sickness benefits are only available under specific conditions (e.g. more than 42 days of inability to work). If the enterprise or company is put into

quarantine or “become ineffective” due to the Coronavirus, the § 32 has foreseen an adjustment to the loss of remuneration.

### **What to do in case of suspicion of Corona?**

In case of suspicion of Corona, employers are free to send their employees home even if they are not sick. This is considered a leave of absence not a sick leave or quarantine. Thus, employees do not need a sickness confirmation for the duration of their absence and their salary will continue to be paid according to Continued Remuneration Law. There is no right for reimbursement according to § 32 of the Austrian Epidemics Act.

In case of a governmental quarantine order according to the Epidemics Act, the labour situation is different: a quarantine can only be imposed by health authorities. The continued remuneration amounts are valid according to Continued Remuneration Law, the reimbursement according to § 32 of the Austrian Epidemics Act is possible.

### **Our Advice**

If employees might be infected, call the Corona hotline **1450** to discuss the next steps.

Two important paragraphs from the Austrian Epidemic Act:

1. Reimbursement for loss of remuneration (§ 32 Austrian Epidemic Act)
2. Deadline to claim compensation or remuneration for loss of earnings (§ 33 Austrian Epidemic Act)
3. [Information of the City of Graz](#) | [submit request](#)

#### **OUR SERVICE HOTLINE (7 a.m. – 5 p.m.):**

Reinhard: +43 664 60 872 4884

Andreas: +43 664 60 872 4820

**CORONA HOTLINE:** 1450

**CORONA INFOPOINT:** 0590900-4352 | [Infopoint\\_coronavirus@wko.at](mailto:Infopoint_coronavirus@wko.at)

**CORONA INFOPOINT OF WKO STMK:** 0316/601-601 | [rechtsservice@wkstmk.at](mailto:rechtsservice@wkstmk.at)

### **More Information:**

- [Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection](#)
- [Ministry of Digital and Economic Affairs](#)
- [Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism](#)
- [WHO](#)