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GERMANY IMPOSES TOUGHER MEASURES TO CURB CORONAVIRUS

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Chancellor Angela Merkel and Germany's 16 regional leaders have agreed to ban major public gatherings and impose a national fine for mask shirkers, as the country grapples with an increase in infections.

German leaders have announced they will extend a ban on major public events until next year, as part of a raft of measures aimed at reducing the number of coronavirus cases in the country.

The ban was agreed on during a video conference attended by German Chancellor Angela Merkel and the leaders of the countrys 16 states — the first such meeting since June 17.

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