

Lessons from Home and Abroad: Implementing a Contact Tracing Strategy

GERMANY

Prof. Dr. Rudolf Blankart
University of Bern and sitem-insel

May 13, 2020

[siteminsel](#)

The Federal Republic of Germany is of similar size as California and consists of 16 federal states

Germany



Basic characteristics

- Federal Republic with 16 Federal States
- 137,847 sq miles
- 83m people
 - Berlin (capital)

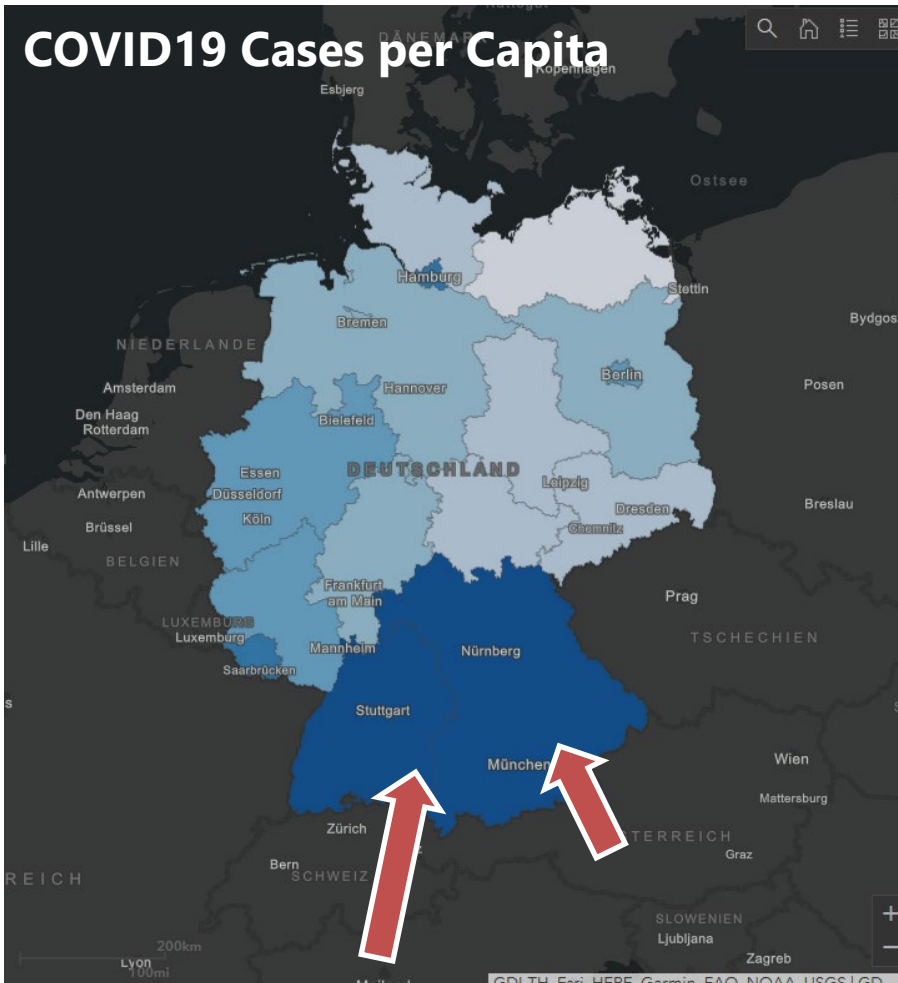
Health Care System

- Compulsory health insurance
- 1940 hospitals
 - 8 beds per 1,000
 - 0.34 intensive care beds per 1,000
- Capacity of 1m tests per week

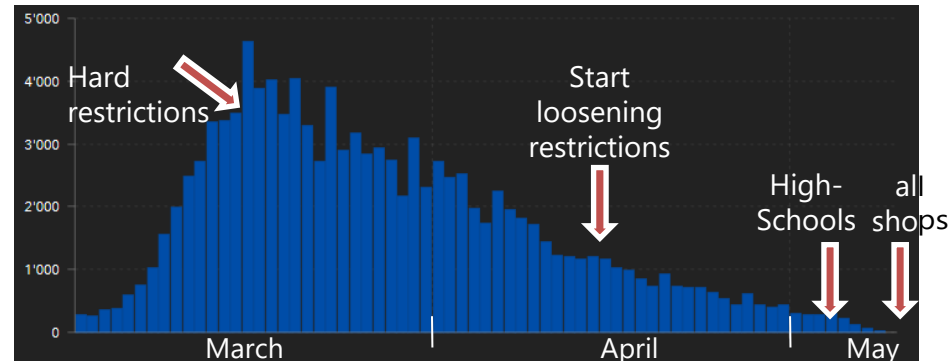
COVID19 spread from south to north and the more densely populated regions were more affected

