



**JOHANNITER**

# Johanniter Pandemic Response

**Status: 30.09.2021**

The Corona pandemic has challenged the Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe (JUH) as an aid organisation in two ways as the pandemic affected both employees and their families as well as the services of the JUH, which had to be adapted to the new circumstances. More than 40,000 volunteers and around 25,000 full-time staff contributed to the management of the Corona pandemic in various ways. Thanks to good hygiene concepts and emergency plans, the JUH's own exposure was very low.

Throughout Germany, the JUH provided comprehensive services to cope with the Corona crisis on behalf of federal states and municipalities, companies and institutions, often in cooperation with other relief organisations. In total, 2938 volunteers helped with vaccinations and testing, which was the focus of the JUH's response to the pandemic.

## Actions

The JUH has provided assistance in many places in very different ways and is constantly adapting its activities to current developments.

These activities include

- Installation and operation of 500 Corona testing centers throughout Germany. More than 300 mobile teams supported the nationwide testing activities. More than 2 million tests were carried out.
- Installation, operation and administrative as well as medical support in almost 100 vaccination centres. 190 mobile vaccination teams were operating nationwide, to offer vaccinations directly in nursing homes. Throughout August 2021, more than 70 teams offered easily accessible vaccinations at nightclubs, parking lots or shopping centers. In total, Johanniter vaccinated about 6 million doses.
- More than 65,000 people were trained online to perform antigen tests.
- Additional support of the regular rescue service and transports of Covid19 patients.
- Emergency care in our 500 day care centres
- shopping assistance for elderly and those in high risk
- „visiting calls“, replacing usual visiting services with a telephone service
- „Johanniter Listening Phone“ (a nationwide, free service for anyone who feels the need for a friendly conversation and an open ear)
- Support structures for homeless people and those in need, for children, young people and the elderly



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While testing and vaccination efforts continue, the JUH will evaluate its work, develop „lessons learned“ of its pandemic response and implement them within the association. At the same time, the JUH is in close contact with the German Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance (BBK) and other aid organisations to reform and promote public health protection in Germany. There will be a particular focus on the issue of stockpiling medical material as well as the accommodation and care of a larger group, taking the experiences of the flood disaster in July 2021 and the refugee work of recent years into account.

Johanniter International Assistance has maintained its activities despite the Corona pandemic and carried out educational work to counteract the spread of the pandemic. The Corona pandemic added to existing crises and challenges in many countries, hunger and poverty continued to spread through lockdowns and movement restrictions. Johanniter International Assistance started early with prevention campaigns and the distribution of protective equipment, hygiene items and educational material. Hand-washing stations were installed in public places. In South Sudan, our 600 volunteers educated more than 120,000 people with megaphones, flyers and posters on how to protect themselves from the virus. In Afghanistan, fever screening was carried out on major access roads to large cities. From 11th April to 7th May 2021, a seven-person team was deployed to Papua New Guinea to support our sister organisation St John Papua New Guinea in the care of COVID patients. The mission was funded by the European Union and St John International.