SÜDWESTRUNDFUNK, 1 April 2020 -- <u>https://www.swr.de/swraktuell/rheinland-pfalz/telefonkonferenz-merkel-dreyer-100.html</u> -translation by Sandra Archer, 86 AW/PA

RESTRICTIONS AGAINST CORONA REMAIN

Dreyer asks: No travelling over Easter

The federal and state governments agree that the contact restrictions will apply nationwide until after Easter. This was already the case in Rhineland-Palatinate. Here, there will also be a ban on visiting clinics and nursing homes in the future.

After a telephone conference of the state premiers with Chancellor Angela Merkel (CDU), Rhineland-Palatinate's head of government Malu Dreyer (SPD) called on people Wednesday to also stick to restrictions over the Easter holidays. "Don't travel, don't go on longer trips, don't meet additional people", the head of government appealed at a press conference. "Everything is simply different this year."

Even if it hurts, she said, everything must be done to slow down the increase in new infections. "We still need to flatten the infection curve," Dreyer said. There is a great obligation to protect the elderly in particular, and of course also young people with previous infections.

Hospitals need time

According to Dreyer, hospitals also need the chance to continue upgrading so that they remain able to provide good care for all patients. In order to prevent infections of patients and nursing staff as much as possible, Rhineland-Palatinate now has a stricter ban on visiting clinics and nursing facilities.

No tightening

In the federal and state governments' discussion, it was decided to extend the conditions until the end of the Easter holidays. In Rhineland-Palatinate, the third corona control decree was already effective until April 19. Dreyer said that it was therefore not a tightening of restrictions.

New evaluation after Easter

After April 19, there will be a telephone discussion between the Chancellor and the heads of state. Dreyer said that the situation would then be reviewed, and what reactions would then be necessary.

Dreyer again thanked the population for their patience and common sense. They are aware of how great the impacts are in some areas.