COVID19 in Germany

COVID19 Cases per Capita



New cases per day



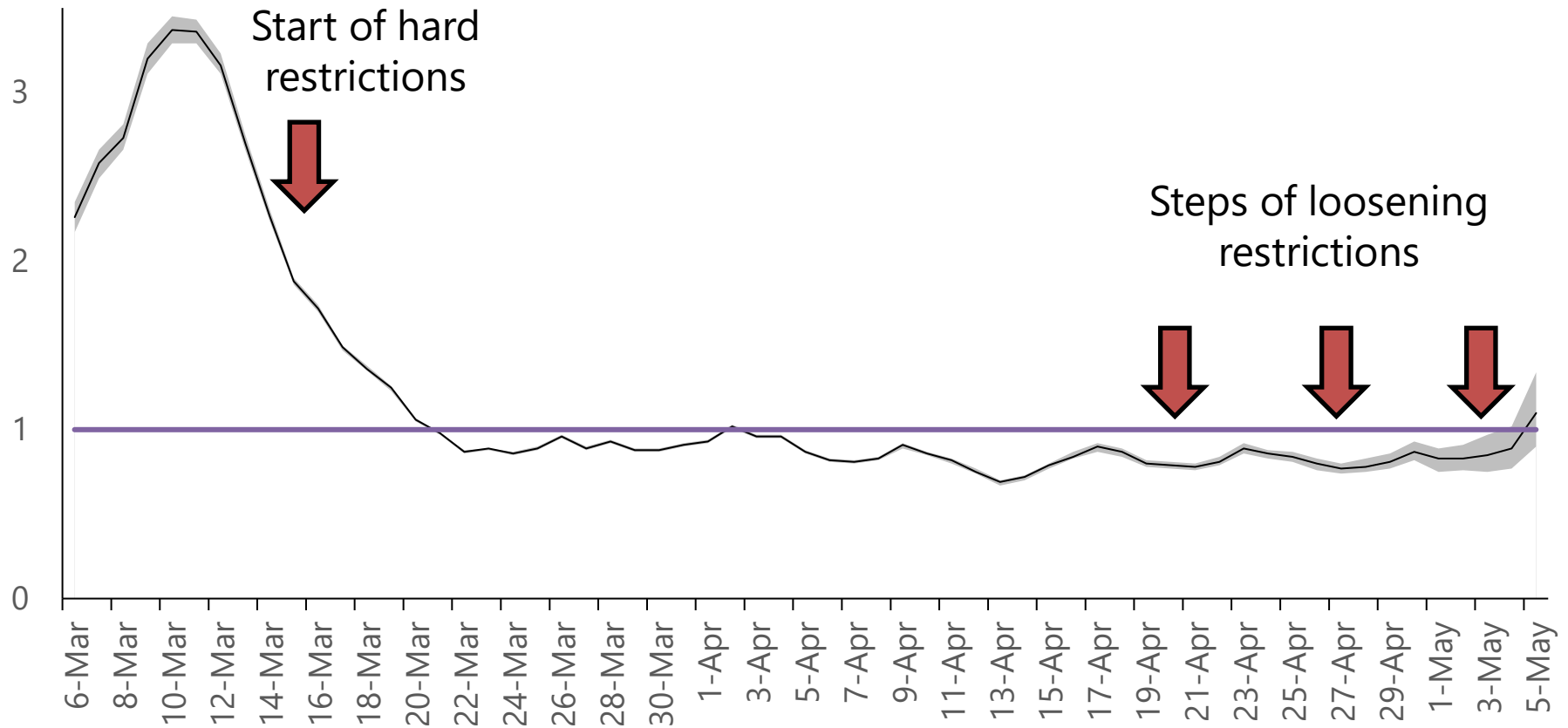
Control metrics

- Reproduction number
- Doubling time
- Threshold of 50 cases per 100,000
- Antibody testing will come soon

The basic reproduction number can be interpreted as the number of cases directly generated by one case in a population

u^b

Basic reproduction number R_0



The NIPA and the NPP combined with the specific State regulations are the most important legal bases

Regulations

National Infection Protection Act (NIPA)

