

German govt aims to extend distancing rules to July 5: policy draft

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The German government aims to impose social distancing rules until at least July 5 to keep the coronavirus outbreak under control, according to a draft policy seen by AFP, in the face of a revolt by regional states.

The working paper from Chancellor Angela Merkel's office would extend by a month existing contact restrictions "to maintain a distance of 1.5 metres (five feet)" between people and "require masks in certain public areas" such as supermarkets and buses.

The policy, until now pursued in coordination with the [federal government](#), comes as two eastern states, Thuringia and Saxony, announced a drastic opening up from June 6 in defiance of Berlin's guidelines.

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