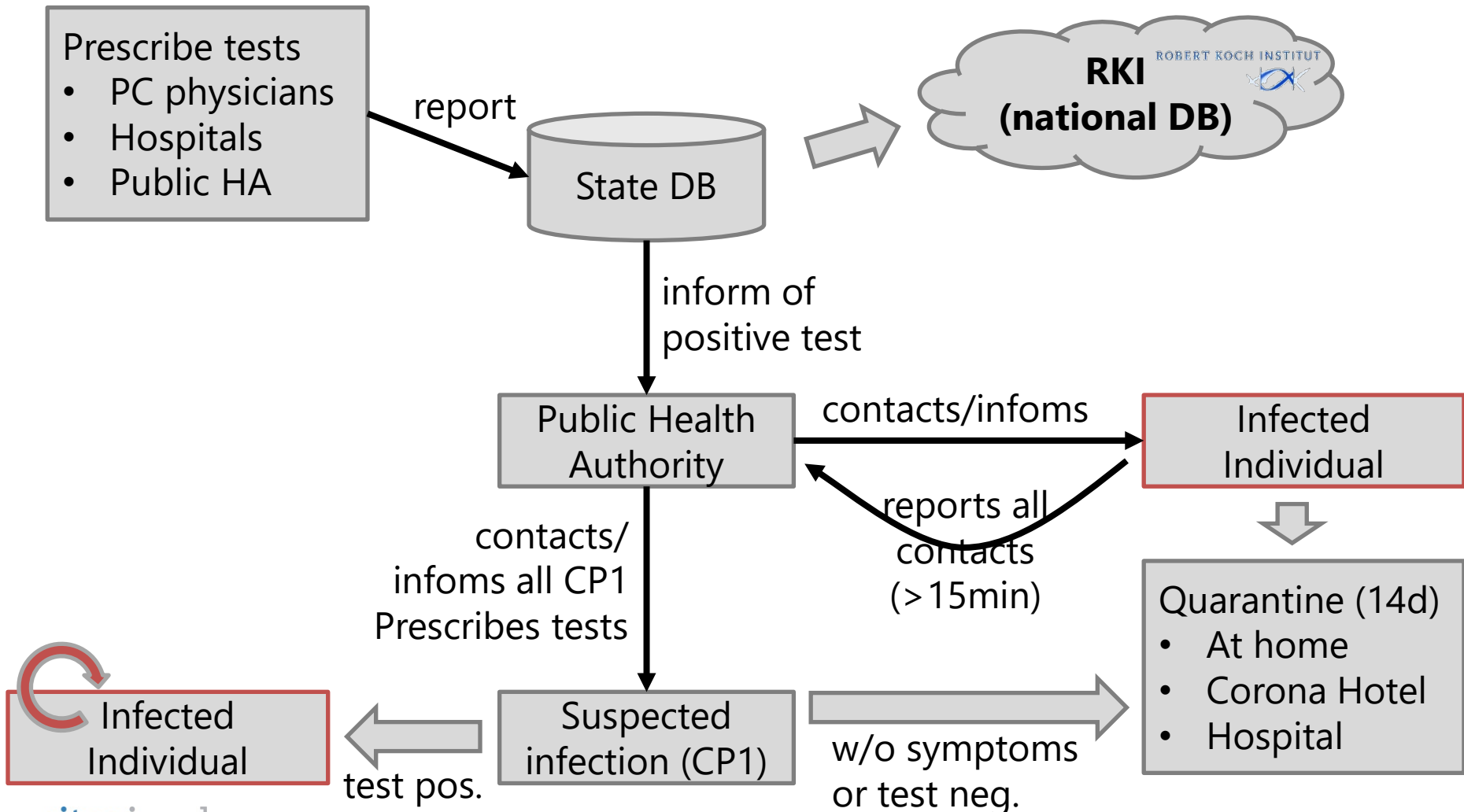
- Regulates interaction between the Federal and State governments
- Defines role of the national Robert-Koch Institute (RKI)
- Federal States governments are responsible to enact ordinances and regulations to protect the citizens

National Pandemic Plan (NPP)

- Prepared after the SARS epidemic in 2005 and updated in 2017
- Based on 1999 guidelines of the WHO
- All institutions such as orphanages, schools, etc. have to have a pandemic plan

The immediate testing of a person with symptoms is one of the most important steps in contact tracing

Insights in Contact Tracing in Munich



It is a combination of various success factors that help Germany to navigate successfully through the crisis

Success factors

Preparation

- National Pandemic Plan and good health system
- Germany was not the first to be hit
- Experiences from Italy, BMW, and Webasto

Access to health care system and testing

- Tests are free in Germany
- Excessive testing capacity
- Population is used to access the healthcare system

Fast and comprehensive **testing**

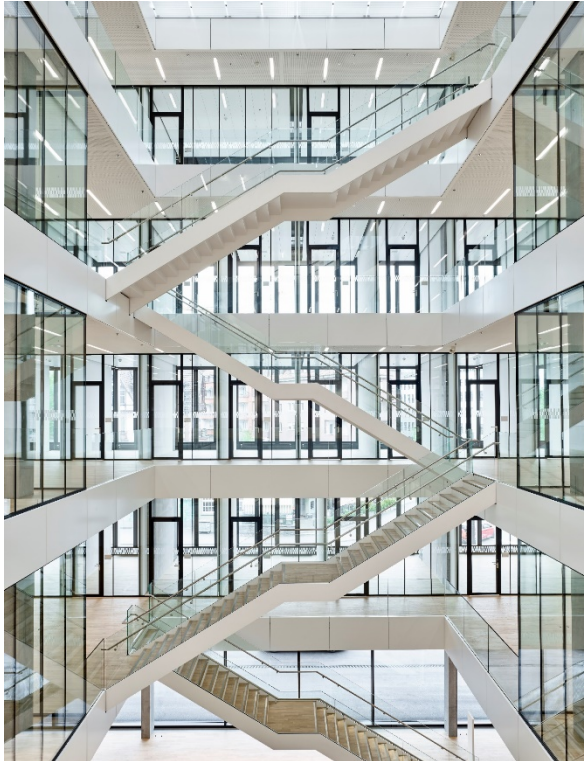
- Special groups (police, medical staff): 2hours from test to result
- General population: 6-8hours from test to result

Put **infection prevention first**

- Involve key people that have access to minorities
- Waiver of prosecution

Social Security System

- Kurzarbeit, unemployment assistance



Prof. Dr. Rudolf Blankart
Professor of Regulatory Affairs

KPM Center for Public Management/sitem-insel
Universität Bern
Freiburgstr. 3
3010 Bern

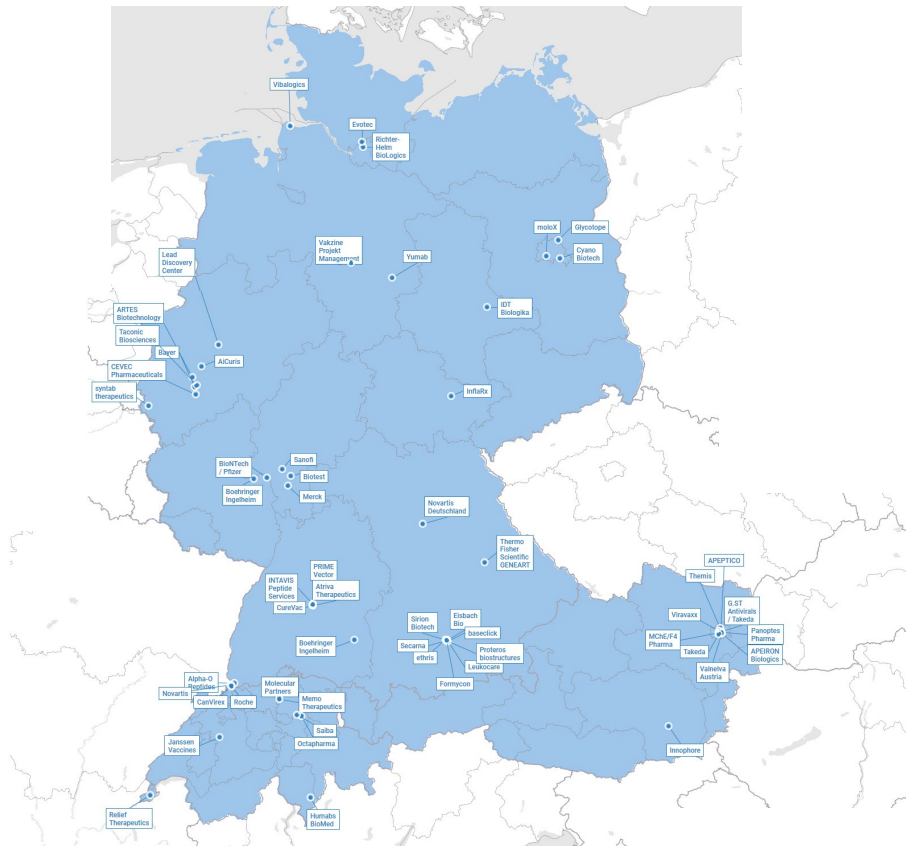
rudolf.blankart@kpm.unibe.ch

www.kpm.unibe.ch
www.sitem-insel.ch

There are many ongoing programs in Germany, Switzerland, and Austria to stop the spread of the virus

Other measures

Vaccine & drug development projects



Tracing App

- Decentralised Privacy-Preserving Proximity Tracing based on bluetooth technology
- Data protection is a major issue
- Consortium of Deutsche Telekom and SAP
- Go live in June 2020
- Can be an add-on but not a solution as not everybody will take part
 - ~6% in Austria, since March 25